

Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - April 20, 2022
Laurie Johnson, Office Manager & Newsletter Editor

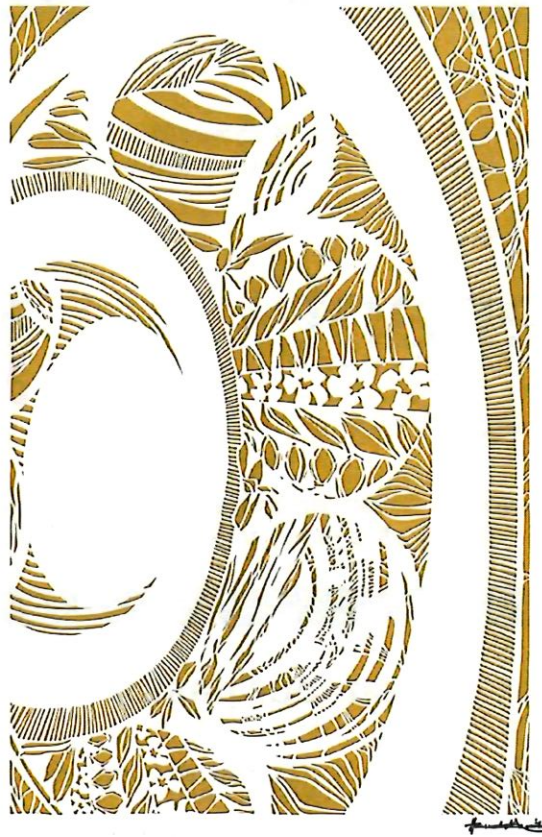


*Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community
sharing the glory of God's love with all.*

From our pastor

"Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb." Luke 24:1

Resurrection always begins in the dark. All four Gospels agree on this. I get up early most mornings, and it doesn't matter what time of year it is, it's always still dark out. This literal truth of our physical world points to a deeper spiritual reality, that new beginnings start in the dark. That was true on the first pages of the Bible that God creates light out of darkness. It was true on Easter, and it's true in our lives. When we describe dark times in our lives, we usually refer to sadness and grief. These brave women who go to Jesus' tomb have just endured a trauma we'd wish upon no one. They witnessed the person they'd placed their hopes and dreams upon be executed by the state. Surely, they were in shock and in the early stages of Post-Traumatic Stress disorder. Yet in the darkness of their grief, they somehow managed to put one foot in front of the other and go to tomb to honor their beloved teacher. Showing up for others when we are suffering is an act of courageous love, and courageous love is where resurrection begins. Resurrection isn't not merely an event that took place 2000 years ago. It's available to you today. The good news is that the night does not last forever. An expansive life courageously puts one foot in front of the other, through the darkness until the dawn breaks. Sikh activist Valarie Kaur said, "What if this darkness is not the darkness of the tomb, but the darkness of the womb?" On Easter, we see these are one in the same. Darkness is just the beginning. Neither death nor trauma will get the last word. A new day is at hand, a new story can be told, because Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia!



Prepared
by Hannah Garrity
Inspired by Luke 24:1-12
Paper lace

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 - Sunday, April 24th @ 9am in the Lounge - Introduction to Lectio Divina, a contemplative way of reading the Bible.

Children Christian Education - Sunday, April 24th @ 9am - Children gather in the Multipurpose room (former administrative offices) 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.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION

We are looking forward to welcoming our confirmands during our worship service this Sunday. Please join us after worship for a reception honoring our newest members and offer them your words of congratulations and blessings.

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

SUPER CELEBRATION LUNCHEON May 15. Plan to be there:!)
Questions-please contact Charlotte Rodenfels 614-404-7235 or Jeanie Auseon 614-329-4810. (Super Senior members are ages 80 and over).

GET TO KNOW YOUR PASTOR

Due to COVID, Covenant did not have the opportunity for a live meet and greet gathering with Pastor Joel. Invitations are being sent to members of the congregation who have not had an opportunity to have a conversation with Joel. Invitations are being sent out to select groups of 15. The RSVP invitations are intended to keep the groups small, allowing more time for conversation. The dates and times will vary for each group. The frequency of these dates, and if they continue, will depend on the responses received. If you would like to take part in this opportunity, please let us know by sending an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org or by calling 614-451-6677, X11.



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.

SPIRITUAL CINEMA

Wednesday, 4/27, we will gather in the Lounge, wearing masks, at 6:30 pm to watch *The Eyes of Tammy Faye* (2021). In the movie, Jessica Chastain stars as Tammy Faye Bakker from her humble beginnings growing up in International Falls, Minnesota, through the rise and fall of her televangelism career and marriage to Jim Bakker. We will stay for a short time after the film to discuss its merits and message. Come join us.



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

Members of *Women's Theology* will continue reading and discussing Amy Jill Levine's *The Difficult Words of Jesus* with Chapter 4 on May 6th. They will meet again on May 20th when Chapter 5 will be considered. New participants are always welcome. Meetings are on Zoom, so check with Susan Imel or Louise Davidson for information and to join the discussion the first and third Friday each month from 9:30 to 11 am.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

Wednesday Bible Study 1-2 pm: Wednesday Bible Study - April 20, from 1-2 pm, we will continue our study of the Book of Daniel. A great introduction can be found at <https://bibleproject.com>. 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 is eager to reconvene this Thursday evening, April 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., after a break during Lent. We will discuss *My Father's Closet*, and will be joined by the author, a pastor in the United Methodist Church, clinical psychologist, and child of Covenant, Rev. Dr. Karen A. McClintock.

The book tells through her eyes the life of McClintock's father, a closeted gay man. The family joined Covenant around the time that the building at Ridgecliff and Redding was built. Please contact the church or Tori Vazquez for the link.

The **Men's Spirituality Group** will meet at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 24 in Room 120, wrapping up the discussion of Borg & Crossan's 'The Last Week', a fascinating exploration of Holy Week focusing on the gospel of Mark. We will also be discussing ideas for our next book. For additional information please reach out to David Connolly.



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

THANKS to Mark Owen (leading volunteers from the SOS Food Pantry volunteer team), Paster Joel, and his son Asher for working Saturday, April 16 (the day before Easter Sunday) to serve Sliced Ham and the fixings to the community of Hoge! Compliments were numerous, and the quantity was so abundant that attendees could take home leftovers. Thanks for gathering a multigenerational team to serve, as well!

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. For example, in April, the SOS Food Pantry team prepared part of the meal in the Covenant Kitchen as a team activity and then brought 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://billy.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

- Reminder that if you dedicated an Easter lily, please pick up the plant this week from the church.

[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.](#)



