



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

## From our pastor

*"I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me." John 17:21*

In John 17, we hear Jesus' prayer for us. He prays that our unity would mirror his own unity with God. As our country becomes more polarized, Jesus' prayer appears to be wishful thinking. Yet we are not the only country that has gone down a path of sectarianism. For more than thirty years, Northern Ireland had a sectarian conflict between Catholics and Protestants that appeared intractable, until the Good Friday Agreement was signed on April 10, 1998. Though this did not put an end to all violence and hatred, but for the past 24 years, this agreement has achieved what many said was impossible. Cecelia Clegg and Joe Liechty wrote an incredible book about that conflict entitled *Moving Beyond Sectarianism*. They define sectarianism as "belonging gone bad," and they outline an eleven-point scale of sectarianism which begins with, "We are different." Then it moves to, "We are right." Thirdly, "We are right, and you are wrong." Fourth, "You are a less adequate version of what we are." The scale continues to escalate until it gets to, "You are evil" and finally, "You are demonic." Once you get to that point, violence is inevitable, even justified. After all, if you are a demon, it's only right to get rid of you.

How often do we hear or think this about those with whom we disagree? It's not just that we have disagreements, but those with whom I disagree are evil, even demonic. This kind of rhetoric is on the rise, and as followers of Christ, it's up to us to interrupt this escalation of sectarianism and learn to see the other through Christ's eyes. With all our differences, ***we still belong to one another***. Peace is still possible, but only if we refuse to diminish other people's humanity.

For Christians, unity is not something we do. It's something God has done for us. God became one with us in Christ. Though we demonized Jesus, he forgave us, loved us, and made himself one with us. That's the gospel. This week, when you encounter someone with whom you disagree, resist the urge to demonize and instead say to yourself, "You belong to me, and I belong to you because of what God has done for us."

One Struggle to Love,  
Rev. Joel A. Esala



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN  
*Summer Prayer Service*

SUNDAYS  
IN  
JUNE  
JULY  
AUGUST

*Join us for a 30  
minute outdoor  
service.*

SUNDAYS @ 9 AM IN THE COURTYARD

**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** - Adult Christian education prior to the worship service is not scheduled for the summer months. Regular adult education for the nine o'clock hour will resume in the fall. David Connolly will lead a Sunday brunch series during the summer, "Becoming the People of the Book: A Hands-On History of the

Bible", following indoor worship with dates TBA.

**Children Christian Education** - Enjoy summer break!

## COVENANT'S 2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Reminder to please turn in your pledge cards. Thank you!

Stewardship & Budget Commission

## PENTECOST OFFERING

Each year, Covenant has four special offerings. The second is the **Pentecost offering which will be received Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**. Forty percent of this offering stays with Covenant to develop and support programs for young people in our own church and community; this year this portion will go to Star House, Central Ohio's only drop-in center for youth who are experiencing homelessness. The remaining 60% is used to support children at risk, and youth and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Envelopes will be in the bulletins 6/5. You can also give through Covenant's website.

## 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](mailto:covenant@covenantpcusa.org) or by calling 614-451-6677, X11.

## MEALS FOR MEMBERS IN NEED

Would you be willing to provide a meal or two for Covenant members whose health problems keep them temporarily from cooking? The Deacons have recently re-activated this program and are looking for cooks to volunteer their services. Contact Steve St. Martin or John Harder if you are willing.

## INGRID SMITH - RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

After 25 years, our Financial Administrator, Ingrid Smith, is retiring. In appreciation of Ingrid's dedication and service to Covenant, a retirement celebration will be held on Sunday, June 5th after the worship service in Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!

## FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMISSION

Please welcome **Covenant's full time custodian**, Sandy and son Chris, A mother and son duo.



You will see Sandy daily from 8am - 4:30pm. Chris will be here on occasion to help with table set up and take down and other heavy jobs. Sandy and Chris are contract custodians hired through CORVIS Janitorial. Contract custodians are a little different than what Covenant has been use to in the past. They are contracted to do a certain number of duties each day and work from an itemized agenda. Please be considerate of their time. Be sure to introduce yourself and give them a warm Covenant welcome when you meet.

## THE PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY UPCOMING EVENTS/PROGRAMS

**Three Opportunities for You!** The Presbytery of Scioto Valley would like to make you aware of the following upcoming events/programs:

### **Called to be Easter People - A Matthew 25 Challenge**

All churches in our presbytery are being encouraged to join our "We Are Easter People Challenge". The goal of the challenge is for Scioto Valley congregations to jointly log 2022 hours of Matthew 25-related mission service during the seven week-period between Easter and Pentecost. Our efforts, and those of our fellow Scioto Valley Presbyterians, will be recorded and celebrated throughout the challenge. The only requirement is that the hours of service be undertaken by a congregation and directed to our brothers and sisters Christ called "the least of these:" those who hunger, those who thirst, those who are sick, those who are strangers, those who are imprisoned, those who are naked. Your congregation is encouraged to send weekly updates to the presbytery office at [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org). Please include your church name, the project, how many hours, a contact person, and email. Thank you.

Plans are underway for our **Presbytery Youth Retreat at Camp Akita** this fall on November 12-13. Be sure to mark your calendars and save the date!

This year our Presbytery will offer two mission locations in West Virginia for **Presbytery mission work teams the week of October 23-29**. We will be working with the West Virginia Mission Advocacy Workcamps (WVMAW) at locations in Colcord, West Virginia and Hampden, West Virginia. Applications will be available soon. Contact Jeannie Harsh at [jeannie@psvonline.org](mailto:jeannie@psvonline.org) if you are interested in putting your name on the mission work team list.



