

Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - March 30, 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 said, 'A certain man had two sons.'" Luke 15:11

In response to the religious leaders' wondering why Jesus welcomes and eats with sinners, he tells what is commonly called the Parable of the Prodigal Son. That name is problematic, though, because Jesus' story concerns a man who loses two sons. The first son he loses is his precocious younger son who squanders his inheritance on wild living, only to return to his father and receive a gracious welcome. Then this man loses his older son, who upon hearing of his father's extravagant grace refuses to join in the party. I think most of us have a little of both sons inside of us—the rebellious son whose sin is on the surface where everyone can see it, and the dutiful son whose sin is hidden behind anger and resentment. Incredibly, God is gracious to both sons. The word prodigal is an adjective that means spending recklessly and extravagantly. While tradition applies this word to the younger son, there is nothing more reckless or extravagant than the grace of God. God withholds grace from no one, neither the sinners nor the saints. God pours out grace on those who break every rule in the book and those who fastidiously keep them all. While that may seem unfair to us, God is gloriously unfair. That's why we sing about amazing grace and not amazing fairness. Without the prodigal grace of God, we'd all be lost, younger and older sons alike.

"What Doesn't Play by the Rules"

I come into the room
calculating
what I've done,
as if hurt could be measured,
as if there was a score system,
as if we could say what I owe in return.

I come into the room
ready to apologize,
ready to make amends,
ready to tell you all the things I'll do to make it better,
but you put your arms around me.

Grace is the ocean
that softens the edges.
Grace is rain in the desert—
you're not sure whether to
laugh, cry, or dance.
Grace is a miracle,
all by itself.
In a scorekeeping world,

grace doesn't play by the rules.

I come into the room
calculating what I've done.
You say there's grace here.
It feels like a miracle.
I don't know whether to
laugh, cry, or dance.

By Rev. Sarah Speed



"New in Christ"
by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Digital painting

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. A task force has been formed to study the document, "Building an Inclusive Church," which describes how churches might graciously and intentionally welcome LGBTQIA+ people into their congregations. Rusty Miller and Linda Billman, co-chairs of the task force, will discuss the task force's work and answer questions based on their best understanding of the process. Other members of the task force may also attend.

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](#)

Special Covenant Presbyterian Congregational Meeting

As required in our bylaws, Sunday, April 3 at 11:00a.m. Covenant Presbyterian Church will hold a meeting in the Sanctuary to approve a \$320,000 loan from PCUSA Investment & Loan Program. The purpose of the loan is to pay for Roof/HVAC repairs. There will be a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation to explain the loan.

'Becoming an Inclusive Church' – Brian Ellison Will Visit Covenant, April 30-May 1

The Spiritual Development and Adult Learning Commission (SDALC) is pleased to announce that the Reverend Brian Ellison will visit Covenant the weekend of Saturday, April 30, to offer a workshop on becoming an inclusive and welcoming church, and Sunday, May 1 to preach at our worship service.

After serving as pastor of Parkville Presbyterian Church near Kansas City, MO for 13 years, since 2012 Brian has served as executive director of the 'Covenant Network of Presbyterians', an organization that seeks to strengthen the church by furthering the gracious inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the life of the church.

More detailed information will be forthcoming about the learning opportunities and catered lunch on April 30. All are encouraged to mark your calendars and plan to join us for Brian's visit!



SUPER SENIOR CELEBRATION LUNCHEON SUNDAY, MAY 15 @ 11AM

The Super Senior Celebration Luncheon will be held on Sunday, May 15th at 11am following the 10am worship service in Fellowship Hall. (Super Senior members are ages 80 and over). Save the date and hope to see you then!

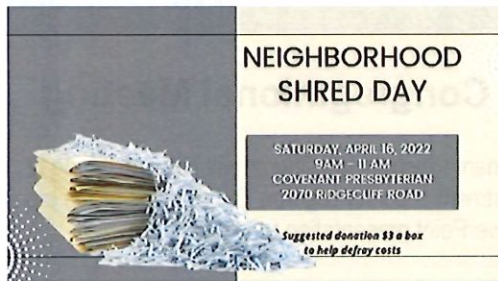
NEW 6-WEEK LENTEN STUDY

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.

Each year, Covenant has four special offerings.

The first is the One Great Hour of Sharing which will be received Palm Sunday, April 10. Thirty-two percent of the offering goes to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance which is currently giving aid to Ukrainian refugees. Thirty-six percent is used to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. The remaining thirty-two percent invests in projects in economically poor communities around the world as they seek to develop solutions to their own challenges. Special offerings connect the prayers and efforts of Presbyterians with people all over the world.



NEIGHBORHOOD SHRED DAY

Here's your chance to safely and responsibly dispose of personal or sensitive documents. Neighborhood Shred Day at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2070 Ridgecliff Road, will be at 9 am-11 am Saturday, April 16. Staples & paper clips acceptable, but no binder clips or plastic (including sleeves, covers, etc.). Suggested donation is \$3/box to defray costs. Enter parking lot from Redding

Road on the west side of the church.



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



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

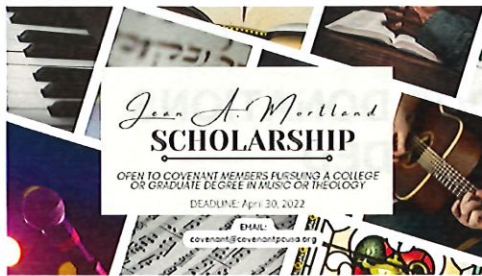


churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival. Our first priority as PDA is to provide funding to these partners on the ground. While the scale of this crisis is new, receiving refugees from Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe 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



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.



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.

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.

- April 4th, Elizabeth Circle, 7 am, Mona Connolly, moderator
- April 6th, Eunice-Lydia Circle, 9:30 am, Sandy St. Martin, moderator

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- April 8th 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 meetings are April 1st and April 15th. The group is discussing Amy Jill Levine's *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Chapter 2. As Erin noted in her message, these words may seem to be about morals, but are about truth. The challenge is to see it. 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 - We will begin our study of the Book of Daniel. A great introduction can be found at <https://bibleproject.com>. 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.



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

Many thanks to the Schooners, led by John and Donna Harder, who provided a plentiful, hearty Chicken Tetrazzini meal for 50 for the community surrounding Hoge Presbyterian Church on Saturday,

3/19. People LOVED it! Thanks also to several other Covenant members who joined the Schooner team to help cook casseroles or cookies to lighten the load.

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. At this point in the pandemic, the wearing of masks is optional for both servers and guests.

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 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 or bakers, let Cathy know; she has contacts for volunteers who can join your team. 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.](#)

