



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

From our pastor

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights in giving you the kingdom... Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too." Luke 12:32, 34

Fear is a part of our lives, and that's not all bad. When it works properly, fear helps keeps us alive. When it's out of control, it steals life from us, and that's what God wants to remedy. To soothe our fears, Jesus invites us to see ourselves as part of God's flock. He assures us that it is God's delight to give us the kingdom. What does it mean for God to give us the kingdom? The kingdom is life as it's meant to be. The Lord's Prayer tells us every week what the kingdom is: thy kingdom come—what does that mean? It means, God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. God delights in giving us life as it's meant to be—where our basic needs are met, where we have relationships of love and support, where we can live free from violence in our homes and community, and where we can use our gifts in meaningful work. That's what God wants for all of us. In fact, God delights in it, which means God delights in our delight, because nothing is more delightful than when life is as it should be.

With all our talk of sin and righteousness, I think the church has failed to communicate that God is more concerned with your delight than you are. Too often, God has been understood as a distant, angry buzzkill. If that's who God is, then we will always worry that pleasure is somehow wrong or unspiritual. But Jesus invites us to understand God's way as the most delightful way to live. The truth is that greed doesn't make us happy, but generosity does. God wants us to live generously not because God doesn't want us to enjoy life but because God does.

Covenant, you are an incredibly generous church, and it's a delight to be a part of this community. Last year, we gave more to Presbytery missions than any other church. Every month, we support women in CATCH Court who are being freed from addiction and human trafficking. We support the food insecure through SOS Food Pantry and the Seeds of Hope Community Garden. There are so many ways that Covenant shares with those in need, treasuring what God treasures. What a delight!

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.

Summer Adult Education Series 'People of the Book' Week #5 on Sunday, Aug. 14

David Connolly will lead the 5th and final meeting of Covenant's adult summer "brunch and learning" series on Sunday, Aug. 14, right after church at 11 a.m. Enjoy a light meal with friends and learn about interesting topics in the early history of Christianity and the Bible! We will wrap things up with the medieval 'The Bible of the Poor', a sort of comic book format used to teach the Bible to the illiterate. Even if you missed earlier weeks, it will be easy for you to join in on Sunday! (Masking and social distancing will be maintained in keeping with Covenant's covid policies.)

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS - AUGUST 14TH

In anticipation of the new school year, the Blessing of the Backpacks is scheduled for Sunday, August 14th at both the 9am and 10am worship services.

COLUMBUS FAREWELL/FUNDRAISER RECITAL AUGUST 14TH @ 3PM COVENANT SANCTUARY

Cecelia McVicker, cellist, started playing the cello when she was three years old, performing on an 1/8 size cello. She is presently a country girl, living in Centerburg Ohio. Cecelia has been studying cello with Cora Kuyvenhoven the last five years. Recognized at a young age as a talented cellist and winning many awards and scholarships, Cecelia has just won the Columbus Symphony Concerto competition and the CMTA Achievement Awards!

Accepted into the prestigious Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan for her 11th and 12 grades of high school, Cecelia is very excited to share her Columbus Farewell/Fundraiser Recital on August 14th at 3 pm in the Sanctuary of Covenant Presbyterian Church. Although she has received a huge scholarship from Interlochen, she still needs \$5,000 more for tuition. (Tuition is \$68,000/yr)

Please come and enjoy her recital Sunday, August 14th at 3 pm in the Sanctuary of Covenant Presbyterian Church. If you can donate for her fundraiser, please do!- but most importantly, she would love to share her music with you.



GET TO KNOW YOUR PASTOR

August 14 and 21 at 11am are the final dates for these gatherings. If you have not received an invitation or the previous dates were not convenient, you still have an opportunity.

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.



BRUNCH WITH COVENANT SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH 11AM-1PM

The old Block Party is getting a new look as “Brunch with Covenant” to conveniently follow our 10 am worship service and to provide an inviting event for our neighbors. We will be serving egg casseroles and potato casseroles, sausage, breakfast pastries, fresh fruit, coffee, tea, and juice with both indoor and outside dining – all at no cost to members and our guests! Obviously, we are going to need a lot of help to make this a successful event – many casseroles and needing approximately 40 volunteers. So, please sign up for your favorite task on the

10am worship bulletin insert this Sunday.

SOS FOOD PANTRY - FOOD DONATIONS DESPERATELY NEEDED

Our pantry is very low on staples and we hope you will consider donating food to SOS Food Pantry over the next 3 weeks.

We make deliveries each day to those in need and the family sizes are getting larger (7-9 people in a family is common) so our inventory is almost depleted.

Please place your food donation in the SOS Food Pantry drop off bin inside the north parking lot entry. If you need assistance unloading the food or have any questions, please call Mark & Betsy Owen at 614 419 0374.

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated and should be marked "SOS Food Pantry".

ITEMS NEEDED

Canned corn and green beans
Canned fruit
Breakfast Cereals
Condensed chicken noodle and tomato soups
Baked Beans- large and small sizes
Canned Beef Stew
Boxed macaroni and cheese
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Spaghetti and spaghetti sauce

On behalf of the SOS Food Pantry Team....Thank you so much!!



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

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to volunteer at the church receptionist desk? Weekly schedule openings available: Monday through Friday 11am to 2pm.

Duties include:

- Answer phones and route calls appropriately.
- Sign for packages from UPS, FEDEX, USPS, Amazon.
- Provide maintenance companies and city technicians with key to access mechanical rooms.
- As requested, make duplicate copies of documents.
- Direct CPC members and visitors as needed.
- Add weekly worship service attendance in database from attendance sheets.
- Add inserts to bulletins.
- Keep copier room organized.
- Other duties as needed.

If interested, please contact lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org. Thank you!



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.



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 August 5th to discuss chapters 6 and 7 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, August 10, from 1-2 pm, we will continue with chapter 12 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 resume on Wednesday, September 7th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City* by Mona Hanna-Attisha, MD. The author is a pediatrician in Flint, MI, who, together with her team, proved that the children of Flint were being exposed to lead through the city tap water and then shared that truth with the world. The Columbus Metropolitan Library currently has 14+ copies available, and *clicking on the author's name above* will take you to a summary and a variety of purchasing options.

We will discuss the first eight chapters on September 7. Pastor Joel will help us get started with a brief talk about "Water and Christianity." Many universities have this book on their list for first year readings, and a discussion guide may be found [here](#), if that would be of interest. As always, attendees are invited to suggest book titles to the group.

Please contact Tori Vazquez or the church for the Zoom link.



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 5th. 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!

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, Tanvi Bhowmik. 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 at covenant@covenantpcusa.org.

In Christ,



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

Betsy Sebastian will coordinate the Eunice-Lydia Circle to provide the meal for Saturday, August 20. If you'd like to help as a cook or server from 4-7pm, please contact Betsy.

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.
- 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, Tanvi Bhowmik.
- **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.

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

Franklin County once again has a high level of community spread of COVID, which means the CDC recommends everyone wear a mask indoors in public. Late last week, Franklin County Public Health issued a community mask advisory.

INFORMATION/MISCELLANEOUS

- Just a reminder that the blue containers are recycle containers, not for trash or food. When using the kitchen, please remember to turn off coffee pots and to rinse off food particles over garbage disposal (there are two) and not in the sinks.
- **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.](#)

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.](#)

