



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

From our pastor

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" Psalm 122:1

This Sunday is our Annual Meeting at 11am. I hope you can join us in person or online. We have much to celebrate as we look back on the last year and much to look forward to in the coming year. In addition, we will be electing new classes of Elders, Deacons, and for the Nominating Committee. There aren't many things that you as a congregation are asked to vote on but electing officers to lead the ministries of our church is one of them. I love the way we share power in the PC(USA). No one person gets to make all the decisions, but instead we trust that God has gifted and called all of us to ministry in baptism. Therefore, we share power through officers elected by the congregation, along with your pastor, who is also elected by the congregation. Your voice matters in this church. I hope you'll take time to read over the slate of nominees and attend the meeting. Of course, we'd love to see you in worship first at 10am!

I had a wonderful time away this past week. I attended CREDO, a weeklong conference focused on pastors' wholeness and well-being. Each CREDO conference is led by a team of experienced faculty who guide participants in a visioning and discernment process through four key areas of well-being: spiritual, vocational, physical, and emotional health, and financial. It is hosted and paid for by The Board of Pensions of The Presbyterian Church (USA). Every expectation I had was exceeded, and I am grateful for the continuing education time away that you provide for me in my terms of call. You were blessed in my absence with The Rev. Fursan Ayed Zu'mot on Sunday. If you have not listened to his sermon yet, I encourage you to do so. It's good to be home, and I hope to see you Sunday.

One Struggle to Love,
Rev. Joel A. Esala

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](#).

LAST WEEK'S SERVICE (SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18)

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/tgMO2dPpJlQ>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/825357808459346/>

Faithlife: <https://faithlife.com/cpc-vj/livestream>

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES!

Adult Forum Class - Adult Christian education prior to the Sunday worship service at 9am in the Lounge.

Children Christian Education - 3 years - 5th grade meet Sundays at 9am in room 115 for music, stories, crafts and conversation.

Youth Group: Youth grades 6-12 meet Sundays at 11am in room 115 for lunch, learning and a whole lot of fun.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Each year, Covenant has four special offerings. The third is the Peace and Global Witness Offering which will be received Sunday, October 2. The support of this offering makes the International Peacemaker Program possible; that is the program which brought Rev. Fursan Zu'mot from Palestine to us on September 18. Twenty-five percent of the offering remains in our community; this year the Mission & Social Concerns Commission has decided to donate that money to Sanctuary Night, a drop-in space serving vulnerable women who need a place to rest, eat, connect, and get desired resources. You can give, using the envelopes in your bulletin or through Covenant's website.

PEANUT BRITTLE



Yeah!! It is that time of year again!!! Peanut Brittle cooking will start on Tuesday, September 27, 9am to 12:00 noon. Please bring in your 1 lb. coffee cans, 80% margarine, and white sugar. We will need cooks and others to help. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and fun!! Contact: Nancy Davidson, 614-893-8824, or ndavidson7@gmail.com.

Men's Study Breakfast Resumes Saturday, October 1

The men's study breakfast will take place in the lounge at the church, 8:00 AM, Saturday, October 1. We will continue our study and discussion on the life of Paul, using the video "Eclipsing Empire," by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The video was shot "on location" in the areas where Paul ministered.

Ordinarily, the breakfast menu includes pancakes and scrambled eggs. Participants are asked to bring an item to share.

All are welcome.



Blood Drive, October 3, noon to 6:00 PM Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall

The American Red Cross will collect blood donations on Monday, October 3, in Fellowship Hall, from noon to 6:00 P.M.

The unusually great demand for blood for surgical and other patients is still with us. One unit of blood is enough to save three lives.

Please sign up to donate, either at RedCrossBlood.org or by notifying Betsy Sebastian or Steve St. Martin.

Presbytery of Scioto Valley Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO) Events/ Updates

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

The Presbytery Youth Task Force is pleased to offer a **Fall Youth Retreat at Camp Akita November 12-13, 2022**. The cost is \$80 per participant (If you register your group by October 17th), \$100 per participant (If you register between October 18th and 31st), with the theme "Attitude of Gratitude ". The flyer and registration are at psvonline.org under Events. Contact the presbytery office for more information 614-847-0565 or dagmar@psvonline.org.

The Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO) has cancelled this year's fall mission work trips in West Virginia. However, CNO leaders are looking into offering **Mission Workdays throughout our presbytery in 2023**. We feel that this could connect churches with various social programs in our region, while connecting members in different congregations to one another. Contact Kathi Bubb, chair of CNO, kathibubb@gmail.com if you have ideas for mission workdays, and you'd be interested in helping to plan these events.

Prison Ministry is an important part of the Matthew 25 Initiative to Dismantle Structural Racism and Eradicate Systemic Poverty. Our presbytery is offering two zoom conversations, **October 15 from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. we will examine "Incarceration in Ohio"**, and on **November 5, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., we will explore "I was in prison, and you visited me"**, with a panel Discussion on Prison Ministry in Scioto Valley Presbytery, register on the calendar on the psvonline.org website.



