



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

## From our pastor

*"And I tell you: Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you...If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" Luke 11:9, 13*

The truth is that I don't understand prayer. I'm not sure anyone really does, but I still pray. On the surface, it sounds like Jesus is inviting us to ask God for anything we want and expect that we will receive it. But we know that's not true. God isn't a cosmic vending machine, a genie who grants our wishes. So, what is Jesus teaching us? I think Jesus wants us to trust that God cares deeply about our needs, which is why he invites us to pray for daily bread. Jesus says that if we know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more will God give *the Holy Spirit* to those who ask? Above all else, God longs to give us God's own self. Tell God your needs, pray for tomorrow's bread, but know that above all else, God wants to give us God's own self, that our life might be filled with God's life. For when we are filled with God's Spirit, then we know that no matter what happens, we are forever loved and held tightly by the God who is love. More than anything else, that's what God wants to give us.

I don't fully understand prayer, why some prayers seem to be answered while others do not. But I do know this: God wants to hear our prayers, not for God's sake, but for ours. Prayer opens our eyes to the signs of God's love that are all around us. We miss them if we don't look for them, and prayer helps us look. God cares about your needs, your joys, and your heartbreaks. When you feel alone and unseen, you are loved with an everlasting love, beyond what you'll ever know, that God dwells in you, and you dwell in God. To know this means you're never truly alone.

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 will resume on September 11th at 9am in the Lounge.



## 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.



## SPIRITUAL CINEMA

Wednesday, 8/31, we will gather in the Lounge, at 6:30 pm to watch Bull Durham (1988) – an American romantic comedy sports film. It is partly based upon the minor-league baseball experiences of writer/director Ron Shelton and depicts the players and fans of the Durham Bulls, a minor-league baseball team in Durham, North Carolina. We will stay for a short time after the film to discuss its merits and message. Come join us.

## 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!!

## **CLERK'S SUMMARY OF SESSION MEETING AUGUST 2022**

Report of the Clerk

Session met August 8 for its regular meeting

Moderator Esala opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

Moderator Esala introduced confirmand Jack Van Aman. Jack read his confession of faith, received questions from Session, responded to the questions of his faith, when was welcomed into Covenant's faith family by Session.

The Clerk reported to Session that Covenant's current membership is 437 including 298 households.

Properties chair, Charlie Bergmann, reported to Session that Covenant will be securing the building during preschool hours (8 am to 6 pm) Monday through Friday. Session approved Charlie's request that beginning August 16 all church doors will be locked during preschool hours. Signs will be posted on how to gain access; existing codes will continue to work; and to contact the church office if there is a need to have a permanent code issued. Properties will investigate if there is a better solution to this issue.

Spiritual Development/Adult Learning chair, Tori Vazquez, indicated a new book study as well as the Forum will begin in September.

Nurture & Outreach chair, Nan Davidson, reported the old "Block Party" has a new look and on Sunday, August 28 a "Brunch with Covenant" will happen immediately after the 10 am service. Volunteers are needed and more information to follow.

Children & Youth chair, Jen LuPiba told Session all teachers will be back for the fall season and the Commission is working on updating Covenant's Youth Protection policy.

Stewardship & budget chair, Lind Pratt and Moderator Esala presented the 2022-23 Fiscal year budget to Session. This budget has a 3.9% increase over last year's with most of the increase coming from Personnel including custodial staff increases, along with new job responsibilities and benefits for some staff. Lind reported to Session S & B is comfortable with the status of current pledges and is confident we can meet the increase of next year's budget. Session approved the budget as presented.

Session approved Moderator Esala's request that the Annual Congregational meeting will be on Sunday, September 25 immediately after the 10am service.

Session approved Moderator Esala's request to have Peter Okyere serve as an intern at Covenant during this fall from September through December.

Session approved Moderator Esala's request that the Rev. Furson Zumot will visit Covenant on September 18 and will lead the adult forum and preach.

Session's next meeting will be Monday September 12.

Faithfully,  
Jim Hamilton  
Clerk of Session



## 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**

## SEEKING CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to volunteer at the church receptionist desk? Weekly schedule openings available: Monday through Friday 9-11am, 11am-1pm and 1-3pm.

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.
- Proofreading.
- Keep copier room organized.
- Other duties as needed.

If interested, please contact [lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org](mailto: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](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.



## 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 19th to conclude discussion of *Everyday Contemplative*. Beginning September 2, the group will begin consideration of Brian McLaren's *Do I Stay Christian?* 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 11am.

### SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

**Wednesday Bible Study 1:00-2:00 pm:** This Wednesday, August 17, from 1-2 pm, we will continue with the story of Samson in 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 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 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.



## 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 the group who helped shop, assemble, and/or deliver the lunches for the August 12th effort! What a joy to work together and show hospitality and Christ's Love with our neighbors!***

We'd love to expand the team of people involved to create the lunches for **Friday, September 9th** 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 revised 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](mailto:covenant@covenantpcusa.org).

In Christ,  
Betsy Sebastian, Mona Connolly, and Carrie Mellen

Join the Team  
Creating or  
Delivering

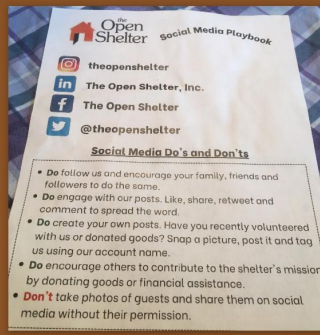
175  
Sack Lunches  
for the

OPEN SHELTER  
on Parson's Ave.

on the  
2nd Friday of  
EVERY month  
from  
8:15 to 9:10am

Contact:  
Betsy Sebastian  
Mona Connolly  
Carrie Mellen

Also, help them  
by promoting  
what they do  
on Social Media!



## 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](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

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

- Please checkout the Lost and Found bin next to the receptionist desk for any lost personal items.
- 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.](#)

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### **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.](#)

