



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

From our pastor

"Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

I used to bristle whenever I heard these verses. I don't like being told what to do, and even worse is being told how to feel. My feelings are my own, and I don't appreciate input on how someone else thinks I should feel. But the truth is that expressing gratitude is good for us. It is good and right and healthy to spend time giving thanks for the blessings of our lives, for they are more abundant than we know. But how do we give thanks for the things we wish didn't happen? Cloud Cult is one of my favorite bands, and they have a line in one of their songs that says, "It's easy to be thankful for the things you've got. It takes guts to give thanks for the things you've lost." That's exactly right. How do we give thanks for the things we've lost, the things we most wish did not happen?

It was Christmas 2007, when I first noticed something was off with my mother. Normally she was a great gift giver, and that year, my gifts were awful. At the time, I felt overlooked and unloved. Now I can see that this was the earliest sign of her undiagnosed Alzheimer's. She was 57 years old at the time. A lot has changed over the last 15 years. She's still with us but has lost so much. Before she got sick, she could bring you to tears for how well she saw you and cared for you. Then she could bring you to tears with laughter over an inappropriate joke she'd tell. She was passionate and fun and real. She never settled for religious platitudes, yet still held onto faith, even amidst great suffering. That version of her is gone now. It exists only in the memories of those who knew and loved her.

I wish my mom didn't get Alzheimer's, but she did. Nothing about it has been easy, and it took me a long time to say this, but I am grateful for the loss. My mother has been my teacher my entire life, and she's still teaching me. My last visit with her, we just spent time being together. That's all there is left now—simple existence, and it is a gift. There's no doing and very little talking. I don't know that she recognizes me, and I'm fine with that. I recognize her, and that's enough. As I left, I told her how grateful I was to have spent this time with her. She said to me as clear as day, "I like it. I like it." I like it too, Mom, because it's a gift to exist. In all our existence, the good and the bad, we are fully and completely loved by God. Each day is a gift, and all of it is grace. For the gift of our lives, the joy and the suffering, we give thanks to you, O God. Amen.

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, NOVEMBER 20)

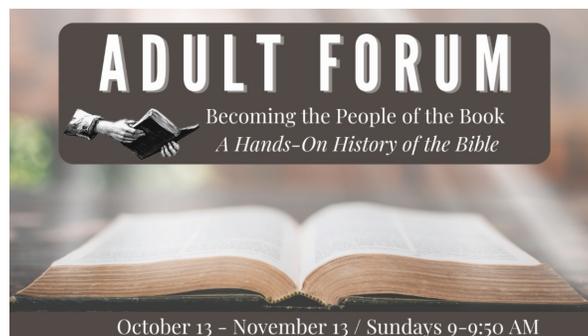
Youtube: <https://youtu.be/VIMz5ea1bqM>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2385107484960459/>

For Previous Services: <https://faithlife.com/cpc-vj/files?filter=kind%3A%22video%22>

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES!

Adult Forum Class - This Sunday, November 27th at 9am-9:50am in the Lounge, a discussion of the Deacon Grant Fund and the application process will take place. Come join us for a lively discussion of the fund's potential and the technical details of the process. Bring questions, suggestions and ideas to discuss.



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.



In Gratitude... We request your:

RAISE THE HARVEST HOME LOAN RETIREMENT PLEDGE

Thank you, Covenant members! We've had a great response to the *Raise the Harvest Home, Loan Retirement Appeal*, and we've received many generous pledges! With great gratitude, we report we are approaching 1/2 way to our goal of \$270,000 in pledges to retire this loan for repairs to our roof and HVAC system in three years.

We also want to thank those who gave testimony during our worship services about *Raise the Harvest Home*. If you missed it, check out the recordings on YouTube, Facebook, or our Website. Each testimony occurs after the Children's Sermon, with the exception of November 20, when Joel Esala speaks before the Offering.

- October 23, Dana Rudmose, included a Powerpoint on the finances of the expenses of the two projects, our low interest rate, and how if every family pledges an average of \$500 per year, we can retire the loan and pay very little interest.
- October 30, Jared McCune, included more about the projects of the Properties Commission, helped us acknowledge the personal efforts of Properties members past and present, and spoke from the perspective of someone with a young family.
- November 6, Cathy Levy, included her impression as a co-chair of the Mission Study and her gratitude over the variety of ways this church works share the Glory of God's love.
- November 13, Caroline McGeogh, included her stories from leading our Children's Center, a flagship ministry of Covenant that serves our members, our neighbors, and our mission.
- November 20, Joel Esala, included a summary of our mission spending across several budgets totaling over \$90,000 per year, "What that means is that you are a beautiful, generous, gorgeous church!" And if we are to continue these ministries and more, we need to continue to invest in restoring our "body", our church.

