



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

## From our pastor

*"Two people went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector...I tell you, this person went down to his home justified rather than [alongside] the Pharisee. All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up." Luke 18:10, 14*

Humans love dividing the world in two: good guys and bad guys, have and have nots, the light side of the force and the dark, right and left, Buckeye fans and the wicked. You get the idea. We call this dualistic thinking, wherein we imagine the problem with the world to be out there in some other identifiable group of people. Naturally most of us imagine ourselves to be on the good side. Jesus tells the parable of the Pharisee and the tax-collector to address this problem. The Pharisee thanks God for not being like other sinful people, while the tax-collector prays to God for mercy. Then Jesus seems to say that only the tax collector went home justified by God. Is this parable a simple reversal of expectations? Is it merely that the good guy is really a bad guy, and the bad guy is a good guy? I don't think so. This only replaces one dualism with another. We still end up in a worldview where humanity is divided in two, and it's our job to end up on the good side, the humble side.

Greek is a tricky language. Prepositions in Greek can mean many different things, which can be confusing. When Jesus says, "this person went down to his home justified rather than the Pharisee," that word "rather" is *para* in Greek and can just as easily be translated "alongside." Hear how different that would sound, "this person went down to his home justified alongside the Pharisee." Here's a radical thought, what if both are justified by God, the good and the bad, the saint and the sinner alike? That would undo all our dualisms once and for all. That would be a true Reformation.

This Monday marks 505 years from when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, thus beginning the Protestant Reformation. Luther had a famous Latin phrase that he coined, saying we are "Simul justus et Peccator," simultaneously justified and sinner. To be justified by God is to be declared good enough, made right, in the family of God. The good news is that's how God views you—holy, righteous, and good. At the same time, you still mess things up, don't you? Despite all my strivings, I'm still a sinner, and I don't have to pretend like I'm not. The truth is that both live in me—the Pharisee and the tax collector, the saint and the sinner. The goal is not to become one and condemn the other, for to condemn one is to condemn ourselves because we are both at the same time. God loves all sinners and saints and justifies them alongside each other. That's what I call good news. Happy Reformation Day!

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 23)

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/bu-7QwaeYGw>

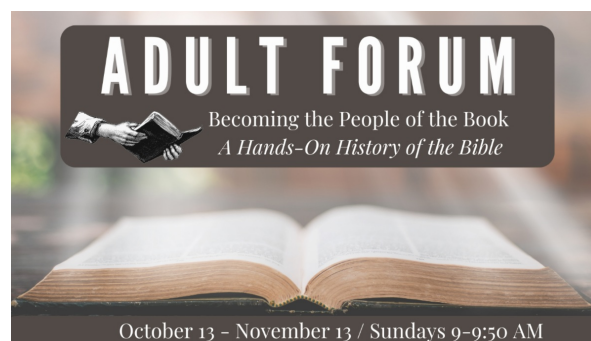
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/818530889341846/>

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.

**"Becoming the People of the Book - A Hands-On History of the Bible" - 9:00-9:50 a.m. Sunday - Adult Forum - Lounge**

This Sunday, Oct. 30, David Connolly continues his four-week series on the history of the Bible and how Christians became known as "the people of the book". Even if you missed last Sunday, please come! We will briefly review last week before moving on to our new discussion. The series will continue on November 6 & 13. Come to touch, hold, and learn about some very old Bibles!

## **The SOS Food Pantry Thanksgiving in-Gathering of Food Donations will resume this year on Sunday, November 20**

Our Food Pantry continues to make deliveries 5 days a week and the demand is increasing during this challenging time. Families are having difficulty keeping food on the table as food costs have increased greatly in the last 12 months. Please know that your donations are put to use immediately!

Please watch for the SOS Food Pantry "Shopping List" in future bulletins. Meanwhile please consider making a good donation at any time by dropping off canned fruits, vegetables, soups, boxed mac & cheese, toilet paper, peanut butter & jelly, etc., to the drop-off bin inside the north parking lot entrance.

Thank you for your continued support!

