

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

O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

Psalm 95:1-7

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 136

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor
and nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and have turned them into bonds of oppression.
Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news.
When we turn to God seeking forgiveness and renewal,
that forgiveness and renewal are freely given.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new and
empowered to follow Jesus into the world.
Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 694, v. 2 “Great God of Every Blessing”

Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part;
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

*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

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*p. 181—NT*)

2 Corinthians 5:6-20

GOSPEL READING (*p. 38—NT*)

Mark 4:26-34

SERMON

Kingdom or Culture?

Rev. Edward Wolff

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 175

“Seek Ye First”

*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.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Estelle Armistead

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offering

Offertory Anthem “I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray” H.T. Burleigh

*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 # 310

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

*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.

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

We welcome the Rev. Edward Wolff to the pulpit this morning.

223RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At its core, the Presbyterian Church (USA) is a connectional church. That
means that, like early Christians, we hold all things in common—including
making decisions about who we, as a church, want to be and what we want to
do in this life together. Important decisions about where God might be leading
us aren't left in the hands of a few to be passed down to presbyteries and
churches, but rather are made by churches and presbyteries through elected
commissioners who gather together to discern the will of God.

These commissioners are elected every two years from the membership of
presbyteries (the regional collection of PC(USA) churches formally and
intentionally connected for the purpose of mission and ministry in a particular
area). Teaching Elders (Ministers of Word and Sacrament) and Ruling Elders
(Elders from individual churches, like Covenant, who are elected to serve on
our session) are elected in equal proportion, so that all decisions made most
broadly represent the church.

Paul has been nominated and elected to serve as the Holston Presbytery
Teaching Elder Commissioner to the General Assembly this year in St. Louis,
MO from **June 16—23**. This is an exciting opportunity and a hefty
responsibility. For this reason, Rev. Ed Wolff will be preaching and leading us
in worship today and next Sunday.

Paul wants to thank Covenant for allowing him to participate in the work of
the larger church, and covets your prayers as he serves in St. Louis. He looks
forward to sharing his experience and the decisions of the General Assembly
when he gets back.

ONLINE GIVING!

The Stewardship Committee is excited to announce that Covenant now
provides **online giving**. This is a convenient and safe way to make a one-time
or recurring donation. Getting started is easy—just visit the church website,
[\[www.cpcjc.org\]](http://www.cpcjc.org) and click our online giving link. Gone are the days of
remembering your checkbook on Sunday (or ever!). *If you have any questions,
please contact Tina in the church office.*

THE LUNCH BUNCH IN JUNE

“The Lunch Bunch” will gather on **Wednesday, June 20, at 11:30 AM at Bella Vita, 2927 N. Roan St. Contact Victory Cooper at 423-282-4641** for more information and to let her know if you plan to come so she can make the appropriate number of reservations.

HUMOR ME!—TODAY AT 3:00!

Please join us in the library at 3:00 this afternoon for HUMOR ME! Laughing is good for your health, so the idea behind this group is to laugh, have fun and feel better!

GOOD SAM OFFERING—JUNE 24

Our next Good Samaritan Offering will be received **next Sunday, June 24**. This month they need: **Peanut Butter!** Thank you for your continuing generosity.

CHURCH RETREAT AT HOLSTON CAMP: AUGUST 24 – 26

If you haven't signed up (or submitted your payment) for the Church Retreat at Holston Camp, **please do so as soon as possible!** We are busy planning and making room assignments and need to know whether we need to book another cabin! The cost this year will be \$125/person, children are still free. Questions? Call Betsy Moakler at 423-314-7143.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Worship in the Park will be held on Sunday, July 8th at Rotary Park. Details will be in next week's bulletin and the July Courier and there is a lunch sign-up sheet in the Narthex so that we know how many plan to attend.

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!**



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.



TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgy written by:
Liturgist:
Mezzo Soprano:
Nursery:

Jim Starr
the Rev. Pat Willard
Hal Hunter
Dustin Odom
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. 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 June 17—23, 2018.

C.B. Willis, who is recovering at home.
Vi Block, who fell recently, broke 4 ribs, and is recovering at home.
Carrie Lynn Denny, who is recovering from a severe infection following abdominal surgery. Carrie is a friend of Liz Dollar and her parents, David & Lyndell Denny, are long-time friends of Mike & Hope Lee.
Nina Cockerham, Donna Bridwell's mother, who has lung cancer, heart disease, and dementia.
Glady Hood, who is also home and still recovering.
Beth DeTroyer and Renee McCandless, Shirley Barrett's daughters, both of whom have health issues.
Mary Derouen, who is having some health issues.
Kendall Harris' 20-year-old grandson, Josh Orren, whose father died on May 10th and whose mother was Corilee Orren, Kendall's daughter who died 2 years ago.
Sue Thompson, a friend of Patti Coble, who has pancreatic cancer.
Butch Carr, who is awaiting further treatment.
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

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

JUNE 17, 2018

4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus began his ministry by saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” In the context of our nation in the Twenty-first Century, a kingdom or reign has diminished significance. In addition, the original Greek words have several layers of meaning. Perhaps today we might understand Jesus' declaration as, “This is the appointed time in the purpose of God, and the culture of God is coming upon us; change your way of thinking, and trust the good news.”

Let us meditate on Jesus' words in the gospels and be challenged to see what it means to embrace the culture of God.

NOTE: GROW will not meet again until July 11th!

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, June 17

9:45a Sunday School
11:00a Worship Service
3:00p – 5:00p Humor Me!
7:00p N.A. Meeting

Monday, June 18 – COURIER DEADLINE

8:30a N.A. Meeting
7:00p NarAnon Meeting

Tuesday, June 19

8:30a N.A. Meeting
6:30p Cub Scouts
7:00p Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, June 20

11:30a The Lunch Bunch at Bella Vita
NO GROW
6:30p SAFG
7:00p Chancel Choir
7:00p N.A. Meeting

Thursday, June 21

8:00a Men's Bible Study
Noon Al-Anon Meeting
2:00p – 4:00p Bridge/Other Games
6:00p CoDA Meeting

Friday, June 22

1:30p N.A. Meeting

June 16 – 23

223rd PCUSA General Assembly in St. Louis