

Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - March 9, 2022

Laurie Johnson, Office Manager & Newsletter Editor

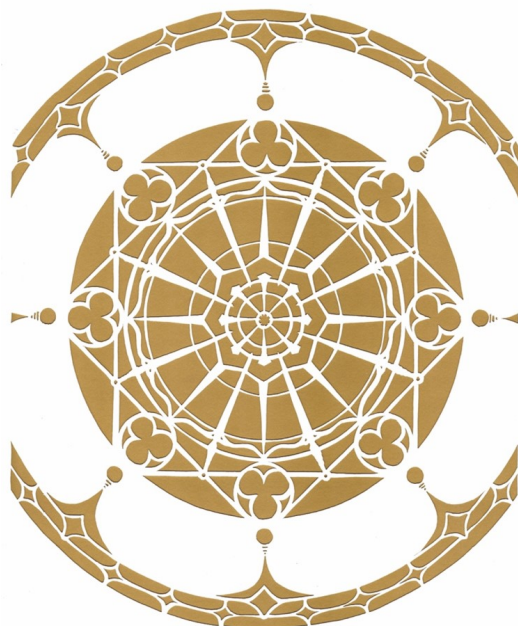


*Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community
sharing the glory of God's love with all.*

From our pastor

*"Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.
There he was tempted for forty days by the devil." Luke 4:1-2*

Every year, on the first Sunday in Lent, we witness Jesus' temptation. The 40 days of Lent mirror Jesus' time in the wilderness, and the tradition of "giving something up for Lent" is an imitation of Jesus' fast. Christians often disagree over whether we should give something up for Lent, or take something on instead, such as prayer or Bible study. I confess I have little energy for such disagreements because I think they largely miss the point. I have my own Lenten practices, and as a church we invite you participate in the *Full to the Brim* devotional and come to Preacher in the Pew on Wednesdays at 7pm for the next 5 weeks. All of these practices can be helpful, but I worry about turning Lent into a self-improvement plan or worse an exercise in self-flagellation. Jesus' victory over temptation is not so much an example to follow as it is a blessing to be received. Lent is not primarily about us, about our sin and sacrifice. It's about Jesus who undoes the sin of the world through the simple trust of knowing exactly who he is—God's beloved child. That's what Lent is about. The good news is that it's not your job to overcome temptation. Christ has done that for you already. That's finished and complete because what happens to him happens to all of us. This Lent, you are free to rest in the blessed assurance that you belong to Christ, which means that you are chosen and beloved too.



Laurie Johnson

"Temptations"
by Hannah Garrity
Inspired by Luke 4:1-13
Paper lace

One Struggle to Love,

Rev. Joel A. Esala

COVENANT'S SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. INDOOR, IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.



COVENANT'S SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

FACEBOOK for Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

services: <https://www.facebook.com/covenantpcusa/>

Look for the most current video, labeled "PREMIERE: Current Date".

YOUTUBE for Sunday, 10:00 a.m. services: <https://www.youtube.com/user/covenantpcusa>

Look for the most current video, labeled "PREMIERE: Current Date"

For past services, special music, and other church video content, visit our main YouTube page: [Covenant Service Archive](#).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES!

Adult Forum Class - I hope you'll join us this Sunday at 9am in the Lounge.

Children Christian Education - Children gather in the Multipurpose room (former administrative offices) at 9am before splitting into our classes. We sing, read, learn and dream together. Youth (6th-12th grades) meet in the chapel at 11am for snacks and discussion.

Covenant is on FaithLife! Stay Connected

Welcome to Covenant Presbyterian's [online community!](#) Check back often to stay up to date on upcoming events, learn more about opportunities to serve, share prayer requests or praise reports, or to connect with your groups.

Why Faithlife?

Build Relationships, Deepen Word Study & Avoid the Noise

Are you tired of scrolling through cat videos and political rants? Do you want to stay connected with your church family on a deeper level? That is why Covenant has started using Faithlife, and you can, too! This is an app and/or website that you can join for free. It allows you to follow everything church related, from daily verses and weekly sermons to prayer requests and praises from our church members, and SO MUCH MORE.

Get started **today** by visiting faithlife.com or downloading the Faithlife app and joining the [Covenant](#)

For a detailed overview of ALL you can do with hyperlinks, click here: [Join Covenant on FaithLife](#)

NEW 6-WEEK LENTEN STUDY

Entering the Passion of Jesus By Amy-Jill Levine
Starting Sunday March 6th in the lounge from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.
Come early (6pm) and have soup together.

Please contact Lisa Wallace with questions and also if you would like a Study Book by sending an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Lisa Wallace.



