



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

From our pastor

On Sunday we had our annual meeting to report on ministries and elect new elders and deacons. This is my report to the congregation.

Dear Covenant,

We have had quite a year, and the best part about it is that we did *it together!* After 17 months of separation due to the pandemic, it was time to gather once again. We began the program year with a service of healing where anyone who had been hurt over the past few years at Covenant were welcomed to bring that grief into worship and ask God for healing. It was an evening of music, prayer, meditation, and reconciliation. The following Sunday, for the first time in a long time, Covenant began worshipping together with one service as one church. We welcomed back our own members to their church home. Here are a few highlights from the year:

- We instituted intergenerational worship, altering the sanctuary, so that children could have the best seats in the house. Erin Wise created worship toolkits, so that our youngest members can actively participate in worship, not merely sit quietly. Our hope is to find more and more ways to have all generations participating in worship together.
- Music brings people together, which is exactly what our music ministry did this year. The diversity of music that Cherie and Katie brought to us has been extraordinary from classics to contemporary, and music from across the world. The chancel choir, the bell choir, and our singers have blessed us all. Covenant has a legacy of great music, and this year was no exception.
- Our Technology ministry took significant steps forward. We updated our [website](#) and improved our online worship. We installed a screen in the sanctuary and are currently installing new equipment that will allow worship to be streamed in the Fellowship Hall, the Lounge, the hallway, and more. Technology was a lifeline during the pandemic and remains a significant way for people to connect with church. We will continue to find ways to utilize it in our facility and online.
- Session created the Welcoming and Inclusion Taskforce whose purpose is to help Covenant welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and races. The Taskforce supported my class on *The Bible's Yes to Same Sex Marriage*, which gave a Biblical and theological framework for inclusion. Their work is ongoing, as they canvas our membership to see where we are as a church.
- In May, we were visited by The Rev. Brian Ellison, the Executive Director of [The Covenant Network of Presbyterians](#). Brian taught an excellent workshop on "Becoming an Inclusive Church" and preached a powerful sermon in worship.
- We said goodbye to Ingrid Smith and welcomed Tanvi Bhowmik as our Financial Administrator. We also

welcomed Rev. Don and Rev. Janice Hilkerbaumer as Parish Associates.

· The incredible mission and outreach ministries of our church continued unabated. Food is delivered to people in need through our SOS Food Pantry. Meals are created and served every month at Hoge Presbyterian Church, CATCH Court, The Open Shelter, and the Ronald McDonald House. Covenant helped Habitat for Humanity build yet another home, and the Seeds of Hope Community Garden continues to grow hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to First Community Church's Food Pantry. In a world where we can be divided over so many things, we unite around being a source of help and hope to those in need.

· Covenant's generosity was on full display this year. We gave over \$28,000 to Presbytery Mission Giving, more than any other church in our Presbytery. In total we gave more than \$62,000 toward mission, and Covenant Presbyterian Women gave an additional \$12,000. Behind every dollar given, families have been housed, hungry people fed, lives touched and changed in our community and across the world.

Though much has changed over the past few years, Covenant remains a stable presence of love, worship, and service. Together we continue to live out our mission as an accepting, welcoming community, sharing the glory of God's love with all. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us as we pursue this mission together.

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 25)

Youtube: https://youtu.be/LTmRKUhe7_8

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1042070199792133/>

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

For Previous Services: <https://faithlife.com/cpc-vj/files?filter=kind%3A%22video%22>

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES!

Adult Forum Class - As a continuation of Bob Tullett's presentation on CPC's facilities and mechanicals, for Sunday, Oct. 2nd at 9am, Bob will be providing a flashlight tour of hidden spaces. Please join us 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.

Report of the Clerk

Session met Wednesday September 21st for a Called meeting.

The purpose: To listen and respond to Properties Commission's proposal to repave Covenant's parking lot. Moderator Esala opened the meeting at 6:30 pm with prayer

Joel and members of the Properties Commission presented two quotes from Shealy Paving to repave Covenant's parking lot. The first quote for \$7,615 would repair and repave the west entry into the parking lot. The second quote for \$87,780 would repave all of Covenant's parking lot including the west entry area.

Joel informed Session there is \$90K left over from our last Capital Campaign and those dollars were earmarked for the parking lot and improving the bathrooms. Joel told Session we will find the dollars to complete the bathroom project as proposed.

Session unanimously approved the quote to pave all of Covenant's parking lot and instructed Properties to sign the contract with Shealy Paving.

Properties indicated Shealy intends to begin paving early in November.

Lynn Elliott asked Session to approve CPW's request to have a bake sale in December and her request was approved

Moderator Esala closed the meeting at 7 pm with prayer.

Session's next meeting will be Monday October 10 at 6:30 pm.

Faithfully,

Jim Hamilton
Clerk of Session

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.

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.

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: This Wednesday, September 28, from 1-2 pm, 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.

What if you were sentenced to death for a crime you didn't commit?

Join the Ohio Innocence Tour 2022 as three death row exonerees share their stories on Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Capital University Law School Library, 4th Floor, 303 E. Broad Street, Columbus. This event is co-sponsored by the Ohio Council of Churches.



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!

*Join us! You could shop in advance, prep in advance on a Thursday, join the team that works together on a Friday morning, or deliver the finished product on a second Friday morning at 9:10. 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

*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



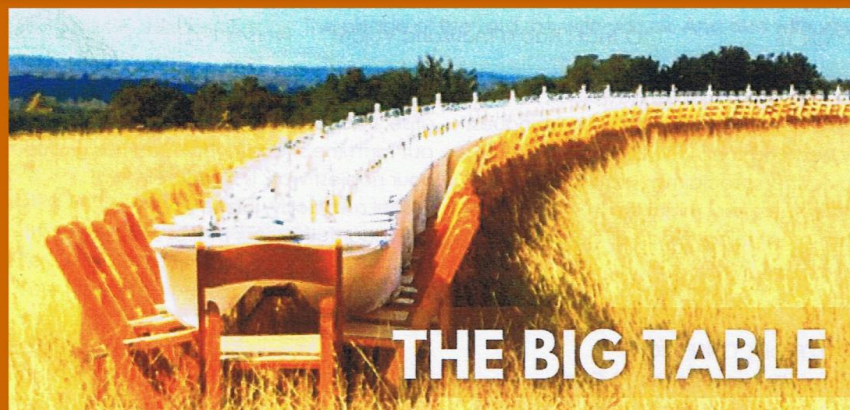
Contact: Cathy Levy or use

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*



THE BIG TABLE



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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