You are all invited to Allie's Virtual Baby Shower!  
*Join with us in celebrating the upcoming arrival of Baby Garner. We are showering Allie and Andrew with a virtual baby shower. Click on their registry, and send a gift directly to them. Their address is listed on the website as you click through to purchase. If you need their address sent directly to you, please call the church office.*

[Allie and Andrew's Baby Registry](#)



## 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**

## ENJOYABLE SUPER SENIOR LUNCHEON!



At the luncheon on May 15th, "Super Seniors" listened to musician Bill Cohen.



Youth servers at the "Super Senior" Luncheon, May 15th.





## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 7:00 pm, Elizabeth Circle, Mona Connolly, moderator
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 9:30 am, Eunice-Lydia Circle, Susan Imel, moderator
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, at 9:30 am, Deborah Circle, Lynn Elliott, moderator

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge, Prayer Shawl Circle( 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays,) Louise Davidson and Nancy Davidson

For more information about CPW circles and activities, contact Sandy St. Martin, CPW moderator, [covenant@covenantpcusa.org](mailto: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 conclude discussion of Amy Jill Levine's *The Difficult Words of Jesus* on June 3<sup>rd</sup> with Chapter 6. On June 17<sup>th</sup> consideration of *Everyday Contemplative: The Way of Prayerful Living* will begin. 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** - This Wednesday, June 1, from 1-2 pm, we will begin our study of the book of Susanna, also called Susanna and the Elders, found in the Apocrypha. Please join us. No preparation is required. We read and share together. Ask for a Zoom link from [lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org).

**Wednesday Evening Book Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.** - The CPC Book Group will meet this Wednesday evening via Zoom, to begin our discussion of Rob Bell's book, *Everything is Spiritual: Who We Are and What We're Doing*. This book is enthusiastically recommended by Pastor Joel, who will share his own insights. Please contact the church or Tori Vazquez for the link.

## Opportunity to Serve by Providing Lunch through the OPEN SHELTER

Do you want to do hands-on mission once a month or occasionally? We would love to welcome new people to the Open Shelter Lunch Making Team!

We thank those who joined the team on Friday, May 13th; it was fun to work together! We'd love to have MORE involved to create the lunches for Friday, June 10th and onward.

Covenant helps out people in need (including the homeless) served by the Open Shelter by providing 175 sack lunches on the **second Friday of every month**. We are revising the menu and process, and we need more volunteers to help out! Here are ways to join in:

- Anytime, you could **drop off your clean take-out containers** (reusable disposable food containers) to counter under the windows of Covenant's kitchen. We take them to the Open Shelter to help people take home leftovers from donated restaurant meals. When these meals are donated, people are encouraged to take sack lunches with them to-go as well.
- You could help with supplies for the sack lunches; we would let you know the quantity, and you'd deliver them to Covenant's kitchen by the Thursday before the delivery day (church closes at 4pm) or by the second Friday of the month at 8:15, when we assemble the sack lunches. The costs for these supplies may be reimbursed by submitting your receipts to our Financial Administrator, Ingrid Brooker. Ways to help include:
  - You could **shop** for supplies (like paper bags and napkins from GFS, drinks, plastic bags, sandwich makings, bananas...)
  - You could **make 45 or 90 bags of unsalted nuts** at your home.
  - You could **make 45 or 90 bags of baby carrots** at your home.
  - You could **make 30 Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches** at your home.
- You could **help make 160 ham and cheese sandwiches with the team at Covenant's kitchen, and then assemble** the lunches into paper bags and pack them in boxes and into a car (or two) between 8:15 and 9:10 am on the second Friday of the month.
- You could **transport** the lunches and other supplies from Covenant to the Open Shelter on Parsons Ave. by 9:30 on the second Friday of the month. This takes either two drivers or one driver with a minivan.

By splitting up the work, we can get more people involved sharing the Love of Christ in our community. Join us!

Questions? We would love to answer them! Would you like to join us in one or more of these ways? Fantastic! Please contact us to discuss this and/or sign up.



In Christ,

Carrie Mellen, 614-519-9731, [carriemellen@icloud.com](mailto:carriemellen@icloud.com)  
Betsy Sebastian, 219-208-5602, [grammyseb@gmail.com](mailto:grammyseb@gmail.com)  
Mona Connolly, 614-886-4413, or [mrc2208@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrc2208@sbcglobal.net)



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

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

*Many thanks to Betsy Sebastian who coordinated volunteers from our  
BOARD OF DEACONS to serve last Saturday, May 21.  
"Lots of tummies were filled",  
and participants also took home leftovers!*

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. Alternatively, you can prepare the food as a group in the Covenant kitchen and carry it to Hoge. 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 **June 18**; please let her know if you'd like to join as a chef or a server for June.
- **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://bitty.com/CovenantHM3SignUp> or by contacting Cathy Levy (send an email to [covenant@covenantpcusa.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**Church master calendar.** Please send an email to our Office Manager, Laurie Johnson, ([lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org)), the date, time and room request of any meeting or recurring meeting, event or gathering that will be happening at Covenant. For table and chair set-up, request a week in advance notice is necessary for planning purposes. This is imperative so the custodian can manage her time around meetings and set-ups. Thank you for your cooperation.

[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

**Stay in touch!**

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

