

Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - April 13, 2022
Laurie Johnson, Office Manager & Newsletter Editor



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

A graphic for Holy Week with a dark background. At the top, four circular icons are arranged horizontally: a green circle with a yellow palm branch, a red circle with a yellow chalice and host, a dark circle with a yellow cross, and a yellow circle. Below the icons, the words "HOLY WEEK" are written in large, white, serif capital letters. Underneath this, a red rectangular box contains the following text in yellow: "PALM SUNDAY | MAUNDY THURSDAY | GOOD FRIDAY | EASTER SUNDAY". Below the dates, the times are listed: "April 10 10 AM", "April 14 7 PM", "April 15 7 PM", and "April 17 10 AM". At the bottom of the graphic, the "covenant PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" logo is displayed in blue and red.

PALM SUNDAY	MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
April 10	April 14	April 15	April 17
10 AM	7 PM	7 PM	10 AM

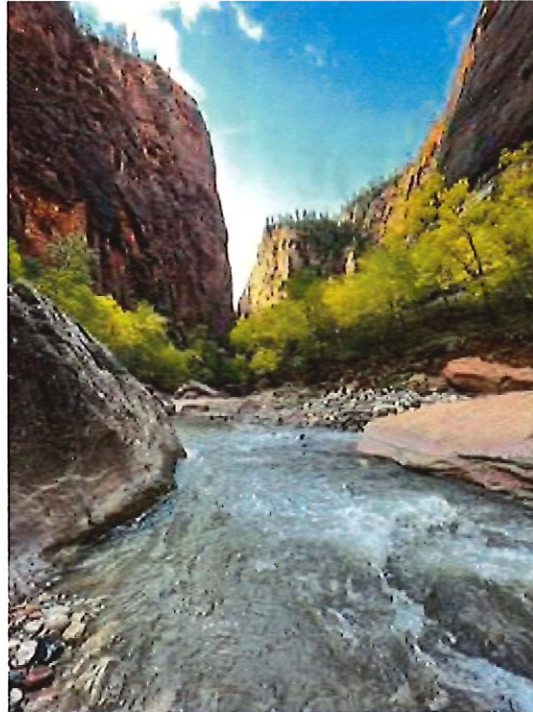
covenant
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From our pastor

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." Luke 19:39-40

Hearing the praise the disciples heaped on Jesus on Palm Sunday made some of the Pharisees uncomfortable. They urge him to silence them. Jesus responds that if they stayed silent, the stones would cry out. This made me wonder, what would the stones say to us if we could hear them speak? Last October, our family visited Zion National Park in Utah. As I walked through Zion Canyon, I was in awe of the giant and powerful rocks. They looked immovable, and yet over time these immense rocks were cut by a small, persistent river. What looks more powerful to you, the rocks or the water? If we could hear the rocks, they would say to us that water is more powerful than you think. Give water time and it cuts through the impenetrable. That's what the grace of God does. It doesn't look like much. It comes to us on a humble colt. It washes our feet and serves us a meal. It appears to be snuffed out by an unstoppable power, yet 2000 years later, the Roman Empire has long since fallen while the grace of God endures. Grace always rises again. This is the good news, that in our world of giant rocks, grace still abounds. It's full to the brim. We are the rocks, and God is the grace, patiently speaking a word of forgiveness to smooth our edges and create something beautiful. It's clear to me that God is creating something beautiful here at Covenant. This Holy Week, I hope

you'll join us for worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7pm, and of course Easter Sunday at 10am as we celebrate God's persistent grace. After all, this is the first Holy Week Covenant has had in person for three years. Come home, and receive the grace of God once more.



One Struggle to Love,

Rev. Joel A. Esala

'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 on Saturday, April 30 from 10am-1:30pm 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.

You can register for this free event [here](#). All are encouraged to mark your calendars and plan to join us for Brian's visit!

covenant PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saturday, April 30
10 AM - 1:30 PM

Workshop - Lunch included!
"Becoming an Inclusive and Welcoming Church"

Sunday, May 1
Guest Preacher

10 AM Worship at Covenant Presbyterian Church



COVENANT NETWORK
OF PRESBYTERIANS



Reverend Brian Ellison
Executive Director

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 - There will be no Adult Forum classes on Easter Sunday.

