



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

From our pastor

"Even if someone sins against you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times and says, 'I am changing my ways,' you must forgive that person." Luke 17:4

Forgiveness is hard. It often feels foolish, even dangerous. What does it teach a person who wrongs us if we keep forgiving them? Doesn't that enable an abuser to keep on abusing? Understood rightly, forgiveness does not cover up wrongs or excuse abuse. In fact, it does the exact opposite. The first step of forgiveness includes an accusation. To forgive another person is to accuse them of wrongdoing. It's precisely not covering up evil and pretending like it didn't happen. When you forgive another person, you name and acknowledge the wrongdoing. This takes great courage, especially when it involves someone you care about or has power over you.

The second step of forgiveness is even harder, and that's letting go. The word "forgive" in Greek means to release or to let go. It's to say to the one who's harmed you, I am letting go of my claims for retribution against you and giving you back to God. I do not excuse what you did. You were wrong, but I am renouncing my need for vengeance against you. Of course, personal forgiveness doesn't necessarily mean there are no legal consequences, but it does mean you let go your personal need for retribution. This feels impossible. Left to ourselves, it is, but forgiveness, like faith itself, is a gift from God. It's not something we do. It's something we receive. By grace we receive the gift of God's forgiveness, and often in spite of ourselves, that gift flows through us to other people. That's how forgiveness works. God gives. We receive, and that gift flows through us to others.

When we consider the great injustices in our world, like the war in Ukraine, or the still unaddressed trauma of racialized terror against people of color in our county both past and present, forgiveness is an impossible demand, except for fact that God forgives forever and infinitely. In doing so, God does not shrug off the sin of this world, but names it and forgives it. What Bishop Desmond Tutu said about South Africa after apartheid can be said about our country and our personal lives as well: "Without forgiveness, there's no future." Because God forgives, we can learn to forgive as well. Because God forgives, there is a future.

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, OCTOBER 2)

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/LE4W2lbq1Uc>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/650614359906069/>

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 - 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.

Have an extra coat in your CLOSET?

Beginning in October, Cap City Helping Hands (CCHH)—formerly Westside Urban Ministry-- is again collecting new or gently used clean, reusable coats, hats and mittens for school children ages 5 - 17. Coats are distributed to schools throughout Columbus. No applications, no waiting, just a coat given to a kid who is shivering.

During October, coats can be deposited in a crate in the hallway marked "CCHH Coat Collection." Coats of all sizes are needed and also hats, mittens, and scarves are welcomed. If you aren't able to bring coats to the church, on October 29 coats will be collected in the parking lot from 10:00 to Noon.

In 2021, CCHH delivered over 900 coats to 74 schools. With your help, we can do more in 2022 Questions: contact Susan Imel, susanime1@gmail.com, CCHH is a ministry of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.

"He answers and said to them, He that has two coats, let him impart to him that has none; and he that has meat, let him do likewise."

◀ Luke 3:11 ▶

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

Three Opportunities for You!

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley would like to make you aware of the following upcoming events/programs.

Please pray for our presbytery youth and adult leaders who are gathering at Camp Akita November 12-13, with the theme **"Attitude of Gratitude" Prison Ministry is an important part of the Matthew 25 Initiative to Dismantle Structural Racism and Eradicate Systemic Poverty.**

Join us for a Zoom conversation on November 5, from 10:00 - 11:30 am - "I was in prison, and you visited me", with a panel discussion on what our churches are doing for Prison Ministry in our presbytery, both for those who are currently incarcerated and those who have been released.

Register: <https://psvonline.org/events/incarceration-in-the-us-zoom-seminar/>

Mark your calendars for PIE!! January 21 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Our Partners in Education (PIE) Leadership Training Day will be at Worthington Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 21 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Sign up for workshops for church officers, educators, youth leaders, and more, plus a keynote speaker on Vital Congregations. The cost is \$15 which includes lunch, check out the flyer at: www.psvonline.org.

Dagmar M. Romage (for the Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO))
The Presbytery of Scioto Valley
4131 North High Street, Suite B
Columbus, OH 43214-3001



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

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, October 5, 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 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 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.



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 by the women, 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.

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.

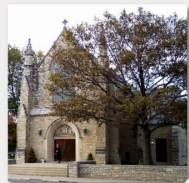
In Christ,
Betsy Sebastian, Mona Connolly, and Carrie Mellen

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 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



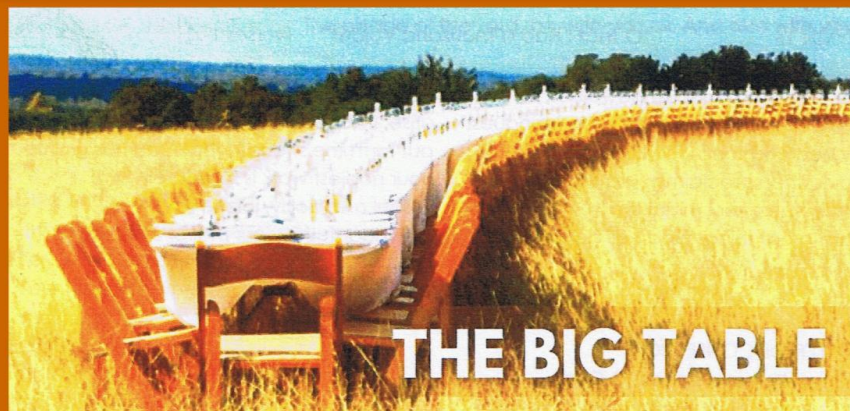
Contact: Cathy Levy or use

[**bitly.com/CovenantHM3SignUp**](https://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



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

[Unsubscribe covenant@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:covenant@covenantpcusa.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by covenant@covenantpcusa.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!
