

Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - November 9, 2022
Laurie Johnson, Office Manager & Newsletter Editor



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



From our pastor

Dear Covenant,

Though I am on study leave this week, I trust you had a blessed All Saints Day this past Sunday. Celebrating All Saints Day is still relatively new to me. Growing up, it always seemed like a Catholic thing to remember to the dead, rather than the living. But the PCUSA has recognized All Saints Day as part of our church calendar for many years now. The older I get, the more this holiday means to me. As more people I love die, the more remembering them matters to me. Initially, All Saints Day was celebrated to remember the martyrs who had died. In time, the church began to honor all the saints who had died. In the Presbyterian tradition, our focus on this holiday is to remember not just the luminaries of the Christian faith, but normal people, those we know and love who have died. Being a saint does not mean you are a super-Christian. Saints are simply those loved by God, which means whether you know it or not, you are a saint, and so are those you've loved.

For Advent and Christmas this year, our theme is *Generation to Generation*. The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. The theme reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. All Saints Day functions in much the same way. Our lives are shaped by those who have gone before us. As you remember those you've loved who have died, let us join in a prayer of thanksgiving from our Book of Common Worship:

We give you thanks, O Lord,
for all your saints and servants
who have lived justly, loved mercy,
and walked humbly with their God.

For all the high and holy ones,
who have done wonders
and been shining lights in the world,
we give you thanks.

For all the meek and lowly ones,
who have earnestly sought you in darkness,
held fast to their faith in times of trial,
and done good as they have had opportunity,
we give you thanks.

Especially we give thanks for those
whom we have known and loved,
who, by their patient obedience and self-denial,
steadfast hope and helpfulness in trouble,
have shown the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

As they have comforted and upheld our souls,
grant us grace to follow in their steps,
and at last to share with them
in the inheritance of the saints in light;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.^[1]

^[1] Reprinted by permission from the *Book of Common Worship*, 390-391 © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved.

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](#).

CONGRESSIONAL MEETING PASTOR TERMS OF CALL

Directly following the worship service on Sunday, November 20th, there will be a congressional meeting to

review/discuss the pastor terms of call from 11am to 11:15am.

LAST WEEK'S SERVICE (SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6)

Youtube: https://youtu.be/2Q0WZQ74_gQ

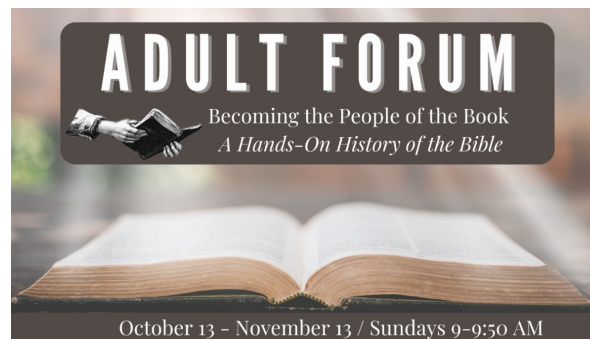
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1270452023791464/>

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. 13, David Connolly will conclude 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 earlier meetings, consider joining us! We will quickly review our previous learnings and finish our "show and tell" with the 'Geneva Bible' of 1560 and 'King James Bible' of 1611!

GAIL GRIFFIN'S SURPRISE "RETIREMENT" CELEBRATION

Members of the Visual Arts ministry, Judy Hardy and Jeanie Auseon, surprise fellow member Gail Griffin with a celebration of her 15+ years of installing art exhibits in the lounge. The celebration took place Nov. 3rd at Gail's last art installation. She is "retiring" from this ministry, and will be sorely missed. THANK YOU, Gail!



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

Mid-Ohio Workers Association Thanksgiving Baskets

On Tuesday, November 22 from 9am to noon MWA will be packing our Thanksgiving Baskets for our members here at Covenant. Each basket contains all the fixings for a great turkey dinner. Mid-Ohio Workers Association (MWA) needs:

- Donations of all the ingredients
- People!
- Bringing the ingredients into the Fellowship Hall
- Sorting them
- Packing the 60 or more baskets for our members

On Tuesday, November 22 from noon until complete we need to deliver the baskets to our members homes. We always send a driver and a navigator for each route of about 6 baskets.

