



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

From our pastor

Dear Covenant,

Though I am away on vacation this week and study leave next week, I thought you might like to learn a little Presbyterian history while I am gone. This past Sunday was Reformation Sunday, marking 505 years since Martin Luther began the Reformation. This year also marks 40 years since the adoption of the Confession of Belhar, which is the latest addition to our Presbyterian Book of Confessions. The Presbyterian Historical Society prepared this remembrance:

Forty years ago, the Dutch Reformed Mission Church (DRMC) in South Africa adopted Belydenis van Belhar—the Confession of Belhar—in its first reading. Belhar was an outgrowth of the DRMC's effort to grapple with the church's participation in and defense of apartheid and touches prominently on themes of unity, reconciliation, and justice. The DRMC adopted Belhar in its final form in 1986.

Although the Confession of Belhar is inextricably connected to its South African context, its message extends far beyond. The PC(USA) describes Belhar as a powerful statement of belief for the Christian faith that, in part, bears witness to the gift of unity and the church's obligation to it. Interest in Belhar grew internationally around 2006, including among reformed traditions in the United States, where the PC(USA) established the Special Committee on the Confession of Belhar. On the recommendation of this Special Committee, the 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved the inclusion of Belhar in the Book of Confessions because of the clarity of its witness and its capacity to serve as a model for the PC(USA) to "speak and act with similar clarity at a time when it faces division, racism, and injustice."

The Confession of Belhar is a unique voice among the predominantly European and North American confessions. It elevates the witness of Reformed Christians living under different circumstances and serves, even now, as a springboard to discuss its key themes of unity, reconciliation, and justice within a wide range of current issues.

You can read the entire Confession of Belhar [here](#). The work of the Reformation is never done because the Holy Spirit is always calling us new horizons of faith, hope, and love. This is true for us at Covenant, as we seek to follow the Spirit into the unknown, trusting we were made for times such as these.

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 30)

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/fXg2m3no8KQ>

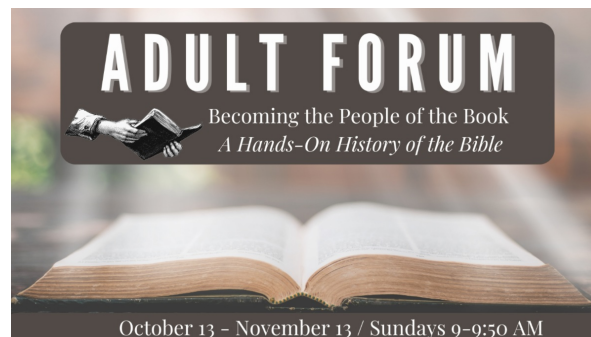
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/442591364678293/>

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, Nov. 6, David Connolly continues with week 3 of his 4-week series on the history of the Bible and how Christians became known as "the people of the book". Even if you missed the first meetings, consider joining us! We will be looking closely at Martin Luther's German Bible of 1534 as we continue our explorations. The series will conclude on November 13.

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

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

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 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 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 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.

Dagmar M. Ramage (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

Christmas Coffee

Everyone is invited to the CPW Christmas Coffee gathering, Wednesday, December 7th at 9:30 am. Weldon Adams, Emeritus Minister of Music, will present a program on the history of Christmas carols, including a sing-along of some carols. Please contact the office at 614-451-6677 to RSVP.

Garage Sale Good News, Bad News

The good news is that CPW plans to hold a somewhat limited garage sale this spring, but the bad news is that we have no place to store things in the church prior to the sale. PLEASE find a place to store your items in your home or perhaps with a friend who might have room. Please note we will not have a clothing room or a book room. Other items you donate must be clean, in working order and usable. A complete list of places accepting your recyclable items will be offered for information soon. If you have questions contact Louise Davidson through the church.

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

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

Wednesday Bible Study 1:00-2:00 pm: November 2nd we will practice lectio divina. This is a meditative way of reading the Bible. A chosen text is read three times, giving us an opportunity to think deeply about it and respond thoughtfully. 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. - 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."



Join Freedom a la Cart in providing items for survivors of human trafficking within Columbus through our donation drive today! Freedom a la Cart, a nonprofit in downtown Columbus, exists to "empower survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation to lead new lives of freedom and self-sufficiency." Covenant will help by collecting items to put in holiday bags to provide hope to women

in Freedom's support group. Covenant is collecting \$10.00 fast food gift cards and our goal is to collect 150 by Sunday, December 4th. Members of Covenant's Anti-Human Trafficking Team will welcome your donations each Sunday morning at church through December 4th.

\$10 FAST FOOD GIFT CARDS FOR FREEDOM A LA CART'S BUTTERFLIES*

**SUPPORT GROUPS FOR CATCH COURT
GRADUATES*

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 help by shopping, pre-assembling, preparing on Friday morning, and/or delivering on Friday morning (see below for details). 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.

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**

*The next meal will be served by members of the
Golf League on Saturday, November 12.
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.

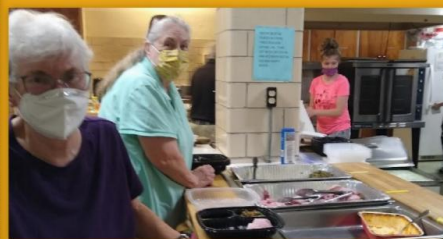
Current attendance at HM3 leads us to bring enough for 50 meals.

- **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 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



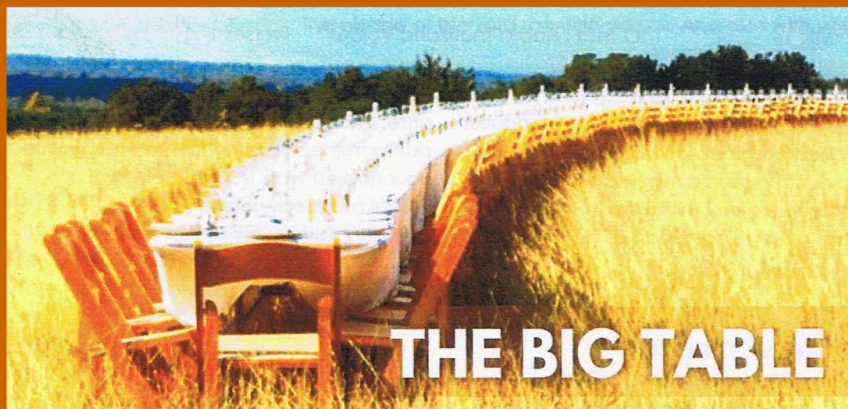
Contact: Cathy Levy or use

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

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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