COVENANT TECH TEAM

Do you like technology? Do you enjoy photography or videography? Would you like to help make our worship run smoothly, and learn new things? Join the Covenant Tech Team! See Brian Biller after worship, or at 9:10 AM before worship any Sunday! He will get you started! You can send him an email, too: brianbiller@covenantpcusa.org

Preacher from the Pew Services

Our Preacher from the Pew Services will start at 7pm on Wed., March 9, in the Sanctuary. You are invited to our annual series where our members will enlighten our Lenten season by presenting their faith journeys. Distinguished lay preachers this year are: March 9: Bonnie James; March 16: Sarah Starr; March 23: Jeanie Auseon ; March 30: Jennifer LuPiba; April 6: Jared McCune. Please see our display in the hallway.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - Ukraine

We are grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations and individuals asking how they can help. As the violence continues, the number of people being displaced internally and fleeing to neighboring countries increases by the day. And in the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival. Our first priority as PDA is to provide funding to these partners on the ground. While the scale of this crisis is new, receiving refugees from Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe is not, which means we have trusted, established partners with the knowledge and expertise to carry out this important work.

We are hearing that the reformed churches in Ukraine and the region are also feeling called to join in the humanitarian response. PDA, therefore, anticipates that our response will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

As we pray for an end to this violence, we ask the U.S. Government and our European allies to make a commitment to the Ukrainian people for a peaceful solution. We don't know how long it will take, but we know that they will need help with the rebuilding of their country so that those who are fleeing now may one day return home safely.

To support our response, designate gifts to DR000156 or text PDAUKR to 41444

The Jean A. Mortland Memorial Scholarship

The Jean A. Mortland Scholarship was established in 2007 in memory of Jean A. Mortland because of her appreciation for excellent music and advocacy for higher education. Jean was a member of Covenant for over 40 years and taught at Capital University Law School. Her faith was service oriented and socially active, and her leadership at Covenant was a gift of intellect, passion, and strength. She left a substantial bequest to us which was supplemented by donations made in her memory. Her family wanted the fund to reflect her love of music, higher education, and the Christian faith. The recipient is selected by the Worship and Arts Commission. Applicants should be pursuing a college or graduate degree in music or theology, a member of Covenant or associated closely in some manner and demonstrate a commitment to excellence in their vocation. Also considered are overall GPA, financial need, and written recommendations. The candidate must be enrolled in the institution of higher learning to which the gift will be directed. Deadline is April 30. For information and an application form, contact Ingrid Smith, 614-451-6677.

UCelli

The Columbus Cello Quartet will be holding their 5th annual cello camp at Covenant this summer. We are thrilled to be back. Cora K and Pei-An C are two of the four cellists of UCelli and members of Covenant. The cello camp will be June 6-10 with a free concert on June 10th (probably 5 pm), <https://www.ucelli.net/camp>

Apply now for Summer Camps AND the 2022-2023 School Year!

Summer Preschool Camp (ages 3 – 5; 3 mornings a week)

Preschool Camp is for children ages 3 – 5 years old who have not yet attended Kindergarten. Preschool Camp meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:30 – 12:30, or 9:30 – 1:30. Each session lasts 2 weeks. Parents may sign up for as many as 4 sessions for a total of 8 weeks.

Preschool Camp activities engage children in playful learning experiences with as much outdoor time as possible. Each week the class explores a new theme such as camping, outer space, dinosaurs, building, or messy science depending upon the interests of the group and teachers. Once a week the class also participates in a cooking or food preparation activity.

Enrollment is limited to 12 children per 2-week session. Sessions begin June 6th and end August 5th. No camp during VBS week (6/20 – 6/24).

Camp Covenant (ages 5 – 9; 2 days a week)

Camp Covenant is for children entering grades 1 – 3 for the 2022 – 2023 school year. Campers attend 2 days a week (Tuesday and Thursday) from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. Campers may sign up for individual weeks or for all 8 weeks.

On Tuesday campers take a deep dive into the topics with hands-on activities, discussions, short lessons and presentations, and arts and crafts. On Thursday campers continue exploration of the topics with a local field trip and a picnic lunch in the middle of the day.

Enrollment is limited to 12 children per week. Sessions begin June 7th and end August 4th. No camp during VBS week (6/20 – 6/24).

2022 – 2023 School Year Programs (ages 18 mos. – 11 years)

Currently enrolled families and church members have priority enrollment until March 1st. Programs include CDO for toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K, and After School (K-5).

Questions? Contact Caroline at childcenter@covenantpcusa.org for applications and more information



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Now that we are worshipping in person again, you may once more sign up for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary for Sunday worship to honor loved ones, a special occasion, or just to the glory of God. The dedication information will be listed in the Sunday bulletin. The arrangements will cost \$40.

To order flowers, please contact the church office by sending an email to lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org by Tuesday of each week that you wish to have flowers in the sanctuary. Let the office know which date you are requesting, your name, contact information and any dedication information. You may request future dates as well. Payment can be in cash or check.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Covenant is once again participating in the Habitat NW Partnership Adopt a House by helping to finance and build a house this year. Construction has begun on the house located at 1252 E. 15th Ave. in South Linden. Volunteers work on the house on Thursday mornings and Saturdays from 8:30 to 3:00. Lunch on Saturday is provided.

We are in need of men and women volunteers to help with the construction. You can just show up either day at 8:30am and you will be instructed on how to proceed. John Fisher is the House Lead. All equipment you will need is provided. Just wear appropriate clothing and hard soled shoes, or tennis shoes with a thick sole.

For more information please email covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Habitat for Humanity.

