

## 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

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
**Worship the Lord with gladness.  
Come into God's presence with singing!**  
For our God is all-seeing,  
**and knows our potential, as well as our present,**  
so we are called, designated, and summoned  
**to be God's agents, God's people here on earth.**  
Let us worship our Lord with joy and thanksgiving.

#### \*OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN OF PRAISE # 14 *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great God, through Jesus who lived among us,  
you ask the question, "Who do you say that I am?"  
and however we answer, the next question is  
"Is this an end or a beginning?"  
although we do not always ask that question.  
We like simple questions, and easy answers,  
and then we are ready to move on to whatever comes next.  
But your questions require follow up  
and action and deep commitment.  
Give us, dear Lord, wisdom to answer wisely,  
courage to defy false promises,  
and endurance to stay with your Son,  
that we may be your people in this world and the next.  
This we pray in the Holy name of our Savior. Amen.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:  
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.  
**Thanks be to God!**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 551 *"Lord, Have Mercy"*

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

#### \*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

### GOSPEL READING (*p. 43—NT*)

Mark 8:27-38

### SERMON

"Who? What?"

Rev. Edward Wolff

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 718 *"Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"*

\*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.**

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Christian Zembower

### GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

#### Offering

**Offertory Anthem** *"Who At My Door Is Standing"* K. Lee Scott

\*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

\*HYMN OF SENDING # 282 *"Come Down, O Love Divine"*

#### \*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.

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

**This morning we welcome the Rev. Edward Wolff to the pulpit.** (Paul will be back in the church office on Wednesday, Sept. 19.)

## DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER'S NEWSLETTER

Please send Tina any meeting dates, events, and announcements you wish to have published in October's Courier and noted on the calendar **by Monday, September 17.**

## THE LUNCH BUNCH—SEPTEMBER 19

The next gathering of "The Lunch Bunch" will be on **Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 11:30 AM at Freiberg's**, 203 E. Main Street. **Contact Victory Cooper at 282-4641** to let her know if you plan to come so she can make the appropriate number of reservations.

## GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

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

## 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY COMMUNITY PRAYER GATHERINGS

Community Prayer Gatherings are being held at **The River, 125 W. Main Street**, on the **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.** Men, women, and children are invited and a guest speaker will provide a message each time. Join us this month on **Tuesday, September 25!**

## 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

Won't you sign up to provide (simple) Sunday after church fellowship snacks? The rest of September is covered—thank you to those who signed up! Sundays in October, November & December are still available. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

## 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!

## New Address for Jan Riley McMurray:

1210 Queensgate Dr., Tupelo, MS 38801

### 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.*

### 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. **(Especially check the kitchen sink faucet!)**

**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!!**

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.

## TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:  
Liturgy written by:  
Liturgist:  
Nursery:

Jim Starr  
the Rev. Pat Willard  
Shaunda Fales  
Gina Long

### 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 16—22, 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, whose second cataract surgery was successful.

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 for new lesions found on her brain.

Renee McCandless, Shirley Barrett's daughter, whose surgery, after some complications, has been rescheduled for Sept. 18.

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 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

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Facebook: "Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)"  
Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2018**  
**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Holy God, we pray your blessing on those who lead us in worship this day, those who speak and sing and move among us, those who direct others in singing and playing, those who have prepared this space with beauty.

We ask that each of them may lead with a sense of peace and confidence that comes from your Spirit, so that your truth may be proclaimed faithfully and we may live up to our calling as the body of Christ. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**THIS WEEK AT COVENANT**

Today, Sept. 16

**9:30a – 9:55a**

**NEW! Weekly Prayer Group**

10:00a

Sunday School

11:00a

Worship Service

7:00p

N.A. Meeting

**Monday, Sept. 17 – COURIER DEADLINE!!**

8:30a

N.A. Meeting

7:00p

NarAnon Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 18

8:30a

N.A. Meeting

5:30p – 9:00p

Amer. Guild of Organists

*(Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary)*

7:00p

Al-Anon Meeting (in classroom)

Wednesday, Sept. 19

**11:30a**

**The Lunch Bunch at Freiberg's**

**6:00p**

**GROW**

6:30p

SAFG

7:00p

Chancel Choir

7:00p

N.A. Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 20

8:00a

Men's Bible Study

Noon

Al-Anon Meeting

**2:00p – 4:00p**

**Bridge/Other Games**

Friday, Sept. 21

Noon

CoDA Meeting

1:30p

N.A. Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 22

5:00p – 10:00p

Fellowship Hall reserved