

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

RITUAL 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

The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff-- they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.
Your church, O God, is our spiritual home and we are happy to be here.

Psalm 23

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 309

"Come, Great God of All the Ages"

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we are always wanting our due.
We find it easy to see what we should receive,
but somehow we are blind to our responsibility.
We work to save what we do not even want
and value objects over people.
Help us to know your mind, O Christ,
and to learn your way.
Open our eyes that we may see clearly
how to value people over objects
how to accept responsibility
and how to treasure what you treasure. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our God is a loving God, but one who has expectations. We are forgiven, but we are challenged to forgive others and to live as if that forgiveness is important to us. Live in the promise that we are God's people, forgiven in Christ and empowered to serve.
Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 626

"As the Deer"

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.

*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. 18—NT*)

Matthew 16:24-27

SERMON

The Cost of Discipleship

Rev. Jon Christiansen

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 69

"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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 Anthem

"God So Loved the World"

Steiner

*Doxology # 712 (v. 1)

"As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought"

As those of old their firstfruits bought
of vineyard, flock, and field to God,
the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our firstfruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF SENDING # 321 (v. 1, 2, 4, 5) *"The Church's One Foundation"*

*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.

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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 Ed Wolff
in the death of his brother, Frank, on Thursday, February 8.*

We welcome **Jon & Kathy Christiansen** to our worship service this morning. They are missionaries with TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) and work at the Karanda Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe.

AFTER CHURCH LUNCH – TODAY!

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship for After Church Lunch. We look forward to sharing this fellowship opportunity with you!

MOM POWER

Mom Power is kicking off this Tuesday! Please be in prayer for the 9 mothers and 10 children who will be receiving life-changing education and nurturing these next 10 weeks.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with transporting one mother from Kingsport, one from Erwin and another from Johnson City. Class is from 12 – 3PM. Thank you! Julie Wood, 423 328-0788 (*More on back*)

Toys & Supplies Still Needed for Mom Power

- Play-Doh
- Burp cloths
- Receiving blankets
- Light blankets, baby quilts – heavier than receiving blankets
- Diaper wipes
- Diapers #2, #3, #4, #5

LITURGIST WORKSHOP & TRAINING—SAT., FEB. 17, 9 AM

Being a liturgist should be more than reading words on a page. Liturgists are worship leaders!

If you enjoy helping to lead worship as a liturgist or would like to begin helping in this important way, then you are invited to join us at Covenant, in the library, on **Saturday, Feb. 17th from 9am – 12pm** for a **Liturgist Workshop and Training** led by Rev. Pat Willard. This is an opportunity to grow deeper in your understanding of what we do in worship, and what it is that makes our worship unique. It is also an opportunity to learn how to be a better leader in worship.

So, whether you're a liturgist on a regular basis or you've never been one before but would like to, please plan on joining us. There will be coffee, breakfast snacks, and doughnuts. Grow deeper in your faith and work at Covenant.

Gentle Reminder:

The **deadline** for articles, etc., for the March issue of the Courier is **Thursday, February 15th!**

BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—FEBRUARY 12, 2018

Restorative Justice in Schools

Black/White Dialogue will meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Monday, February 12, from 6—8:00 PM**. The meeting will provide an interactive discussion facilitated by Neighborhood Reconciliation Services. The program will focus on how restorative justice approaches to school discipline can lead to more effective outcomes, a better school environment, and disrupt the school to prison pipeline. Background information provided will include the danger and injustice of the school to prison pipeline, what constitutes restorative practices, and how problems that result from traditional approaches to discipline, especially when they are excessively punitive, can be resolved using restorative practices.

The presentation will include presentation of information, group discussion and lots of interaction. Everyone is invited to this meeting. Please come, and bring a friend!

SIGN-UPS ARE BEGINNING FOR:

2018 ALL-CHURCH RETREAT: AUGUST 24—26, 2018!

Covenant's All-Church Retreat will again take place at **Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center**, a beautiful site surrounded by mountains, trees and two lakes. Biking, swimming, zip-lining, crafts, campfires, worship and fellowship with your church brothers and sisters will be on the agenda.

So that we can see how many people are interested in attending, sign-ups and payments will be **from February 11—April 15**. You may turn in your registration form, which can be found on the table in the Narthex, to Tina in the church office. The cost this year will be \$125/person, children are still free. Questions about scholarships, transportation or accommodations? Call Tina in the office. (Betsy Moakler will be the official contact, but she is temporarily out of town.)

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgy written by:
Nursery:

Jim Starr
the Rev. Pat Willard
Harrington

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:
Music Director:
Office Administrator:
Administrative Assistant:
Custodian:
Nursery Worker:

Rev. Paul Helphinstine
Jessica Siple
Tina Simon
Shirley Barrett
Marie Britt
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 February 11—17, 2018.

Ken Brumit, Betsy Moakler's father, who is very ill.
Mark Jones, who is waiting on another appointment at Duke for his eye.
Madeleine Wood, Dave & Julie's 4-mo.-old granddaughter, who isn't gaining weight as she should. Also prayers for her mother, Tristan.
Janet Powell, who is recovering from having a pacemaker implanted.
Butch Carr, who is finished with chemo and is waiting for kidney surgery.
Kendall Harris, who is battling an ongoing illness.
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).

