



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

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## From our pastor

The legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' Jesus replied, 'A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death.'" Luke 10:29-30

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, we often identify with those in a position to help: the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan. We then conclude that the parable is a call to show mercy to those in need. Yet there is another character in this story, namely the person who is beaten, stripped, and left for dead. We do well to identify with him as well. What this parable does is it invites us to see ourselves in the face of the other, to break down the distinctions between the subject and object, good and bad, friends and enemies, to see ourselves as inextricably bound together, whether we know it or not. Perhaps the problem with the priest and the Levite is not that they are selfish. Perhaps the problem is how they understand the self. The priest and Levite see the man on the side of the road as someone separate, when in fact, their lives are bound together. To leave the man isn't selfish, as much as foolish and shortsighted. Because whether you know it or not, you are the man on the side of the road, and he is you. To not help him is to not help yourself. We are not separate, autonomous beings. What happens to one of us, affects all of us, enemies and friends alike.

Mr. Rogers once said, "All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver." The only way we can offer help without judgment is if we first learn to receive it. Most of us have been trained to think that needing help is shameful, yet we need far more help than we are prepared to admit. Our needs are greater than we know, our wounds deeper than we recognize. Jesus has come near to all who are left on the side of the road. He knows what it's like to be beaten, stripped, and left for dead, and he knows how to help us in our need. For it is only the wounded who can heal. Jesus invites you to see yourself in other people, all people, enemies, friends, the powerful and the needy, and to help each on the way home. That's what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves, you are in them, and they in you—all givers and all receivers.

One Struggle to Love,  
Rev. Joel A. Esala

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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!



## SUNDAE SUNDAY - JULY 17 11AM

## 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.



## TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Covenant's Technology & Communications Commission has approved a bid from Demmer AV of Westerville to install monitors, wiring and speakers throughout the church. Session unanimously approved the contract in an emergency meeting July 5. There will be at least two large monitors added in the Sanctuary, two in the hallway and refinements will also be made in the Lounge, Fellowship Hall and Nursery. Outdoor speakers will be installed to enhance the 9 a.m. Summer Prayer Services in the courtyard. The work will begin in August and should be completed in September. This is all part of an ongoing effort to meet streaming needs and offer additions such as the 85-inch monitor that can be raised and lowered for services in the Sanctuary. We invite your input!

# CLERK'S SUMMARY OF SESSION MEETINGS MAY & JUNE 2022

## Report of the Clerk - May 2022

Covenant's Session met on Monday May 23 to listen to Craig Miller, Senior Vice President, Horizons Stewardship Foundation. Craig presented the results of his meetings with Covenant families and from the completed surveys used to determine the Next level Generosity Discovery for Covenant.

Moderator Joel Esala opened the meeting with prayer and introduced Craig.

Craig thanked Joel, Session, and Covenant's congregation for the opportunity to help us on our stewardship journey and complimented Covenant for the cooperation and openness of all involved.

Craig told Session there were 2 issues that were evident from the meetings with members and from the returned surveys: (1) Covenant still has an unhealthy focus on 1950s pledge type campaigns and must now switch on how we approach stewardship; & (2) the issue of who knows what everyone else gives.

He indicated successful churches understand and design their financial stewardship efforts with firm knowledge of the impact that clarity of vision and life-changing ministry has on the generosity of their members.

His firm's research indicates the top 3 reasons people give to one organization over another: (1) Belief in the Mission; (2) Respect for Leadership; & (3) Fiscal Responsibility.

Craig went on to tell Session the 5 Guiding Principles that are foundational for moving to the next level of generosity: (1) Keep it spiritual; (2) Tell your ministry story; (3) Build donor relationships; (4) Measure effectiveness; & (5) Make the ask.

Craig reviewed the responses from his meetings with Covenant members and the returned surveys. The responses were both positive and negative and "in general" indicated Covenant can do a better job of presenting "stewardship" to its members.

Craig told Session to effectively grow giving to the next level, the church must be able to respond to two questions: (1) Why should I give? & (2) Why should I give to Covenant Presbyterian? He then reviewed 13 key areas to consider in making our stewardship approach more effective.

Craig concluded his presentation and asked Session to respond with their questions and thoughts. There was a discussion centered on whether the pastor should be aware of the giving of Covenant members. That issue will be addressed at the next Session meeting. The question to Craig from Session: of these 13 key areas what areas should we concentrated on first?