Children Christian Education - There will be no Children Christian Education on Easter Sunday.

DEACONS' MAUNDY THURSDAY OFFERING

The offering at the Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve services supports the work of the deacons. The Board of Deacons is not funded through the church budget. It is through these offerings that the deacons serve our members and the community.

How does the Board of Deacons Serve? Deacons transport members to medical appointments through the C.A.R.E.S. ride program. Meals are prepared and delivered to those recuperating, celebrating births, and grieving. The deacons host memorial receptions. On May 15 our Super Seniors will be celebrated with a

special luncheon and entertainment. Deacons are responsible for communion preparation. They also host the Red Cross Blood Drives. Emergency funding is available for members and those in the community.

Beyond our doors a monthly breakfast is prepared and served at Ronald McDonald House. Deacons take a meal and join in Fellowship with those at Hoge for HM3. We fight hunger through the Crop Walk, provide joy by organizing Adopt-A-Family at Christmas, and supply assistance to the Mid Ohio Workers Association. The deacons also extend support to the Mid Ohio Food Collective and COMPASS at Board Street Presbyterian Church.

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.

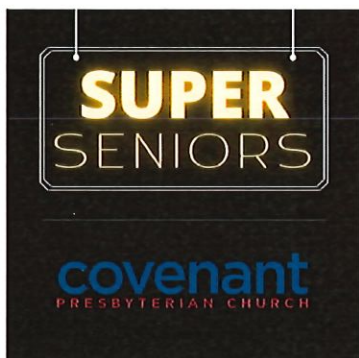
Why Faithlife?

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.

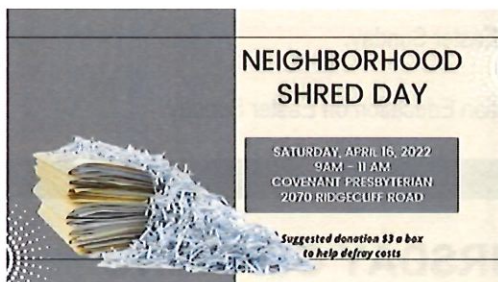
Get started today by visiting faithlife.com or downloading the Faithlife app and joining the [Covenant Presbyterian Church](#) group.

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



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). Information to follow. Save the date and hope to see you then!



NEIGHBORHOOD SHRED DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 16

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 SPRING CLEANUP

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Our campus Spring Cleanup is scheduled from 11:30am-3pm. (The Boy Scouts will be present from 1-3 for mulching.) Hope to see you then!



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

CHILDREN'S CENTER ART WALK

Please take some time to walk through the west wing of our building to enjoy the Covenant Children's Center Art Walk. Beginning April 18 the Art Walk will feature creative gems from all the Children's Center programs - from the tiniest artists in the Children's Day Out room to the school age children in the After School program. You are invited to stroll down the halls and marvel at the talented and expressive artwork by children of all ages. Enjoy!



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.

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 13th, Miriam Circle, 1:30 pm, Gerlinde Lott, moderator
- April 18th, Deborah Circle, 9:30 -11 am, Eunice-Lydia Circle, 9:30 am, Sandy St. Martin, moderator

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- April 22nd at 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge, Prayer Shawl Circle (2nd 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

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

Wednesday Bible Study 1-2 pm: Wednesday Bible Study - On April 13, we will practice Lectio Divina, a spirit-guided prayer and response to scripture. Wednesday, April 20, we will continue the study of the book of Daniel. Please join us. No preparation is required. We read and share together. 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

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.

• Usually, Covenant members cook in their own homes and then bring the food to Hoge to serve from the Hoge Kitchen. In April, the SOS Food Pantry team is cooking in the Covenant Kitchen as a team activity and

then bringing the food to Hoge!

• Groups have signed up to serve in the months throughout the year of 2022... **THANK YOU!** Group leaders: If your group is lacking servers or chefs, let Cathy know; she has contacts for volunteers who can join your team. **Chefs:** Your expenses incurred in cooking may be reimbursed through our Financial Administrator, Ingrid Smith.

• Cathy Levy will gather an ad-hoc group to serve on **November 19**; please let her know if you'd like to join as a chef or a server for November.

• If you or your kids would like to help out as a chef (usually, in your own home) and/or server (from 4-7pm) 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.

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). 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.](#)