If you haven't pledged yet, please do so.

Let us *Raise the Harvest Home* to retire the loan and continue to be a

*... Welcoming, accepting community
sharing the Glory of God's love with all!*

In Gratitude,
Rev. Joel A Esala, Charlie Bergmann, John Griffin, Cathy Levy, Dana Rudmose, and Betsy Sebastian

BOARD OF DEACON - REQUESTING PROPOSALS

Please come join us in the Lounge this Sunday, November 27th at 9am. 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.

Anna Jo Beeson 100th Birthday!

As charter and long time member of Covenant, Anna Jo will be celebrating her 100th birthday on December 12, 2022!!

While minor mobility issues have kept her from attending services on a regular basis, she is still very fond of the friends she has in the Covenant family.

Her daughters invite you to send a note or birthday card greeting to help her celebrate this special day!!

Mailing address:

Anna Jo Beeson
Hilliard Assisted Living
4303 Trueman Blvd #142
Hilliard OH 43026





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 Sunday, November 27

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!

Mid-Ohio Workers Association Angel Tree

Thank you so much for providing wonderful gifts to the children of Mid-Ohio Workers in past years. The Angel Tree is out in the hall so you can drop off your donations any time until **December 15th at 5:00 pm when we sort the toys into families.** We provide two gifts and stocking stuffers for around 150 children ages 0 to 17.

The names on the tree are not real children but representative of children we have gifted in past years. Please leave the "ornament" with the gift and write your name and address on the back. **Do not wrap the gifts.**

Your donations can be left under the tree or in the box next to the tree.

You are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall on Thursday 15th to help sort the toys into families and box them for distribution at the Holiday Family Party on Saturday, December 17th. You are welcome to join us for the party. Set up is at 2:00, Party is at 4:00 in Fellowship Hall.

If you have any questions please contact Karen Hjelm through the church office. Thank you for your generosity!

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.



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (CPW) CHRISTMAS COFFEE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 9:30AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

We are extending an invitation to both men and women to attend the CPW coffee on Wednesday, December 7th at 9:30 am. Weldon Adams, Emeritus Minister of Music, will present the history behind some of our Christmas carols, along with a sing-along of familiar carols. Please contact the office at 614-451-6677 if you plan to attend.

Covenant's Neighborhood Family Christmas Party is Back!! *December 9*

The Nurture and Outreach is delighted to be bringing back the Neighborhood Family Christmas Party! It will be on Friday evening, December 9th, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. No need to make a reservation—simply join us in Fellowship Hall for Pizza, Crafts, Games, Christmas music, Conversation, Community, and Fun!

Join Us for Covenant's Christmas Brunch! December 18

After the Special Christmas music service on December 18, join us for a Christmas Potluck Brunch! It will begin right after church, at around 11:00 a.m., and run until 12:00 noon. If you can, please bring a casserole, fruit, pastry, or cookies to share. To make a reservation and to sign up for what you will share, please see the flier with sign-up sheet in the Sunday Bulletin on November 27, December 4, and December 11 or call the Church office at 614-451-6677. The Nurture and Outreach Commission looks forward to seeing you at the Christmas Brunch!



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

Members of Women's Theology will meet December 2, to continue discussion of Brian McLaren's book, *Do I Stay Christian?* Reading for the 2nd extends through Chapters 14, 15, and 16. New participants are always welcome. Meetings are held 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 23, there will be no Bible Study. On November 30, 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 first page of the church's website, 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 Season!



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

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.

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

*Many Thanks to the members of the Golf League who served on Saturday!
They enjoyed some ribbing for being a group of all-male chefs and servers,
and the participants enjoyed the Thanksgiving-themed meal.*

*The next meal will be served by the Elizabeth Circle on Saturday, December 17th,
and they are serving the Beef Stew recipe used in January and February, 2022.
To help as a chef or as a server from 4-7pm, please contact Mona Connolly.
See also the CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES for ways to help with the
Christmas Party they'll host that evening.*

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 cooking and/or serving home-cooked food for our neighbors at HM3/Hoge Memorial Pres. Church

Contact: Cathy Levy or use

bitly.com/CovenantHM3SignUp

**Worried about what to cook for 50?
Ask Cathy for a list of the last 17 menus
which included these Main Dishes:**



**BBQ Chicken, Beef, Pulled Pork Sandwiches,
Beef Stew, Chicken Tetrazinni, Johnny Marzetti,
Meatloaf, Sliced Ham, Sliced Turkey**

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

[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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