

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Estelle Armistead

GREETING

This is the day the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness;

come into his presence with singing.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him,

bless his name.

For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100:1-5

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 394

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God who is our hope,

Forgive us, Good Lord,

for what we waited to do until it was too late,

for what we mistakenly did before we thought twice,

for what we were able to do

because we ceased to see others as people,

for what we were unable to do

because we failed to see our own possibilities,

for what we pretended we could control

when we should have stood in awe,

for what we feared

which should have been made little and overcome.

Make us new so that we may begin anew;

in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, Believe the good news,

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

Thanks be to God!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 581

"Glory Be to the Father"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen, amen.

*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. *(continued)*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: As we prepare to share the peace of Christ with those near you, let us say together an ancient Celtic blessing:

People: Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.

Deep peace of Christ,

of Christ the light of the world to you.

Deep peace of Christ to 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING *(p. 663—OT)*

Isaiah 35:4-7a

GOSPEL READING *(p. 42—NT)*

Mark 7:24-37

SERMON

Be Opened

Rev. Paul Helphinstine

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 817** *"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.2*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain

and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil,

delivering us from death to life eternal. 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 # 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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN OF SENDING # 730**

"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

***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 flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Mary O'Keeffe to the glory of God and in celebration of her granddaughter Maia's 3rd birthday on September 7.

Paul will be attending a Presbyterian Credo Conference from **September 11 – 18**. He will be back in the office on Wednesday, September 19.

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!

BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE

Black/White Dialogue: Monday, Sept. 10, from 6p—8p at Carver Park. Topic this month is: "The Five Faces of Oppression," facilitated by Ken Bonner. The presentation will engage the group into an interactive discussion. The Five Faces are: Exploitation, Marginalization, Cultural, Violence, and Powerlessness. The goal is that by the end of the presentation the group participants will have a strong understanding of various questions and issues related to oppression and privilege, and see their daily experiences in a different light, and feel empowered to address issues of oppression and privilege. Come, join the discussion.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLES BEGIN THIS WEEK

Covenant has three Presbyterian Women's Circle Study Groups. **All meet monthly from September through May or June.** All three use the same curriculum, which is available in the church office workroom. Please add your name to the list in the box when you pick up your book.

♦ **Friendship Circle:** first meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 11**. This group meets on 2nd Tuesdays at **1:30 PM** in the church library. Contacts are Sally Nagel and Pat Willard.

♦ **Joy Circle:** first meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 11**. This group meets on 2nd Tuesdays this year (new day!) at **7:00 PM** at the church in the Bible Discovery classroom. Contact is Betsy Moakler.

♦ **Red Tent Circle:** first meeting will be on **Thursday, September 13**. This group meets on 2nd Thursdays at **7:00 PM** at the home of BJ King. Contact is BJ King.

MEN'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

All men of the church (and friends of the men in the church) are invited to the **Men's Bible Study on Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 9:00 AM.** We meet every week in the Fellowship Hall, rain or shine. The coffee is hot and the discussion is lively. We'd love to have you join us, even if you aren't able to come every week. More participation equals more perspective, and more perspective can lead to a greater understanding of the Bible.

AFTER CHURCH REFRESHMENTS

Here's another tickler to remind you to please sign up to provide (simple) Sunday fellowship snacks. We need YOU!

NEW WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

NEW Weekly Prayer Group – Sundays, 9:30 AM – 9:55 AM, in the High School Classroom next to the Fellowship Hall entrance from the office. Led by Bob and Estelle Armistead, this group will be lifting up in prayer our church family, pastor, new Church Vision, neighborhood and global communities. Everyone is welcome. Join us!

HABITAT HOME DEDICATION – SAT., SEPT. 15 AT 10AM

Come witness Ryan & Olivia Harrison and their three children receive keys to their newly completed Habitat home **at 440 Hamilton Street in Johnson City.** The dedication is scheduled for **Saturday, September 15 at 10:00 a.m.** Many thanks to Antioch Baptist Church, Calvary Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Grace Fellowship Church, Munsey Memorial UMC, Muslim Community of Northeast Tennessee, University Parkway Baptist Church and Wesley Memorial UMC for the support and volunteers provided for this project. Also, thanks to Art Weekes and Misty Scott for their supervision on this build.

NAME TAGS

Please wear your name tag 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!**

ONLINE GIVING!

