

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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July 8, 2018
7th Sunday after Pentecost



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Loving Creator of all, we come to you today deeply grateful for your creation. As we look around us, we are amazed at the greatness and majesty of all that you have made. Nature around us speaks of your greatness – the vast expanse of the sky, the mountains, trees, lakes and streams speak of your great design. You have given us such beauty in the colors of the rainbow, the beauty of flowers and fields. Words cannot adequately express the magnificence of all you have created. We join in praise with the writer of the psalms when he says, "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth." May we show our love and reverence to you, our Lord, by caring for all that you have created. We humbly give you praise and thanks. Amen.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SONG # 388 (*see insert*)

"Come All You People"

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise,
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.
It is beautiful in its loftiness,
the joy of the whole earth.
Within the temple of your creation, O God,
we meditate on your unfailing love.
Like your name, O God,
your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with righteousness
and your justice rolls down like a river.

All Christendom rejoices,
and is glad because of your wisdom.
Walk about our neighborhood, go around her, count her trees,
consider well her living plants and breathing beings,
view her wonders, great and small,
that you may show them to the next generation.
For this God is our God forever and ever;
and will be our guide even to the end.
Let us worship our God
with music and with prayer and with delight
this day and forever.

adapted from Psalm 48

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN OF PRAISE # 749 (*see insert*)

"Come! Live in the Light!"

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God,
too often we take our world
and those around us for granted;

open our eyes to see your hand at work
in the splendor of creation
and in the beauty of human life.
too often we feel either despair or indifference
for our lives and our world:
touched by your hand, our world is holy.
Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us,
to share our blessings with our sisters and brothers,
and to experience the joy of life in your presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, renewed,
and given courage to live as children of God.

Thanks be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 743

“O God, You Are My God”

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways.
And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

THE PEACE

Leader: As people forgiven by the abundant grace of God, we are at peace
with God, and we long 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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 12

SERMON TEXT

Matthew 6:25-34

SERMON

Seek First

Rev. Paul Helphinstine

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.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offering

Offertory Hymn # 726 (*All Sing – see insert*) *“Will You Come and Follow Me”*

Doxology # 609

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT TO SERVE

BENEDICTION AND PRAYER FOR LUNCH

HYMN OF SENDING # 769

“For Everyone Born”

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 stay after today's service and have lunch with us!

OUR WEEK AT FAMILY PROMISE

Please mark your calendars! Covenant's next support week at Family Promise will be **July 15 through July 22.**

ALL CHURCH RETREAT AT HOLSTON CAMP

Covenant's All Church Retreat is fast approaching! **August 24 – 26.** If you haven't **filled out and turned in your Registration Form** or submitted your payment for the retreat, **please do so as soon as possible!** The cost this year is \$125/person, children are still free. Betsy Moakler will soon be setting up the carpools. Please call her if you need a ride up to camp, or if you have any other questions. Also, it's not too late to sign up as we may have another cabin to fill up! Betsy Moakler, 423-314-7143.

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] 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.*

HUMOR ME!—SUNDAY, JULY 15

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

THE LUNCH BUNCH

The next gathering will be on **Wednesday, July 18, at 11:30 AM at The Roots Vietnamese Restaurant, 600 N. State of Franklin. Contact Victory Cooper at 423-282-4641** for more info and to let her know if you plan to come so she can make the appropriate number of reservations.



CONGRATULATIONS!!



Lynnea Hunter and David Salinas are engaged to be married!!!

NURSERY/GATEWAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for a few new faces to add to our list of helpers in the Nursery and Gateway during Sunday school and the worship hour on Sunday. If you haven't done it before, it is a fun and easy way to get to know the little ones at Covenant! This is a **fun and easy** way to get to know some of our youngest church friends. It's also a great opportunity to try out that purple twisty slide on the playground and have a genuine excuse to make a dinosaur out of Play-Doh! We are looking for **3 or 4 new volunteers** to keep a consistent list of 12, so that we each have one Sunday per quarter (or close to that). Please contact Tina Simon at the church office or **Jane Deaton at 913-2931** if you want to be added to the most exciting and energizing group at church! Many thanks!!!

GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

Our next Good Sam Food Offering will be received on **Sunday, July 22.** This month they need: **Canned Ravioli and Spaghetti.** Thank you for your continuing generosity!

ROTARY CLUB BLOOD DRIVE—TUESDAY, JULY 24

Covenant will be hosting a blood drive in the **Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, July 24, from 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM** in partnership with the Rotary Club of Johnson City and the American Red Cross. **Please donate if you are able and encourage your friends, family and neighbors to donate, too.** To reserve a donation time go to www.redcrossblood.org.

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

While there's no After Church Lunch in July because of Worship in the Park, the Committee would like to thank everyone who participates in serving the lunches, stays for the important friendship time, tackles the cleanup, and provides the Sunday snacks. YOU, dear reader, are what makes our fellowship and our church warm and welcoming to members and visitors. Our church is blessed to be composed of folks with hearts and hands for service to one another. Again, thank you for all you do.

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.

NOTE: GROW will not meet again until July 18th!

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:

Jim Starr

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

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, July 8

11:00a

7:00p

Monday, July 9

8:30a

1:00p

6:00p – 8:00p

7:00p

Tuesday, July 10

8:30a

7:00p

Wednesday, July 11

NO GROW

6:30p

CANCELED

7:00p

Thursday, July 12

8:00a

Noon

2:00p – 4:00p

6:00p

Friday, July 13

1:30p

Saturday, July 14

12:30p

Worship in the Park
followed by BBQ Lunch

N.A. Meeting

N.A. Meeting

A Few Preachers Having Lunch

Black/White Dialogue at Carver Park

NarAnon Meeting

N.A. Meeting

Al-Anon Meeting

SAFG

Chancel Choir

N.A. Meeting

Men's Bible Study

Al-Anon Meeting

Bridge/Other Games

CoDA Meeting

N.A. Meeting

CCL Meeting



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