



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

From our pastor

"Then Jesus told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.'" Luke 13:6

How many of us think that our value depends on being productive? We say that everyone is made in the image of God, giving everyone inherent value, yet when we slow down for just a little bit, we worry that we are not doing enough. Whenever I take a week off, the first day or two, I can't shake this sense that I should be doing something. Jesus tells a strange parable about a fig tree without fruit. Most of us assume that the disappointed landowner plays the role of God, but Erin reminded us on Sunday that Jesus tells parables not to teach us about morals but to reveal the truth. What if the truth is not in the voice of the landowner, but in the gardener who tells the landowner to be patient and wait for the fruit to come? We live in a results-oriented culture, where patience is considered foolish and productivity is everything. But the truth is that God names you worthy, regardless of what you get done or have left undone. I don't know about you, but I forget that time and again.

"What I Forgot"

Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree.
No fruit here, just soaking up the sun,
growing roots, turning green,
stretching out my branches until
I can hug the horizon.
Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree,
because she doesn't produce,
and she's not exhausted,
and she probably gets eight hours
of sleep at night.
And her branches,
unlike my shoulders,
are not heavy with work—
pulled toward the ground,
threatening to break.
And her trunk,
unlike my spine,
is not fighting to stand tall
while holding it all together.
Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree
because she knows
what I forgot
many years ago.

You are still worthy
even if
you don't produce.

By Rev. Sarah Speed



"You Are Worthy"
by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Luke 13:1-9
Block print with oil-based ink

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 Presbyterian Church group.

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.

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@covenantpcsua.org

EASTER LILY DEDICATIONS

A sign-up sheet will be located at the welcome desk to purchase and dedicate Easter lilies.



Preacher from the Pew Services

Our Preacher from the Pew Services will start at 7pm on Wed., March 16, 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 16: Sarah Starr; March 23: Jeanie Auseon ; March 30: Jennifer LuPiba; April 6: Jared McCune. Please see our display in the hallway.

SOS FOOD PANTRY - FOOD DONATIONS DESPERATELY NEEDED

Our pantry is very low on staples and we hope you will consider making a food donation to our pantry over the next 3 weeks.

We make deliveries each day and the family sizes are getting larger (7-9 people in a family is common) so our inventory is almost depleted.

Please place your donation in the SOS Food Pantry drop off bin inside the north entrance or leave on the table in the main hallway inside the north doors.

Monetary donations sent to Ingrid Smith are greatly appreciated and should be marked "SOS Food Pantry" or use our Faithlife website, "giving" tab for making online monetary donations by selecting the SOS Food Pantry fund.

ITEMS NEEDED

Canned corn and green beans
Canned fruit
Condensed chicken noodle and tomato soups
Tuna Fish
Baked Beans- large and small sizes
Canned Beef Stew
Boxed macaroni and cheese
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Cereal
Spaghetti and spaghetti sauce

On behalf of the SOS Food Pantry Team....Thank you so much!!



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



CATCH/Freedom a la Cart

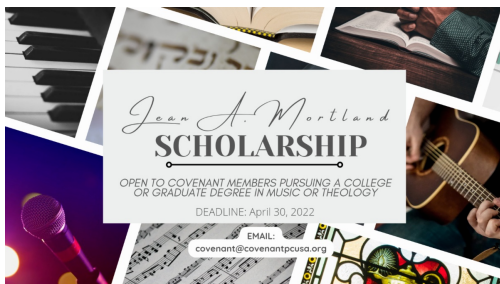
Curious what you can do to stand alongside court systems in bringing freedom to victims of human trafficking in Columbus? Do you know what a specialty docket is? Or know what "restorative justice" really means?

Freedom a la Cart invites you to our first of four Legal Empowerment Lunch & Learns. Join us Wednesday, March 23rd from 1-2:30pm for an overview on Franklin County's CATCH Court specialty docket for human trafficking survivors in Columbus and how the Freedom + CATCH partnership creates transformational change in survivors' lives. You'll learn how a specialty docket works and discuss tangible ways you can support an impactful restorative just program within our community!

Registration is \$10, with a free \$10 cafe gift card given to event attendees upon arrival. Register today and come with your questions on how to become an advocate for restorative justice within our city!

REGISTER HERE!

Freedom a la Cart provides a \$15 toiletries bag to women who are being released from jail. Covenant members have been generous with support for these bags pre-pandemic. We realize the need is still there and are asking for donations to continue this effort. If you wish to contribute, please make checks payable to Covenant and indicate "human trafficking toiletry bags" on the memo line.



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>



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.

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- March 25th 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, covenant@covenantpcusa.org with CPW/Sandy St. Martin, the Circle leader's name or name of the person you wish to contact in the subject line.

WOMEN'S THEOLOGY

Members of *Women's Theology* gather on the first and third Friday each month from 9:30 to 11 am. Next meeting is April 1st. The group will be discussing Amy Jill Levine's *The Difficult Words of Jesus*. For information and to join the discussion, 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 location or sign in. New members are always welcome.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

Wednesday Bible Study 1-2 pm: Wednesday Bible Study - This Wednesday, March 23, 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 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. We are so excited that Dr. McClintock will join our Zoom discussion! Contact Tori Vazquez or the church for the Zoom link.

The **Men's Spirituality Group** will meet at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, March 27 in Room 120, continuing the discussion of Borg & Crossan's 'The Last Week' through chapter 6 ("Friday"). 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

- As a reminder, please do not park under the basketball goal in the parking lot. This space is reserved for the children to play ball. Thank you.

[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.](#)