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



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

February 11, 2018



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O God the Father of all, you ask every one of us to spread love where the poor are humiliated, joy where the Church is brought low, and reconciliation where people are divided, father against son, mother against daughter, husband against wife, believers against those who cannot believe, Christians against their unloved fellow Christians. You open this way for us, so that the wounded body of Jesus Christ, your Church, may be leaven of communion for the poor of the earth and in the whole human family. Amen.

~ ~ Saint Teresa of Calcutta

ASH WEDNESDAY LUNCH & SERVICE

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, the Worship Committee is hosting a light lunch (soup) followed by an Ash Wednesday service. We will begin serving lunch at 11:30, followed by the service at 12:15(ish). Please join us for this special time as we observe the beginning of the Lenten season. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex.

HUMOR ME! - FEBRUARY 18 FROM 3—5 PM

HUMOR ME! meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 3—5 PM in the Library at Covenant. Laughing is good for your health, so the idea behind this group is to laugh, have fun and feel better! We are using a variety of humor resources and we look forward to laughing with you! (Consistent attendance is not required—drop-in’s are welcome!!)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S CIRCLES (ALL ARE WELCOME!)

The **Friendship Circle** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Tues., February 13, at 1:30 PM in the Church Library. (Contact for this Circle is Sally Nagel: 423-928-0853.)

The **Joy Circle** meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Tues., February 20, at 7:00 PM in the Bible Discovery classroom in the hallway near the Sanctuary. (Contact for this Circle is Betsy Moakler: 423-314-7143.)

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFERING

Our next Good Samaritan Food Offering will be received on **Sunday, February 25**. This month they need: **SOUP. Lots and lots of SOUP.** Thank you for your continuing generosity!

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!**

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the congregation for your many expressions of sympathy and concern following and leading up to the death of Bill’s mother. We appreciate your support.

Bill and Ann Freeman

SENIOR BRUNCH – FRIDAY, FEB. 23 – SIGN UP NOW

Our **Annual Senior Brunch** will be on **Friday, February 23 at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall**. If you would like to join us, please **sign-up in the Narthex** (or by contacting the church office) **by February 19th**. Visitors are urged to join us and get to know more of the folks at Covenant and share in the fellowship. You don’t have to be a “senior”!! Our promise to you is that for **\$4.00/person** (payable at the door), you will get a home-cooked breakfast that is **unbeatable** and a whole lot of fun. Hope to see YOU there.

BARB EDEMA’S BOOK

Rev. Dr. Barb Edema, longtime friend of Covenant, recently published her **THIRD** book, entitled *For Richer or Poorer: Book Three in the Pastor Maggie Series*. Her **first** book, *To Love and To Cherish: Book One in the Pastor Maggie Series* has been updated to include a new character and a fun new storyline. All 3 of her books are available in both paperback & Kindle edition on www.amazon.com and on <http://www.pen-l.com/ForRicherForPoorer.html>. We will *not* be selling the books at Covenant on the day Barb visits (April 8), but if you’d like one to read ahead of time, we will be placing a **group order** through the church directly to the publisher; the price will be **\$14.75/book**. (Direct price is \$15.97 + s/h.) If you’d like to be included in that order, we need you to do two things.

- (1) There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please place your name on the sheet along with the number of copies of each book you’d like to order. (Barb’s first and second books are available, too.)
- (2) There is an envelope attached to the sheet where you can place your payment. Please make your check payable to “Covenant Presbyterian Church” and note “Edema Book” on the memo line.

You can also sign up and pay through the church office.

Deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 25.

This ONE-TIME order will be placed on Tuesday, February 27.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, February 11

9:30a
9:45a
11:00a
12:30p
1:30p
7:00p

Monday, February 12

1:00p
6:00p – 8:00p
7:00p

Tuesday, February 13

10:00
11:00a
1:30p
6:30p
7:00p

Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday

11:30a
6:00p
6:00p
6:30p
6:30p
7:00p
7:00p

Thursday, February 15 – COURIER DEADLINE

8:00a
Noon
2:00p – 4:00p
6:00p
6:00p

Friday, February 16

1:30p

Saturday, February 17

9:00a
10:00a

Confirmation Class
Joint Sunday School
Worship Service
After Church Lunch
Session Meeting
N.A. Meeting

A Few Preachers Having Lunch
Black/White Dialogue
NarAnon Meeting

Theologian-in-Residence at Tusculum
Mom Power
Friendship Circle
Cub Scouts
Al-Anon Meeting

Ash Wednesday Lunch & Service
GROW

Handbell Choir

Ash Wednesday Service at Watauga Avenue Pres.
SAFG

Chancel Choir
N.A. Meeting

Men’s Bible Study
Al-Anon Meeting
Bridge/Other Games
CoDA Meeting

“Hope Grows” Cancer Support Group

N.A. Meeting

Liturgist Training
Habitat Groundbreaking Ceremony