

*Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - January 4, 2023*  
*Laurie Johnson, Office Manager & Newsletter Editor*



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

## **From our pastor**











What an incredible Christmas Eve we had at Covenant! Despite dangerously cold weather, 300 people worshipped in-person and hundreds more joined us online. At 5pm, the story was told by children, and their joyous energy was palpable to everyone. At 8pm, the story was told by music, and the holy mystery filled our sanctuary. What a gift it is to be part of this vibrant community where we make room for everyone. You can still view both services online. The Christmas Season is almost over, as this Sunday we celebrate the Epiphany. I am beginning a new Adult Education class on Celtic Christianity at 9am in the Lounge, that I hope you'll join. But before we turn the page from this season, linger a little while longer on the good news of Christmas, that God is with us, as Rev. Sarah Speed reminds us:

"Everywhere and Always"

Right here.

That's where God is.

In the sun that turns our bedroom gold,  
in the creaks of this old house, and in birthday candles on the cake;  
in clean sheets, sock feet, and porch-sitting;  
in pancakes for breakfast and pancakes for dinner;  
in the swell of a lit candle, in fireplace conversations;  
in your grandmother's carrot cake, and the smell of evergreen.

God is in the seed-starters on the porch,  
and the space between my bones;  
in garlic butter, early mornings, and twinkle lights.  
Certainly in dancing and laughing, in cups of coffee,  
in the art hung on the fridge, snail mail, long phone calls,  
and *oh how I love yous*. God is right here.  
God pulled up a seat. God has traveled all the way to the heart.  
Tell the next generation.

by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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, JANUARY 1)

Youtube: [https://youtu.be/y\\_6d\\_r3VnbY](https://youtu.be/y_6d_r3VnbY)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/726077725607322/>

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

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES!

**Adult Forum Class** - Adult Christian education resumes Sunday, January 8, 2023 prior to the Sunday worship service at 9am-9:50am in the Lounge. Rev. Joel will be teaching a class entitled "Celtic Christianity: An Integrated Faith." The class will be following John Philip Newell's book *Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation* <https://a.co/d/j7HJcbe> Learn how this ancient faith can heal humanity and all creation.

**Children Christian Education** - Class resumes Sunday, January 8, 2023 - Ages 3 years to 5th grade meet Sundays at 9am in room 115 for music, stories, crafts and conversation.



**Youth Group:** Group resumes Sunday, January 8, 2023 - Youth grades 6-12 meet Sundays at 11am in room 115 for lunch, learning and a whole lot of fun.

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY NEW ZOOM LINK

Today we resume our journey through the Gospel of John. A new zoom link has been created for 2023. The previous link will no longer work. As usual, we will have a hybrid meeting, both in-person and over zoom at 1:00pm on Wednesdays in the Lounge and on zoom. I hope to see you today and future dates!

Joel Esala is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://covenantpcusa-org.zoom.us/meeting/tZAAtcuGgqT8tHNVn4e2KX5TDBf4gsS2m3d2e/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGsrj4iEtORtx-GRpwIAo\\_4Wfzwilago1rkkgvUQtrNzfSFOQWNaFMQtWD](https://covenantpcusa-org.zoom.us/meeting/tZAAtcuGgqT8tHNVn4e2KX5TDBf4gsS2m3d2e/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGsrj4iEtORtx-GRpwIAo_4Wfzwilago1rkkgvUQtrNzfSFOQWNaFMQtWD)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://covenantpcusa-org.zoom.us/j/84058874761>

Meeting ID: 840 5887 4761

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,84058874761# US (New York)

+13017158592,,84058874761# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 840 5887 4761

Find your local number: <https://covenantpcusa-org.zoom.us/u/kqPnKoDYp>

One Struggle to Love,

Rev. Joel A. Esala



**Deep Gratitude for your pledges!**  
**If you haven't pledged, please do so to help us meet the goal to...**

## **RAISE THE HARVEST HOME LOAN RETIREMENT PLEDGE**

Thank you, Covenant members! Thanks to many generous pledges, as of late December, we've cracked 90% of our goal of \$270,000 for the *Raise the Harvest Home, Loan Retirement Appeal*! Thank you for your financial support to retire this loan for repairs to our roof and HVAC system in only three years.

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

Consider this: If households donate an average of \$500 per year for three years, we'll be able to retire the loan quickly and minimize the interest payments. Prayerfully consider the impact of Covenant's ministries on your household and our community. Maintaining our church home helps us continue and grow our mission 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





## SOS FOOD PANTRY

### SOS FOOD PANTRY 2022 RESULTS

We made 44% more deliveries and served 50% more people than in 2021!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**

221 Deliveries Made  
778 People Served  
275 Children  
503 Adults

*Your Contributions are Greatly Appreciated!*



The CPW Bake Sale Committee wishes to thank all those that purchased boxed cookies. This was a great success and we look forward to next year. Please let us know which cookies were your favorites.

Sincerely,  
*Lynn Elliott, Connie Bergman,  
Lynn Hamilton, Jude McLean  
and Sandy Tullett*



**This year, we made:**  
185 cans of peanut brittle  
72 cans of cashew brittle

***All proceeds support Covenant  
Missions!***

*Thank you for your support!*

## **Men's Fellowship in January 2023!**

The Covenant men's fellowship group will meet for our "potluck" breakfast at church at 8 a.m. this Saturday, Jan. 7, followed at 9 a.m. by viewing and discussing the Borg & Crossan video series "Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God", chapter 10 on 'Paul's Eschatology'. Good food, fellowship, and faith-building - join us!