The SOS Food Pantry Team



## **Drive through Coat Drop-off on Saturday, October 29**

Cap City Helping Hands (CCHH), a ministry of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, will be collecting coats for Columbus school children on Saturday, October 29 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. New or gently used clean coats of all sizes are needed as well as gloves,

mittens, scarves and hats. Bring items to the parking lot where they will be collected by CCHH members. Thanks to all who earlier placed coats in the hallway crate! Questions: contact Susan Imel at [covenant@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:covenant@covenantpcusa.org)

## **COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ART'S RAPHAEL TAPESTRIES EXHIBIT**

The SDALC is hosting an excursion to the Columbus Museum of Art's Raphael tapestries exhibit, departing shortly after church on October 30, with lunch at the museum cafe afterwards. Call the church office if you are interested in going so that we can arrange for the transportation down and back. (If enough people are interested, we'll try to use the church bus.)

## **CPW ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE**

CPW Election Day Bake Sale needs your baked goods. You may sign up on the following Sundays, before and after service, October 23 and October 30. The agreed upon baked goods must be delivered to the church kitchen by November 7, 12:00p. -Lynn Elliott





## SPIRITUAL CINEMA

Wednesday, 10/26, we will gather in the Lounge, at 6:30 pm to watch *The Butler* (2013): the life of a White House butler who worked for eight presidents unfolds against a backdrop of unparalleled change in American history. We will stay for a short time after the film to discuss its merits and message. Come join us.

## WELCOMING & INCLUSION TASK FORCE SURVEY

As a reminder to CPC members, please complete the survey distributed to your email address on October 6th. The task force would like all responses by the end of October.

Thank you!

## BOARD OF DEACON - REQUESTING PROPOSALS

The Board of Deacons was blessed with a generous contribution in the 2022 Maundy Thursday Service offering. This presents an exciting opportunity to explore new approaches to fulfill the goals and mission of the Board of Deacons, as set forth in Scripture as one of sympathy, witness, and service. Accordingly, the Board is requesting proposals from members of Covenant Presbyterian Church for projects that serve those in need both within and beyond our community of faith.

This program is about one-time grants of up to \$2,000 that addresses a need or realizes a new idea that isn't being addressed elsewhere.

For a Grant Application, contact Tim Scott at [tscott6918@gmail.com](mailto:tscott6918@gmail.com) or 614-205-6918.

## Mission Sewing “opportunities” on sale

On Sunday Nov. 6, Mission Sewing will again have our “opportunities”: potholders, dishcloths, scrubbies and baby quilts on sale before and after the service. They will also be available on Election Day in connection with the CPW bake sale. They make excellent Christmas gifts and each dollar spent will provide an “opportunity” on our quilt which will be given away at the CPW Christmas Coffee.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY COVENANT CHILDREN’S CENTER

The Covenant Children's Center (CCC) and the Stewardship & Budget Commission (S&B) are seeking a volunteer to serve as a member of the CCC advisory board. The CCC is an educational ministry of our church which provides childcare and early educational experiences to families. The CCC is licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Previously known as Covenant Preschool, the CCC has grown over the last 10 years in response to the needs of families in the community, and now serves children ages 18 months through 5th grade.

The advisory board seeks an individual with a financial background (or at least good with numbers and spreadsheets) to assist with annual budget preparation and development of longer-term financial goals for the CCC, which include facility and playground upgrades. This volunteer will also serve as liaison to S&B to ensure financial transparency and accountability to Session.

If you are interested or know someone with a passion for helping children who is good with financial matters, please contact: Caroline McGeoch, CCC Director; Joel Esala, Senior Pastor; or Dana Rudmose, Treasurer.

## 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](https://psvonline.org) under Events. Contact the presbytery office for more information 614-847-0565 or [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://psvonline.org) website.



## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – Ukraine and Hurricane Relief

Your financial support and partnership enables Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to bring hope to communities and individuals recovering from natural and human-caused disaster

situations. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" – Give. Act. Pray. Give to a disaster/relief effort of your choice by designating the Disaster Response "DR" project you would like to support. View the list of [Active Disaster Responses](#) (includes links to give online)

## 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](http://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](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 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"

- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 7:00 pm, Elizabeth Circle, Mona Connolly, moderator via Zoom
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 9:30 am in the Church Lounge, Eunice-Lydia Circle, Susan Imel, moderator
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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



# SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

**Wednesday Bible Study 1:00-2:00 pm:** This Wednesday, October 26, from 1-2 pm, we will continue our study of the book of John. (You can find an overview of John at [bibleproject.com](http://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](mailto:lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org).