We invite all at Covenant to volunteer for any of these endeavors.

Supplies needed:

Turkeys	Stuffing	Pumpkin pie filling	Pie crusts	Cranberry Sauce
Canned vegetables	Dinner rolls	Butter sticks	Sweet Potatoes	Onions
Sugar	Potatoes	Condensed milk		

Thank you for any help you can provide. We always have a fun day and would love you to join us. Please

contact Karen Hjelm (614) 893-6577 or khjelm43@gmail.com to volunteer or ask questions.

Thank Offering 2022

The Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. At least 40 percent of the offering funds health ministries.

Since 1988 Presbyterian Women has granted nearly \$27 million to more than 1,600 different projects at home and around the world through the PW Thank Offering.

In 2022, 10 projects were selected for funding, 8 in the United States and 2 are international. Among the issues they address are housing, food insecurity and health,.

The 2022 Thank Offering will be received during our service on Nov. 13. Please use the blue offering envelopes in the bulletin. Checks should be written to CPW with "Thank Offering" on the memo line.

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.

COAT DRIVE SUCCESSFUL

Covenant members and friends donated many coats for this year's coat drive sponsored by Cap City Helping Hands. No sooner than the collection bin was emptied, it filled up again! Throughout the Presbytery over 800 coats were collected to be distributed to Columbus city schools. Thanks to all who helped with this worthy cause of keeping school children warm.

As soon as the message went out to schools about picking up coats, school personnel began responding as follows:

Thank you for sharing the opportunity once again to get coats for our students. Yes, I would like our elementary school to be added to this list to pick up coats.

We would love to participate for our middle school again this year. Thanks again for all that you do- it helps many kids!

Thank you for the resource! I have used your generous donations in years past. I am the social worker at xxxx middle school.

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

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.

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



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)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Interested in ordering a Christmas poinsettia in dedication of a loved one? The order forms are located on the table at the East entrance with instructions. The cost is \$10/plant payable by check or cash.



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

The Spiritual Development and Adult Learning Commission is searching for writers for this year's Advent devotional. This is a deeply meaningful way to share your faith, seasonal memories, and family traditions, with your church family during the Advent season. Click [here](#) to access the Sign Up Genius to choose a Bible passage and see the guidelines for your contributions, due by November 18.

Wednesday Bible Study 1:00-2:00 pm: For November 9th, there will be no Bible Study. On November 16th, we will resume our study of the book of John.

Wednesday Evening Book Study 7:00-8:00 p.m. - 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."

Covenant Christmas GIFT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



For the complete list, go to
covenantpcusa.org

Help share
the glory of
God's Love!

LIST OF CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

At Covenant Presbyterian Church, we always find ways to share the glory of God's love, especially at Christmas time. To learn about how to participate in any of these giving opportunities (including deadlines and contact information for each), please stop by the table in the church lobby for a copy of the list. Or, contact the church office, Cathy Levy, or Beth Askue, who will send you a copy. Or, download the list from the church's website.

Ministries include:

1. Layette Supplies (Sandy St. Martin)
2. Support for FCCS' Holiday Wish (Sandy St. Martin)
3. Cap City Helping Hands' Holiday Shop (Susan Imel)
4. Freedom a la Cart Holiday Donations (Barbara Marshall)
5. Christmas Joy Offering (Beth Askue)
6. Deacons' Adopt-a-Family (John Harder)
7. Christmas Luncheon for Survivors (Barbara Marshall)
8. Gift Boxes for Kids and Food Boxes for Families from MWA (Karen Hjelm)
9. Christmas Party at HM3 (Mona Connolly)
10. Deacons' Christmas Eve Offering (Bonnie James)

Thank you for considering an opportunity to practice our faith and humanity in service of others in this Holy Season!



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.

If you wish to contribute money for gift cards make checks payable to Covenant Presbyterian church and indicate Freedom or FALC on the memo line.

\$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

Attention: The parking lot will be paved on Tuesday, Nov. 15th and Wednesday, Nov. 16th. No parking will be allowed in the lot those two days. All parking to occur on the surrounding streets during those days.

[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!