



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

From our pastor

"For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery...For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Galatians 5:1, 13-14

As our nation celebrated its freedom this weekend, many of us did so with heavy hearts. Even our efforts to celebrate were marred by violence with seven mass shootings on July 4 alone. How free are we if we cannot celebrate in public or send our children to school without fear of violence? The kingdom of God is about God's dream for the world coming true, and mass shootings are not part of God's dream. They are not God's will. They continue because we allow them to continue. We have much work to do to see that God's dream comes true in our communities, our nation, and our world.

As we go about that work, we do well to understand freedom not merely through a civic lens but also through a Christian one. We think of freedom as being able to say and do whatever we want, but that's an immature understanding. True freedom is about knowing why you are here, knowing what's worth living for, and what's worth dying for. Jesus is the freest person who has ever lived, which is a strange thing to say. After all, he was subject to a ruthless foreign occupying empire. He was a poor man in an oppressed minority. He was rejected by his own people for calling them to love their enemies. To us it may look like Jesus was anything but free, yet it is for freedom that Christ set us free. True freedom isn't about self-indulgence. True freedom is the willingness to love your neighbor as yourself, which sounds simple. Turns out it's really hard.

When we serve one another, across our differences, we discover true freedom. When we see other people as worthy of God's love, we live into the freedom of the children of God. Children of God do not submit to the yolk of slavery that labels some worthy and others unworthy. Instead, we insist that there's room here for all of us. This is God's world, and we want to see God's dream come true for all of us. That dream feels far away right now, but every single act, word, and thought that affirms the love of neighbor brings God's dream a little bit closer to reality. Love one another, Covenant. It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

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 Sunday 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!

Mid-Summer Adult Learning and Brunch Opportunity starts Sunday, July 17!

In the Koran, Jews and Christians are called "The People of the Book" because of their reliance on the Bible. Have you ever wondered where our Scriptures came from? Who wrote down Jesus's words? How has its message been taught to Christians (and non-Christians) for 2000+ years? David Connolly will lead a study series on Sundays after church from Sunday, July 17 through Sunday, Aug. 14 to explore these questions - 11:15 a.m. to noon in the Lounge - and brunch will be provided by the Adult Education Commission. Come for coffee and an early lunch and let's learn together!

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.



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.

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:

"Matthew 25 at the Polls" is the topic of a zoom conversation on **Saturday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m.** which will explore what's on the ballot for folks in Ohio. This conversation is sponsored by the Matthew 25 Task Group from the Commission on Nurture and Outreach, Register on the zoom link on the calendar at psvonline.org.

The Presbytery Youth Task Force is looking into offering three fall regional gatherings for youth in grades 6 - 12 on Sunday, September 18 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., to be held at Washington Courthouse First, Columbus Covenant, and Granville First. This would be in addition to the fall retreat at Camp Akita November 12-13, 2022. Would the youth of your church be interested in attending one of these gatherings? If so, or if you have some questions, contact CNO Chair Kathi Bubb at kathibubb@gmail.com

An update on presbytery mission work trips! They are now scheduled for October 17-21 in Hampden, WV, and October 24-28 in Colcord, WV. These mission work trips, sponsored by our PSV Commission for Nurture and Outreach, will be hands-on basic construction work in poverty relief areas in Appalachia. The sites are two projects of the West Virginia Ministry Advocacy and Work Camps, Inc. (WVMAW). Cost for each person will be \$350 for adults eighteen & over. We hope to have 15-20 participants per team. We will travel by cars, trucks, or church vans. We will stay in group housing with shower facilities and equipped kitchens. If you are interested in joining one of these work teams, contact the Presbytery Office to receive an application form. Scholarships are available. For questions, email: Jeannie@psvonline.org.



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



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

The *Covenant Presbyterian Women's Circles* will not be meeting again until September.