CENTERING PRAYER

Covenant has reconvened a Centering Prayer practice on Thursdays at 8:30am in the Lounge. The first 15 minutes will be an informal gathering with the practice beginning at 8:45 for 20 minutes. Centering prayer is a method of meditation that places a strong emphasis on interior silence. We allow ourselves to be totally open to God, learning how to gently release attention away from our inner thoughts. For more information, please send an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Centering Prayer or contact Pastor Joel.



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Covenant Presbyterian Women's Circles meet for fellowship and discussion of the Horizons Bible Study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus.

- March 9th at 1:30 pm, Miriam, Gerlinde Lott, moderator

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- March 11th at 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge, Prayer Shawl Circle (2^d and 4th Fridays,) Louise Davidson and Nancy Davidson

For more information about CPW circles and activities, contact Sandy St. Martin, CPW moderator, by sending

an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and typing in the subject line the Circle leader's name or name of the person you wish to contact.

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WOMEN'S THEOLOGY

Members of *Women's Theology* gather on the first and third Friday each month from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Next meetings are February 18th and March 4th. The group will conclude reading Joan Chittister's book, *The Time is Now*. The next book discussed will be Amy Jill Levine's *The Difficult Words of Jesus*. For information, send email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Women's Theology/Susan Imel. The circle usually meets on Zoom, so contact Susan for sign in details. New members are always welcome.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

Wednesday Bible Study 1-2 pm: Wednesday Bible Study - This Wednesday, March 9, from 1-2 pm, we will continue our study of the Letter to the Hebrews. Please join us. No preparation is required. Ask for a Zoom link from lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org.

Wednesday Evening Book Study 7:00-8:00 p.m. - The CPC Book Group has recessed for Lent so that members may attend Lenten and Preacher from the Pew services. We will resume via Zoom on Wednesday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss [My Father's Closet](#) by Karen McClintock. Please click on the book title for a description. Rev. Dr. McClintock's parents were married at Indianola Presbyterian Church and later became members of Covenant; her father lived as a closeted gay man. The author has been invited to join our Zoom discussion and her reply is awaited. Contact Tori Vazquez or the church for the Zoom link.

The **Men's Spirituality Group** will meet at 11:15 am on Sunday, March 13 in Room 120. We will begin our study of Borg & Crossan's 'The Last Week'. For additional information please reach out to David Connolly.



HM3 UPDATE – HOGE'S, MUSIC, MESSAGE, MEAL

Hoge Presbyterian Church offers the HM3 program every Saturday for its community in Franklinton including Music, Message, and a Meal. Area churches assist with the Meal, and Covenant

creates and serves a hot, home-made meal every 3rd Saturday. Servers and guests are asked to wear masks when not eating.

Current attendance at HM3 leads us to bring enough for 50 meals. We need groups (or individuals) to step forward to serve.

· Groups have signed up to serve in the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, and December of 2022... THANK YOU!

· If you or your kids would like to help out during one of those 3rd Saturdays where a group already is signed up, go ahead and contact that groups' leader; we'll bet they would LOVE to include you on the team! You can find the leader's name on the [website](#), or you can ask Cathy Levy, and she'll connect you up.

· Groups or individuals may still sign up for **November 19**.

· Remember that if you don't want to serve, you can cook at your home to contribute, and if you don't want to cook, you can be a server at Hoge from 4pm to 7pm on a 3rd Saturday. Additionally, if your group is lacking servers (which is understandable with Omicron concerns), let Cathy know; she has contacts for volunteers who can cover this role. Sign up your group or as an individual to get involved.

Please sign up and/or learn more through this tool: <https://bitly.com/CovenantHM3SignUp> or by contacting Cathy Levy (send an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type

HM3/Levy). Your expenses incurred in cooking may be reimbursed through our Financial Administrator, Ingrid Smith. By splitting up the work, it's easy, and many of us can help our neighbors with life-giving food offered with open hearts.

PRAYER CHAIN



Contact Laurie Johnson (lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org) if you would like to join the members and friends of Covenant who pray for those requesting our prayers. The prayers will be relayed to you via email from Linda Van Aman. It is asked that you include the prayer request in your daily prayers for a week. To submit a prayer chain request, please send an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Prayer Chain. Note that the person for whom prayers are requested must give permission.

WEBSITE REQUEST FORM



Does your Commission need something placed on the website? Does a form need updated, or an announcement need to be made? Click below and submit a website request as soon as possible to have information added or changed on the Covenant website.

[WEBSITE REQUEST FORM](#)

CHURCH FACILITIES POLICY

Indoor policy due to Franklin County COVID-19

Covenant's Mask Policy will conform with [CDC guidelines](#). Wearing a mask inside our facility is optional for everyone. Session will continue to monitor COVID 19 in the state of Ohio and adapt our policy as needed.

INFORMATION/MISCELLANEOUS

[Click here to check out all Covenant events and news on our website.](#)

Our Mission

Covenant Presbyterian Church is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

Our Vision

- Covenant will offer worship services that invite diverse expressions of faith and enable all who come to draw closer to God.
- Covenant will become a home through which all can practice their faith and humanity in service of others.

Stay in touch!

[Click here to receive our weekly emails.](#)