On Saturday, Jan. 21, we will convene at First Watch at Kingsdale for breakfast at 8 a.m.

## **ANNUAL PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY (P.I.E.)**

Our annual presbytery leadership training day called **P.I.E. (Partners in Education)** will be held at Covenant this year on Saturday, January 21. We are in need of volunteers who are **not** current elders or deacons, as those folks will be participants in the training sessions. If you can give an hour or a little more, tasks include: set up on Friday night, Saturday greeters, hallway guides, pie cutters, lunch or coffee servers, and clean up, please [sign up here](#). There will be a paper sign up sheet available on Sunday, before and after church.



## **DONATE METAL WATER BOTTLES for those who visit the OPEN SHELTER**

Let us extend onward into the new year our stainless steel water bottle collection! One of the opportunities to give this Christmas Season included providing *stainless steel water bottles including loops* so people who visit the Open Shelter can attach them with a carabiner clip to their backpacks or belt loops. They can use more, so let's keep taking them to the Open Shelter! Reach out to **Cathy**

**Levy** with your questions; she answers a few of them, below:

**Question: Why stainless steel?**

**Answer:** We've learned that stainless steel bottles are healthier to drink from; also, they are easier to clean.



**Question: What do you mean by "loops"?**

Answer: See the picture; each bottle's lid includes a sturdy loop for hooking your fingers through or hooking a carabiner hook through.

**Question: What is a carabiner hook?**

Answer: These are popular with rock climbers and hikers; these are metal loops with spring-loaded gates used to quickly and reversibly connect components. In this case, with the loop on a water bottle, a carabiner hook helps you attach the bottle to your belt loop or backpack strap (see the picture).

**Question: Must we donate a carabiner hook too?**

Answer: No, we'll buy boxes full of those and add them to each water bottle to make it convenient for all. If you do decide to donate hooks, make sure they are sturdy with a strong spring.

**Question: Where do I put my donation of bottles?**

Answer: Put them in the marked bin in Covenant's Donation Center, which is in the coat closet closest to the main entrance to the sanctuary.

**Question: When will you take them to the Open Shelter?**

Answer: For decades, we take 175 sacked lunches to the Open Shelter on the second Friday of the month. Included in these deliveries, we bring drinks, including bottled water. We're wondering if high quality stainless steel water bottles will reduce the demand for bottled water, thus improving the impact on the environment. **So, we are continuing our request for more donations of these bottles. We will take them with our monthly delivery of the lunches.**

*The Open Shelter is an Advocacy Center & Day Services Shelter for homeless and marginally-housed people in Central Ohio.*



## COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Covenant Presbyterian Women (CPW), would like to say thank-you to all the Covenant members who made pledges to CPW, and for purchasing Peanut Brittle, cookies, baked goods, and items the sewing circle made! You made it possible for CPW to make over \$11,000 to give to WorldWide and local mission and to CPW and CPC projects. Thank you!

***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> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Elizabeth Circle, Mona Connolly, moderator via Zoom
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 9:30 am in the Church Lounge, Eunice-Lydia Circle, Susan Imel, moderator
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, at 9:30 am in the Church lounge, Deborah Circle, Lynn Elliott, moderator

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Lounge, Prayer Shawl Circle, Louise Davidson and Nancy Davidson

For more information about CPW circles and activities, contact Sandy St. Martin, CPW moderator, [covenant@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:covenant@covenantpcusa.org) with CPW/Sandy St. Martin, the Circle leader's name or name of the person you wish to contact in the subject line.

## WOMEN'S THEOLOGY

Members of Women's Theology will not meet on January 6<sup>th</sup>, but will continue discussion of Brian McLaren's

book, *Do I Stay Christian?* on January 20<sup>th</sup>. They will review chapter 18 and discuss the new reading of chapters 19, 20, and 21. 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, usually the first and third Friday each month from 9:30 to 11 am.

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

**Wednesday Bible Study 1:00-2:00 pm:** : This Wednesday, 1/4 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.-** The CPC Book Group will meet via Zoom this evening, Wednesday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m., to discuss Stephanie Saldana's 'A Country Between'. The group is moving to a once-monthly schedule, so February will be a new book, title to be determined. Please contact the church or Tori Vazquez for the link.

## 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, January 13th** or you can help in any future month. **We particularly need help with SHOPPING at this point in the year, as some of our top shoppers take winter vacations. Let us know if you can help; it's fun, and shopping can fit into your schedule that week.***

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, donate **sturdy, stainless-steel water bottles with a loop** that participants can use to carry water easily. Drop your donations off in the marked bin within Covenant's Donation Center, which is in the coat closet nearest the sanctuary. We're hoping to provide more safe, cleanable water bottles to reduce the impact on the environment of disposable water bottles and to support a sustainable future.
- 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 volunteers of the SOS Food Pantry  
on Saturday, January 21st.  
To help as a chef or as a server from 4-7pm, please contact Mark Owen.*

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

**Contact: Cathy Levy or use**  
**[bitly.com/CovenantHM3SignUp](https://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**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Text PDAUKR to  
41444 to donate.  
<https://pda.pcusa.org/>



**SUPPORT  
UKRAINE**

## **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)



## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

You may 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.



## 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

[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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