WOMEN'S THEOLOGY

Members of *Women's Theology* will meet July 15 to consider chapters 2 and 3 of *Everyday Contemplative: The Way of Prayerful Living* by L Roger Owens. 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 1:00-2:00 pm: This Wednesday, July 6, from 1-2 pm, we will start with the third chapter of the book of Judges. (You can find an overview of Judges at bibleproject.com.) This gathering will be in person, in the Lounge. We will continue offering zoom for those who cannot meet in-person. 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 will recess during the month of July. We plan tentatively to resume in August, with a book title TBA. Please contact the church or Tori Vazquez to be added to the email list.

Day of Hope - NoDeathPenaltyOH - Columbus

Join the NoDeathPenaltyOH campaign in front of the Ohio Statehouse to honor those whose lives have been impacted and ask for legislative action to end the death penalty in Ohio. July 18, 2022, marks four years since an Ohioan was last executed. Speakers



representing exonerees, families of victims, and the faith community will be heard.

Where: 1 Capitol Square, Columbus, Ohio 43215 (the front of the Statehouse, High Street side)

When: Monday, July 18, 12 pm

New Art Exhibit in the Lounge

Check out the newly installed art exhibit in the lounge. Columbus mixed media artist, Beverly Whiteside, shares stories of her African-American heritage in her colorful artworks. There is an historical, thought-provoking element in her exhibit as well. You'll want to see her "Shoebox Lunch" presentation. Beverly is a self-trained artist. She taught dance in a Columbus Arts Impact Elementary School. Her current artworks are featured at Studios on High Gallery in Columbus' Short North Arts District.

CATCH Court

We all have been challenged to raise awareness of human trafficking, a multi-billion dollar business second only to drug trafficking. For many years, Covenant members have been supporting programs for women who are trying to recover their lives especially through CATCH Court's program and Freedom a la Cart. Each month, we take lunch for 55 people to CATCH Court on the first Thursday. Dates this summer are July 7 and August 4. Since summer may be a freer time for teachers and high school students, we invite you to attend Court, providing food for lunch and staying to observe the Court in session. It is also possible to help serve lunch and return to church rather than staying. If you would like to receive information about helping with the lunches, please call Barbara Marshall or Louise Davidson.

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'd love to expand the team of people involved to create the lunches for **Friday, July 8th** and in any future month. **We need extra help with drivers and with purchasing items for the July 8th delivery.**

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, lidded take-out containers** (reusable disposable food containers) to shelving on the 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. 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

Betsy Sebastian, 219-208-5602, grammyseb@gmail.com

Mona Connolly, 614-886-4413, or mrc2208@sbcglobal.net

**Join the
Team
Creating**

175

**Sack
Lunches
for the**

**OPEN
SHELTER
on
Parsons
Ave.**

**on the 2nd
Friday of**

EVERY

**month from
8:15 to 9:10**



**Betsy Sebastian
Contact: Mona Connolly
Carrie Mellen**



**HM3 UPDATE – HOGES,
MUSIC, MESSAGE, MEAL**



*Sharon Steingass will provide the meal for Saturday, July 16.
If you'd like to help as a server from 4-7pm,
please contact her at 310-560-6184;
she'd welcome your help!*

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.

- In the past, Covenant members cooked 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 and June, teams prepared most of the meal in the Covenant Kitchen as a team activity and then brought the food to Hoge. Check out the attached picture of chefs working together in the Covenant Kitchen for the June meal! **Note: Covenant's ovens may be inoperable;** check with Lynn Elliott or Charlie Bergmann before planning on using them. If they aren't working, you can use the ovens at Hoge; coordinate with Tom Billman in that case.
- 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.
- **If you or your kids would like to help out** as a chef 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.



Check out the attached picture of chefs working together in the Covenant Kitchen for the June meal!



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

- There will be no admittance to Fellowship Hall July 5 through July 10 due to floor refinishing.
- **Registration/Sign-up for Glass Showcase** - There is a sign-up sheet on the desk in the administrative office area to reserve the glass showcase.

[Click here to check out all Covenant events and news on our website.](#)

Stay in touch!

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