**Wednesday Evening Book Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.** - Thanks to all who were able to participate in the study of Sandy Tolan's book, 'The Lemon Tree', about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This title was chosen to continue our learning that began with the Rev. Fursan Zu'mot's visit to Covenant earlier this fall. Reverend Zu'mot is a Christian Arab, Lutheran pastor, and a PC(USA) International Peacemaker.

Our next book was recommended by Gail Messick to further extend that learning; Gail has agreed to facilitate our discussion. The title is '[A Country Between](#)', written by Stephanie Saldaña. Click on the blue link to get to Amazon. There are copies available at the public library as well. **We will meet on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 7:00 by Zoom**, (just one time) to discuss the entire book. There will be reminders of this meeting in the Wednesday all church email as the time to meet draws closer. Please contact the church or Tori Vazquez for a link.

Following is the Amazon book description.

*"When young mother Stephanie Saldana finds herself in an empty house at the beginning of Nablus road—the dividing line between East and West Jerusalem—she sees more than a Middle Eastern flashpoint. She sees what could be home.*

*Before her eyes, the fragile community of Jerusalem opens, and she starts to build her family to outlast the chaos. But as her son grows, so do the military checkpoints and bomb sirens, and Stephanie must learn to bridge the gap between safety and home, always questioning her choice to start her family and raise her child in a country at war."*



## 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!

*Many thanks to the great group who worked together to shop, pre-assemble, work as a team on Friday morning to prepare the sack lunches, and/or deliver the lunches and supplies for Friday, October 14th!! What*

*fun to work in community to share the Glory of God's Love with our.... community!*

*Join us! There are so many ways to get involved (see below). Our next delivery date is **Friday, November 11th** and you can help 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 8:00 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 larger hatchback car or 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  
**175 Sack Lunches for the  
OPEN SHELTER  
on Parsons Ave.**  
on the 2nd Friday of every month  
from 8:00 to 9:10

**Contact:**  
**Betsy Sebastian, Mona Connolly, Carrie Mellen**



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

*Thank you, members of the Elizabeth Circle, and also, Carol Petro,  
Sarah Starr and her grandsons, Mitchell and Tucker, and  
our intern, Peter Okyere, for cooking and serving  
on the 3rd Saturday of October!*

*The next meal will be served by members of the  
Golf League on Saturday, November 11.  
To help as a chef or as a server from 4-7pm, please contact John Griffin.*

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](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.

**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



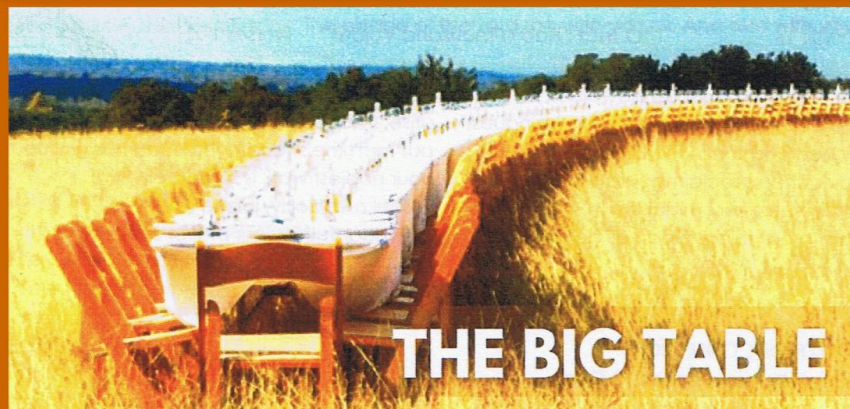
Contact: Cathy Levy or use

[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](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

## INFORMATION/MISCELLANEOUS

- A variety of flower vases are available for free to a good home. They are located in the main kitchen on the table. After two weeks the vases will be donated to a worthy charity.
- **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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