The consensus from Craig and Session: (1) Establish a Generosity Team; (2) Express Gratitude; & (3) Include Generosity Talks in Worship on a weekly basis.

Moderator Esala thanked Craig for his work ended the meeting with prayer.

Faithfully,

Jim Hamilton  
Clerk of Session

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## Report of the Clerk - June 2022

Session met June 9<sup>th</sup> for its regularly scheduled meeting.

Moderator Esala opened the meeting with prayer.

Moderator Esala introduced prospective members Stuart Kendall, Gene & Robert McEvoy and asked each to give a brief history of his or her life and explain how they came to Covenant. Session members asked

questions about their journeys to become Covenant members; Joel asked each to reaffirm their commitments made in Baptism, to profess their faith in Jesus Christ, and to declare their intent to actively be involved in Covenant's mission. Session then approved receiving Stuart, Gene, and Robert as members of Covenant.

Joel asked Session to respond to Craig Miller's Next Level Generosity Discovery report to Session at its May 23<sup>rd</sup> Called meeting. The discussion quickly focused on Craig's recommendation that Joel should have access to the financial giving information of Covenant's members. There were many thoughtful responses, both pro and con, on this recommendation. A motion to allow Joel access to Covenant's members financial giving information was tabled and will be on the agenda of Session's September meeting. A 2<sup>nd</sup> motion was put forward and approved giving Joel access to Covenant's top 25 financial givers without specific dollar amounts attached.

Session is concerned about the poor condition of the west entry into our parking lot and Charlie Bergmann, Chair of Properties, indicated they are looking into that situation.

Betsy Sebastian was thanked for her work getting the kitchen shaped up, stocked, and ready for business.

Nan Davidson, Chair of Nurture & Outreach, asked Commissions and Committees to consider using our "Minute for Mission" to thank those who are making a difference at Covenant.

Joel reported he and his family had a wonderful week of vacation in Florida. He believes he needs to become more hands on with Covenant's finances including having access to member giving information.

Session will not meet in July and its next meeting will be Monday, August 8.

Faithfully,  
Jim Hamilton  
Clerk of Session

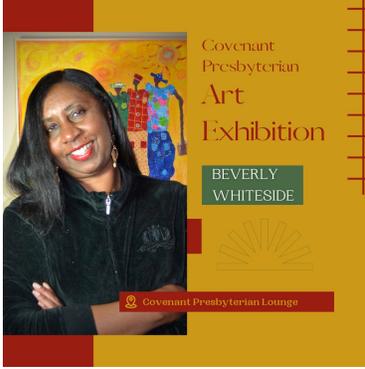
## Janet Becker Memorial Bench



As we remember Janet Becker with a smile, please rest or take time to visit with friends on the memorial bench donated by her family and newly installed at Covenant.

## 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.

## 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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.



## 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

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 13, from 1-2 pm, we will continue our study of the book of Judges. (You can find an overview of Judges at [bibleproject.com](http://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](mailto: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

If interested, contact Beth Askue.



## CATCH COURT and Freedom a la Cart

For many years, Covenant members have been involved in efforts to support programs for women who were trafficked and who are trying to recover their lives especially through CATCH Court's program. They can also receive support from and job training at Freedom a la Cart (FALC). Each month, we take lunch for 55 people to CATCH Court on the first Thursday of the month. Since summer may be a freer time for teachers and high students, last summer opportunity to help is on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Serve lunch and stay to observe court in action! Another way Covenant helps is by providing toiletry bags to FALC for women coming out of jail who often have nothing. With increased prices, it now costs us \$20 to fill a bag. If you would like to contribute to these bags, please note "toiletry bags" with your contribution.

If you would like to receive information about helping with the lunches or other opportunities to support the women, 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!

*Many thanks to all who purchased materials, prepared items, assembled the sack lunches, and delivered them to the Parsons Avenue Open Shelter for the effort on Friday July 8th. What a joy to work together to serve our neighbors!*

We'd love to expand the team of people involved to create the lunches for **Friday, August 12th** and in any future month.

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](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)

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 – HOGE'S, 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](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.



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](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

- **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.](#)

others.

Stay in touch!

Click here to receive our weekly emails.

