

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

RIUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

GREETING

This is the day the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Eternal God, to this hour of worship, we have come.
We come feeling rested and we come feeling tired.
You say to us, "Come unto me."
We come joyfully; we come in sorrow.
You say to us, "Come unto me."
**We come rejoicing in our successes
and feeling ashamed of our failures.**
You say to us, "Come unto me."
**We come in hope and in despair,
feeling secure and feeling lost.**
You say to us, "Come unto me."
We come with faith and we come with doubt.
You say to us, "Come unto me."
**Because you say, "Come unto me"
we come to worship and praise you, Eternal God.**

*OPENING PRAYER

***HYMN OF PRAISE** # 366 *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Grant unto us, O God, the fullness of your promises.
**Where we have been weak, grant us your strength;
where we have been confused, grant us your guidance;
where we have been distraught, grant us your comfort;
where we have been dead, grant us your life.**
**Apart from you, O Lord, we are nothing,
in and with you we can be our best selves. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are made new and enabled to be our best selves!
Thanks be to God!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** # 314 (chorus) *"Christ, Be Our Light"*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

*THE PEACE

Leader: As people forgiven by the abundant grace of God,
we are at peace with God,
and we are called to live in peace with one another.
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Please take a moment to share the peace of Christ
with those near you.

****Gateway to Worship** (*Children can meet the Gateway leader in the back of
the sanctuary near the entrance doors.*)

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON TEXT (*pg. 93—NT*)

John 3:1-21

SERMON A Visit From Nicodemus Rev. Paul Helphinstine

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION** # 286 *"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and
earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived
by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the
third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from
thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the
body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy
kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us
this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our
debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offering

Offertory

***Doxology** # 607 *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN OF SENDING** # 483 *"Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"*

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

*For those who are able, please stand.

NOTE: All music reprinted under CCLI license

****Gateway to Worship** is our worship program for 4-year olds through first
graders. The Gateway leader will take the children to their classroom in the
Fellowship Hall after the Congregational Response.

Large-print Hymnals are available in the back of the sanctuary; and **large-
print bulletins** are on the table in the Narthex.

Hearing Assist Devices are located in the rear of the Sanctuary. Disposable
ear buds are available for your convenience. They can be disposed after use
in the labeled slot. **Please note**, only one ear bud receives signal, so please
check both buds to determine that the unit is working. Contact the church
office with any other issues.

WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad you are here. If you are seeking a
church home, we invite you to join with us in service to Christ.

*The congregation expresses its deepest sympathy to the family of Kim Smith
(Gary Smith's brother) in the unexpected death of his wife,
Betty Jean Smith (Gary's sister-in-law), on Monday, January 22.*

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Please join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and the
Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Highlights of 2017 will be reviewed,
the 2018 budget will be presented, and we will elect members of the church
Nominating Committee as well as officers of the corporation. Please plan to
attend! It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about what's
happening at Covenant.

COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY

The **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** will be celebrated next Sunday.
Take time this week to prepare yourself in prayer and meditation.

NEWSLETTER

The **FEBRUARY COURIER** is on the table in the Narthex, so if you have not
already received it via email, please pick up your copy. There are extra copies
on the table if you want a printed one, but first **look to see if there's one with
your name on it.** You will also find the newsletter and February's calendar on
our website: www.cpcjc.org.

Please be sure to read it as MOST of the information you need to know
about for February is in the Courier and is **NOT** in this week's bulletin! A
FEW of the events you'll read about are listed below. Enjoy!

- February's After Church Lunch
- Missionaries Jon and Kathy Christiansen's visit
- Black/White Dialogue
- Habitat Build Volunteer Sign Up
- Ash Wednesday Lunch and Service
- Liturgist Training
- Annual Senior Brunch
- PW Circles

MOM POWER

Covenant has a wonderful opportunity to partner with Families Free and
ETSU Psychology Department in implementing **Mom Power**, a trauma-
informed parenting and self-care skills group designed for mothers of young
children (ages 0-5). This 10-week program begins here at Covenant on
**Tuesday, February 6. Please call Julie Wood at 423-328-0788 if you
would like to be a part of this exciting outreach.** Specifically, we are
looking for people to help prepare the noon meal, and others to provide
transportation. More information is available in the Narthex or in the church
office. Thank you!

