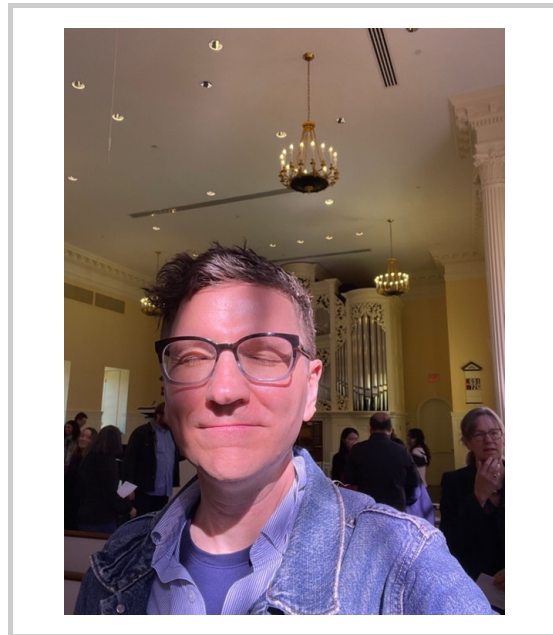




*Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community  
sharing the glory of God's love with all.*

## From our pastor



I am deeply grateful for two weeks away. I had a lovely "staycation" my first week, and last week I attended a preaching retreat at my alma mater, [Princeton Theological Seminary](#). Worshipping with a chapel full of my fellow pastors and seminary students was truly inspiring. Hearing tomorrow's pastors lead worship and preach the word of God gave me hope for the future. I trust you were inspired by Peter Okyere, our seminary intern, who preached while I was away. Though the future will be different than the past, I know that God is far less worried about the future of the church that we are.

It's been 14 years since I graduated from Princeton Seminary, and it is far more diverse now than it was then. This didn't happen by accident. The seminary has done hard work to become more welcoming and inclusive of all genders, races, and sexual orientations. It wasn't easy, nor did it come without a cost, but the fruit of this work is well worth it. None of us know exactly what the future holds at Covenant, but I trust that God is far less worried about than we are. I also trust that the best is yet to come, as we continue to live into our mission to be an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

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](#).

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PASTOR TERMS OF CALL

Directly following the worship service on Sunday, November 20th, there will be a congregational meeting to review/discuss the pastor terms of call from 11am to 11:15am.

## LAST WEEK'S SERVICE (SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13)

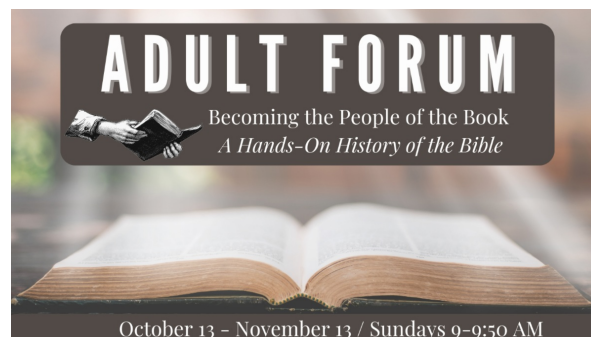
Youtube: <https://youtu.be/s-E3KIK6Wvg>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/661080878741011/>

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-9:50am 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.

## **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](mailto:khjelm43@gmail.com) to volunteer or ask questions.

## **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.

## CUB SCOUTS PACK 11

In appreciation to the Cub Scout Pack 11 service project at Covenant on November 5th. Thank you for your service!!



## 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](mailto: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](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



### 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)



### ADVENT EVENT

Everyone is invited to our annual Advent Event! Come join your church family for food, crafts, mission opportunities and fun as we kick off the advent season at Covenant! All the fun happens Sunday, 11/27 at 11am in Fellowship Hall! Pick up your devotional, make a craft (we have options for all ages) and grab some food while spending time together!

### DECK THE HALLS

**November 20 - 11am - 1pm**



Welcome all to participate and enjoy fellowship in Fellowship Hall with treats as we prepare for the coming celebration... Christmas!



## SPIRITUAL CINEMA

Wednesday, 11/30, we will gather in the Lounge, at 6:30 pm to watch About Schmidt (2002): A recently retired man, played by Jack Nicholson, embarks on a journey to his estranged daughter's wedding, only to discover more about himself and life than he ever expected. We will stay for a short time after the film to discuss its merits and message. Come join us.



## 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](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'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

### **Christmas Coffee**

Everyone is invited to the CPW Christmas Coffee gathering, Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 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](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**

Members of Women's Theology will meet November 18, to continue discussion of Brian McLaren's book, *Do I Stay Christian?* Reading for the 21st extends through Chapters 11, 12, and 13. 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**

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:** November 16, 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 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](mailto:lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org).

**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](http://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 first page of the church's website, [www.covenantpcusa.org](http://www.covenantpcusa.org).

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. Water Bottles for those served by the Open Shelter (Cathy Levy)
6. Christmas Joy Offering (Beth Askue)
7. Deacons' Adopt-a-Family (John Harder)
8. Christmas Luncheon for Survivors (Barbara Marshall)
9. Gift Boxes for Kids and Food Boxes for Families from MWA (Karen Hjelm)
10. Christmas Party at HM3 (Mona Connolly)
11. 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





## CATCH Court - Freedom a la Cart - Butterflies

How do they work together to support survivors of human trafficking?

CATCH Court is one of Covenant's long time mission efforts. For almost ten years our volunteers have served monthly lunches to women in this special docket probation court. As they progress, the women receive continuing support from Freedom a la Cart and Butterflies.

Bekah Delk, Community Engagement Manager of Freedom a la Cart will speak on how the three organizations work together to support the women from the time they enter the legal system, throughout their recovery, and beyond as they "fly".



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 4<sup>th</sup>.

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, December 9th** or you can help in any future month.*

*Many thanks to the team who recently served  
to cover the various in-advance tasks,  
to gather at Covenant on Friday morning, November 11th for the final assembly (see the picture below), and  
to then deliver them (see the picture of Mona and Cathy with an Open Shelter leader, Solomon, below).*

Covenant helps out people in need (including people who are homeless and marginally-housed) 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

*The next meal will be served by members of the  
 Golf League on Saturday, November 19.  
 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

Attention: Rain last Friday has affected our paving schedule for this week. The milling operation will still happen on Tuesday but the paving operation will now be pushed to Thursday and Friday. There can be no parking on the lot on those three days. No parking will be allowed in the lot those three days. All parking to occur on the surrounding streets during those days. Please note that unexpected delays might extend the time period.

[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.](#)



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