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 but must be received prior to the specific date of worship service.



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Covenant Presbyterian Women will host a Fall Luncheon on Wednesday, September 21st at 11:30 am. Our program speaker is Shirley Cannon, president of the Lunch Bunch and the Helen Jenkins Davis Scholarship Fund.

All are welcome, and reservations can be made through hallway signups, by calling the church office, or by notifying your circle leader. There is no charge for the luncheon.

Covenant Presbyterian Women's Circles meet for fellowship and discussion of the Horizons Bible Study "Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight"

- 1st Monday at 7:00 pm, Elizabeth Circle, Mona Connolly, moderator via Zoom
- 1st Wednesday at 9:30 am in the Church Lounge, Eunice-Lydia Circle, Susan Imel, moderator
- 3rd Monday, at 9:30 am in the church lounge, Deborah Circle, Lynn Elliott, moderator

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- 2nd and 4th Fridays at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Lounge, Prayer Shawl Circle, Louise Davidson and Nancy Davidson

For more information about CPW circles and activities, contact Sandy St. Martin, CPW moderator, 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 meet Friday, October 7 to continue discussion of Brian McLaren's book, *Do I Stay Christian?* Reading includes Chapter 8. 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: September 21, we will continue our study of the book of John. (You can find an overview of John at bibleproject.com.) This gathering will be in person, in room 115. 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 has concluded it's study of *What the Eyes Can't See*. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday evening, October 5 at 7:00 p.m. Next we will read 'The Lemon Tree' by Sandy Tolan, which will allow us to extend our discussion of last Sunday about the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis, and perhaps deepen our understanding of it.



SPIRITUAL CINEMA

Wednesday, 9/28, we will gather in the Lounge, at 6:30pm to watch Encanto (2021), an animated parable about gifts and family. We will stay for a short time after the film to discuss its merits and message. Come join us.

CATCH COURT and Freedom a la Cart

For many years, Covenant members have made efforts to support programs for women who were trafficked and who are trying to recover their lives especially through CATCH Court's program. Each month, we take lunch for 55 people to CATCH Court on the first Thursday of the month. After serving lunch we have the option to stay to observe court



in action. This is always inspiring because there is so much love, courage and determination expressed and you are invited to be part of this!

We have also provided resources such as toiletry bags and clothing for Freedom a la Cart which provides training for women in catering, food preparation and restaurant operations. Helping women regain drivers' licensing and providing activities for CATCH Court graduates, Butterflies, are among the many services we can help support. In December we will host the annual Christmas party for the CATCH women.

We recently watched the graduation ceremony for 12 women who were graduating from CATCH. The State House Atrium was filled with celebrants! Each woman was introduced, and each had the opportunity to say a few words. Judges, court workers, volunteers, friends and family cheered each one. It was a special day! With questions and to become involved, contact Barbara Marshall.

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!

What a wonderful group of workers-for-Christ who gathered in the Covenant kitchen to prepare 175 sack lunches for the Open Shelter on Friday, September 9th! Thanks to all who shopped, prepped and/or delivered the food and supplies to our neighbors on Parsons Avenue!

We'd love to expand the team of people involved to create the lunches for Friday, October 14th 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.

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

Join the Team Creating 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



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

*MANY THANKS to the members of the Mission and Social Concerns Commission
who provided the Sliced Hams and Fixin's
for our neighbors in the Hoge Community on 9/17!
More meals than usual were served and many left with meals to-go.*

*The next meal will be served by the
Elizabeth Circle on Saturday, October 15.
To help as a chef or as a server from 4-7pm, please contact Mona Connolly.*

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. The wearing of masks is optional for both servers and guests.

Current attendance at HM3 leads us to bring enough for 50 meals.

- **We're opening up the Signups for 2023! Please sign up as an individual or as a group. We need help starting February 18th and every 3rd Saturday thereafter.**
- In the past, Covenant members cooked in their own homes and then brought 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 and for January 21, 2023... **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.

Signup or 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.

Sign up as an Individual or Group for a 3rd Sat. in 2023 to be the hand of Christ in Love and Hospitality at the BIG TABLE set with our neighbors at HM3 / Hoge



Contact: Cathy Levy or use

bitly.com/CovenantHM3SignUp

Worried about what to cook for 50 people?

Ask Cathy for a list of the last 15 menus, which included these Main Dishes:

**BBQ Chicken, Beef
Pulled Pork sandwiches,
Beef Stew,
Chicken Tetrazinni,
Johnny Marzetti,
Meat Loaf,
Sliced Hams**

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

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.](#)



Covenant Presbyterian Church | 2070 Ridgecliff Rd., Columbus, OH 43221

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