

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MINUTE FOR MISSION

C.B. Willis

MINUTE FOR MISSION

D. Isaac Mayon

GREETING

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed!

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:

Jesus has died and has risen.

We have been crucified with Christ.

Now we shall live with him forever.

Come, let us praise the living God.

Joyfully sing to our Savior.

Come and worship! Come and worship!

Worship Christ our risen Lord.

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 662

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Giving and loving God,

**There is a song that you have placed within me,
but I do not sing very often.**

**There is joy in the world hidden for me,
but I seek other treasures that are empty and vain.**

**There are those who cry out for my help,
but I seek my own safety and comfort instead.**

**You have given me Christ as my Savior,
but I sometimes look to other gods.**

Our notes are flat when there is not enough breath.

Our lives are empty until they are filled with the wind of the Spirit.

Our lives are self-centered until we reach out to others.

Our vision is dim until we see with the light of Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and Sisters, Jesus Christ came, lived, and died that we might live more abundantly. Believe the good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and awakened to new life.

Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 247 (Verse 3) *“Now the Green Blade Rises”*

Forth he came at Easter lie the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

*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. 127—NT*)

Acts 9:1-19a

SERMON

Once Upon a Road

Rev. Paul Helphinstine

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God:

**who welcomes our laughter
and moves us to wonder...**

We believe in Christ:

**who welcomes our questions
and loves us to trust...**

We believe in Spirit:

**who welcomes our doubts
and loves us to faith.**

This we believe! Amen!

from Reformed Worship, written by Jeffery S. Gains

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

“I Will Arise and Go to Jesus”

arr. McDonald

*DOXOLOGY # 606

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF SENDING # 720

“Jesus Calls Us”

*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 Dustin Odom in the death of his aunt, his grandmother's sister, Sue Mackel, on Monday.

Please join us in the library immediately following worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Today is the **DEADLINE TO BRING BOOKS** for BABMOC's school in Liberia. Fiction, non-fiction, appropriate for children and teens. Thank you for your support.

D. Isaac Mayon, founder of Bear Another's Burdens Ministry of Christ, and director of the new school in Liberia, is with us for worship today. Matt & Kathi Cary are hosting an **Open House at their home this afternoon from 2—4 PM to celebrate and support the BABMOC school.** Everyone is invited! (601 Douglas Dr., J.C.)

www.isaacsdream.org, Facebook: *Isaac's Dream for Liberian Kids*

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Updated Ivory-colored Church Directories are on the table in the Narthex...**please take one!** Or two (keep one in your car)! If you would like to receive the directory electronically via e-mail, please let Tina know. The directory will NOT be available on our website. If you find any errors, please contact Tina and she will place the corrected information in an upcoming bulletin.

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFERING

Our next Good Samaritan Food Offering will be received **next Sunday, April 22**. This month they need: **Mac 'n Cheese**. Thank you for your continuing generosity!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study is currently discussing the book of Jeremiah. They meet in the Fellowship Hall **every Thursday morning from 8 to 9:00 AM**. All men of the church are welcome.

VOLUNTEER "PATIENTS" NEEDED!

The **Milligan College PA Program** needs volunteers to serve as "patients" for their students when they take their exams. See the article in the April Courier for details and a list of exam dates. Please contact Maureen Knechtel at maknechtel@milligan.edu or 412-759-9714 (*not 423*) if you are able to serve as a volunteer. Thank you!

PLEASE NOTE: The **Vision Roll-Out** originally set for April 29 will be delayed until June due to an unexpected scheduling conflict. We will let you know the new date soon.

AWAKENING THE DREAMER SYMPOSIUM—APRIL 21

In celebration of Earth Day 2018, you are invited to attend the **Awakening the Dreamer; Changing the Dream Symposium** on Saturday, April 21, 1:00–5:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, Elizabethton, 119 West F Street. There is no charge to attend. (Further details are in the April Courier.)

Co-facilitators, Frankie Wolff and Linda Good offer this description of the workshop: The Awakening the Dreamer Symposium is about waking up from the “dream of the modern world” that is destroying our planet and way of life. Through videos, presentations, and discussions, we aim to create an environmentally sustainable, socially just, and spiritually fulfilling human presence on Earth. While we initially deal with some disturbing facts, we promise that you will leave feeling optimistic, empowered and inspired to help create our new future.

You can find out more about the Alliance by viewing the videos at the URL’s given below or by visiting the Web site at www.pachamama.org.

GOOD SAM OFFERING

Our next Good Samaritan Offering will be received on **Sunday, April 22**. This month they need: **Mac ’n Cheese**. Thank you for your continuing generosity!

SIGN UP NOW!!

Deadline to Register is Sunday, April 29

Holston Camp and Retreat Center: August 24 – 26, 2018

Sure it’s early, but **it’s time to SIGN UP** for this year’s retreat so we can confirm our reservation at Camp! **Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center** is 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. You may turn your **registration form**, which can be found on the [table in the Narthex](#), along with your payment, in the offering plate or to Tina in the church office. The cost this year will be \$125/person, children are still free. Questions? Call Betsy Moakler at 423-314-7143.

SOUND SYSTEM VOLUNTEERS

The Property Committee is looking for two or three people willing to learn the church sound system. As we upgrade and integrate the components, we would like additional people who understand the setup and can make adjustments. We also hope to add more capabilities, **so if you have an interest in electronics**, please contact Hal Hunter at 423-612-6505 or call the church office at 423-282-5324.

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!**

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgy written by:
Liturgist:
Nursery:

Jim Starr
the Rev. Pat Willard
Patti or Don Coble
Harrington Family

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.

Week of April 15—21, 2018.

Glady Hood, who is still at Quillen for rehab and is hoping to go home soon.
Bob Hart, who is undergoing treatment for heart artery blockages.
Dwight Sherman, who had a pacemaker implanted.
Butch Carr, who is awaiting further treatment but is back with us at church.
Mary Derouen, who is having numerous health issues.
Mary Lynn Moser, BJ King’s sister, who is having radiation treatments again.
Barbara Kirkpatrick, Frankie Wolff’s sister, diagnosed with Alzheimer’s.

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

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604
423-282-5324 ♦ fax 423-282-5346 ♦ office@cpjcc.org ♦ www.cpcjc.org
Facebook: “Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)”
Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

April 15, 2018
3rd Sunday of Easter



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

God who calls us into service,
transform us as you transformed Paul.
Shape us into children who rejoice in knowing
and proclaiming you to the world. Amen.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, April 15

9:45a Sunday School
11:00a Worship Service
12:30p N.A. Reg. Mtgs.
2:00 – 4:00p **BABMOC Open House at the Cary's**
7:00p N.A. Meeting

Monday, April 16

COURIER DEADLINE

7:00p NarAnon Meeting

Tuesday, April 17

11:00a **Mom Power**
6:30p Cub Scouts
7:00p **Joy Circle**
7:00p Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, April 18

11:30a **The Lunch Bunch** at El Charolais
NO GROW THIS WEEK
6:00p Handbell Choir
6:30p SAFG
7:00p Chancel Choir
7:00p N.A. Meeting

Thursday, April 19

8:00a Men's Bible Study
Noon Al-Anon Meeting
2:00p – 4:00p **Bridge/Other Games**
6:00p CoDA Meeting
6:00p "Hope Grows" Cancer Support Group

Friday, April 20

1:30p N.A. Meeting

Saturday, April 21

Noon Fellowship Hall reserved
1:00p – 5:00p **Awakening the Dreamer Symposium**
at First Pres., Elizabethton