THEOLOGIAN-IN-RESIDENCE AT TUSCULUM

When? Tuesdays in February (6, 13, 20, & 27) at 10:00 AM

Where? Chalmers Conference Center at Tusculum

The 2018 Theologian-in-Residence series will join with people around the
world in commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.
To make reservations, call 423-636-7303 or e-mail bsell@tusculum.edu or
visit <https://web.tusculum.edu/church/theologian-in-residence/> for more
details. There are also brochures on the table in the Narthex.

CHURCH KEYS

In order to provide our new elders with keys to the church, we're asking anyone who **no longer has need** of theirs to return it to the church office. We have no more extras and want to avoid the added expense of having more made. Thank you!

- **Confirmation classes** will be starting soon. See Paul for more information.

NAME TAGS

If you are a member or a regular visitor, or even if you have just started coming to Covenant, you **most likely** have a name badge hanging on the wall in the Narthex. We're asking **everyone** to wear their name tags while at the church to make it easier to get to know each other. **If you don't find one with your name on it, please let us know!**

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<u>Today, January 28</u>	
9:45a	Sunday School
11:00a	Worship Service
Following worship:	Annual Meeting of the Congregation
7:00p	N.A. Meeting
<u>Monday, January 29</u>	
12:30p	Congregational Life Committee Meeting
7:00p	NarAnon Meeting
<u>Tuesday, January 30</u>	
6:30p	BABMOC Meeting
6:30p	Cub Scouts
7:00p	Al-Anon Meeting
<u>Wednesday, January 31</u>	
6:00p	GROW
6:00p	Handbell Choir
6:30p	SAFG
7:00p	Chancel Choir
7:00p	N.A. Meeting
<u>Thursday, February 1</u>	
8:00a	Men's Bible Study
Noon	Al-Anon Meeting
2:00p – 4:00p	Bridge/Other Games
6:00p	CoDA Meeting
6:00p	Franklin Square Condo Meeting
6:00p	"Hope Grows" Cancer Support Group
<u>Friday, February 2</u>	
1:30p	N.A. Meeting
<u>Saturday, February 3</u>	
11:30a – 1:30p	Fellowship Hall reserved

Covenant Presbyterian Church has been certified as a **Recovery Congregation** by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter: Jim Starr
 Liturgy written by: the Rev. Pat Willard
 Liturgist: Don Hart
 Nursery: John Deaton

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Paul Helphinstine
 Music Director: Jessica Siple
 Office Administrator: Tina Simon
 Administrative Assistant: Shirley Barrett
 Custodian: Marie Britt
 Nursery Worker: Jeanne Gamble

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have placed someone on the prayer list, please contact the office with a brief update regarding the name you submitted or let us know that it's ok to remove that name from the list. Updates can be submitted on a weekly basis or, if the need is singular and temporary, the name and the concern will remain on the list for four (4) weeks. This will help us pray more specifically and be more intentional in our prayers for one another. Thank you.

Week of January 28—February 3, 2018.

Mark Jones, who has an appointment on January 30 at Duke to determine the best treatment for his eye, which has become very painful.
 Janet Powell, who had a pacemaker implanted last week.
 Butch Carr, who continues chemotherapy.
 Kendall Harris, who is battling an ongoing illness.
 Suzanne Vesterfelt, who had cataract surgery last week.
 Frank Wolff, Ed's brother, who is under hospice care.
 Barbara Kirkpatrick, Frankie Wolff's sister, diagnosed with Alzheimer's.
 Virginia McGuire, Lucy Terry's sister, who has stage 4 cancer.

Please remember those in our congregation who are homebound and unable to join us regularly in worship:

Vi Block; Jeter Collins, Helen Fletcher

Join us in continually lifting up in prayer our mission co-workers:

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan
 Jon & Kathy Christiansen: Zimbabwe



In the event of emergency, be aware that our Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Unit is located on the wall outside the front door of the Church Office.



Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud to have received the designation of being an Earth Care Congregation, through the PC(USA).

MISSION STATEMENT

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to glorify and enjoy God. We live knowing that God calls us to be a place of love, support, hope and acceptance regardless of earthly labels; Jesus Christ commissions us to make disciples and passionately share our gifts with the world through prayer, teaching, and service; the Holy Spirit allows us to determine and carry out Christ's will for our lives and the life of our church, and empowers us to seek out and respond to the needs of our local and global community.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 Facebook: "Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)"
 Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

January 28, 2018
4th Sunday after Epiphany



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

**God of New Beginnings,
 you gave us new life
 when we were born of water and Spirit.
 Help us live into that new life,
 refreshed and renewed for your work. Amen.**