Did you know that you can now make your contributions to the church online? You may also give to Special Offerings, such as 5 Cents a Meal, BABMOC, Good Samaritan, The River, as well as pay for your Fair Trade coffee or give a memorial gift or other contribution online. 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. There is also a box you can check (optional) if you wish to help the church offset the online giving fees. *If you have any questions, please contact Tina in the church office.*

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.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgy written by:
Liturgist:
Nursery:

Jim Starr
the Rev. Pat Willard
Chris Sutter
Maureen Knechtel

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 September 9—15, 2018.

Pat Guffee, Helen Davis' brother, who is home from the hospital recovering from a toxic liver.
Carrie Beth Swanay, Betsy Moakler's cousin, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer that has spread to her lungs and spine. She is only 55 years old and is a professor at Milligan.
Ann Freeman, who is recovering from back surgery.
Butch Carr, who is doing well after his recent treatment.
Dwight Sherman, who is scheduled for his second cataract surgery tomorrow, Monday, Sept. 10.
Glady Hood, who is recovering at home after being in the hospital with pancreatitis.
Mary Lynn Moser, BJ King's sister, who will have her third gamma knife procedure this month for new lesions found on her brain.
Renee McCandless, Shirley Barrett's daughter, whose surgery, after some complications, has been rescheduled for Sept. 21.
Stacy Larsen's sister, Shelly, who fell and broke her back, and their mother, Charlan, who is waiting to have spinal surgery.
Jeanne Gamble, our Nursery Worker, who is recovering from shoulder and rotator cuff surgery.
Linda Sisk, who is suffering from a severe case of shingles.
Carol, a friend of Susan Clark, who is recovering from hip surgery.
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, Barbara Quisenberry

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 or outside the front door of the Church Office.

Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud to have re-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.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SEPTEMBER 9, 2018
16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Not one of us is worthy to approach you, O God, Creator of the universe, holy and all-powerful. Yet you have approached us and have shown us the human face of your love in Jesus, your Son, our Saviour. He revealed your love and mercy by living as he did—serving others and accepting them as people made in your image and likeness. He pointed us towards a world in which each and every person could realise his or her identity as a precious child of yours. He even gifted us with the Holy Spirit so that the very fabric of our existence is woven with the thread of his life.

May this time of worship be a true reflection of our thanksgiving, wonder and praise over such blessings.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

- written by Moira Laidlaw,
and posted on **Liturgies Online.**
<http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>

GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

Our next Good Sam Offering will be received on **Sunday, Sept. 23**. This month they need: **packages of Dry Pasta!** Thank you.

NAME TAGS

Please wear your name tag 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 & THAT & THE OTHER

Doors: If you are the last person out, please check the doors behind you when you leave **from the outside** to make certain they are BOTH closed securely and are locked.

Water: Please make certain that faucets are OFF when you are finished using them.

Lights: Please make sure lights are turned off in all rooms, including the bathrooms, after events and meetings.

Recycling VS. Garbage: There is a gray plastic tote for **STEEL CANS** in the corner of the Narthex, a box for **PAPER** under the bulletin board in the Narthex, and a red bin in the kitchen for **recyclable PLASTIC, GLASS, and SODA CANS**. Please place all **GARBAGE (UN-recyclables)** in trash cans, which are located in the library, the Fellowship Hall, the restrooms, and in the kitchen. (Remember, not **ALL** things paper are recyclable.)

THANK YOU!!

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, Sept. 9

9:30a – 9:55a

10:00a

11:00a

12:30p

1:30p

7:00p

NEW! Weekly Prayer Group

Sunday School

Worship Service

After Church Lunch

Session Meeting

N.A. Meeting

Monday, Sept. 10

8:30a

1:00p

6:00p – 8:00p

7:00p

N.A. Meeting

A Few Preachers Having Lunch

Black/White Dialogue

NarAnon Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 11

8:30a

1:30p

6:30p

7:00p

7:00p

N.A. Meeting

Friendship Circle

Cub Scouts

Joy Circle

Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 12

NO GROW

6:30p

7:00p

7:00p

SAFG

Chancel Choir

N.A. Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 13

8:00a

Noon

2:00p – 4:00p

7:00p

Men's Bible Study

Al-Anon Meeting

Bridge/Other Games

Red Tent Circle

Friday, Sept. 14

Noon

1:30p

CoDA Meeting

N.A. Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 15

10:00a

Habitat's Dedication Ceremony for Harrison's
440 Hamilton Street