

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

Women and men, children and teen-agers,
friends and neighbors, enemies and strangers,
draw near to the God of love.
Wise and foolish, compassionate and angry,
loving and kind, disappointed and discouraged,
draw near to the God of love.
Sinners and saints, selfish and generous,
strong and weak, courageous and fearful,
draw near to the God of love.
From all walks of life, as one body
gathered here in Christ's arms of grace,
draw near to the God of love.
Let us worship the God who loves us.

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 321

"The Church's One Foundation"

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not followed your way.
We sow the seeds of conflict
while you seek the harvest of peace.
We argue about who is greatest
while you welcome the last and least.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Draw near to us this day with the wisdom of your Word,
and teach us how to serve you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah tells us, "You shall be like a watered garden, like a deep spring whose waters never fail." Feel like a watered garden, ready to thrive and grow, knowing that you are soaked in the waters of forgiveness. Friends, believe the good news—in Jesus Christ you are forgiven and energized for the journey!
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. 45—NT)

Mark 9:30-37

SERMON

Following Jesus

Rev. Paul Helphinstine

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 703 *"Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"*

*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 Solo

"Thou Art God"

Lionel Bourne

*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 # 459

"O Word of God Incarnate"

*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 special time of fellowship and refreshments.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support for those affected by Hurricane Florence. PDA is delivering immediate aid to those impacted by Hurricane Florence. Initial assessments suggest catastrophic destruction, but the full scope of the damage will not be known for many months. The storm's path has cut across areas still recovering from Hurricane Matthew (2016). While these winds and waters have meant loss and destruction, the work of PDA might become, as the Psalmist says, "a river whose streams make glad the city of God."

PDA has deployed teams to affected presbyteries to meet with Presbyterian and community leadership to assist in coordinating relief efforts and mucking out homes and churches. After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain—providing spiritual emotional care and Long Term Recovery to address unmet needs of those impacted. Through your prayerful gifts we draw hope out of the chaos. If you wish to make a donation to this effort through the church, please make your checks payable to Covenant and note "PDA" on the memo line. You may also give online through the church website. See Online Giving on the back of the bulletin. Thank you for your support.

4TH TUESDAY COMMUNITY PRAYER GATHERINGS

Community Prayer Gatherings are being held **at The River, 125 W. Main Street, on the 4th 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.

SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday, October 14—THE GATHERING
At the Farmer's Market, 100 E. Market St.
A Community Event for ALL to Enjoy!
FUN! FOOD! MUSIC!
More details coming!

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.

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 cost of providing online giving. *If you have any questions, please contact Tina in the church office.*

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:	Jim Starr
Liturgy written by:	the Rev. Pat Willard
Liturgist:	Don Hart
Soprano Soloist:	Liz Dollar
Nursery:	John Deaton

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	Rev. Paul Helphinstine
Music Director:	Jessica Siple
Office Administrator:	Tina Simon
Administrative Assistant:	Shirley Barrett
Custodian:	Marie Britt
Nursery Worker:	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 23—29, 2018.

Pat Guffee, Helen Davis' brother, who is home from the hospital recovering from a toxic liver.
 Jan Paveglio, who had a CT scan on Thursday for bad stomach pains.
 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.
 Butch Carr's cousin, Nattie Jane Young, whose husband, David Langsan, is in an acute care facility in Nashville with throat and esophagus cancer.
 Mary Lynn Moser, BJ King's sister, who will have her third gamma knife procedure for new lesions found on her brain.
 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.
 Barbara Kirkpatrick, Frankie Wolff's sister, diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Joyful Prayers:

Renee McCandless, Shirley Barrett's daughter, whose surgery on the 18th went well.
 Lori Simon, Tina's sister; latest tests show that her tumors are inactive!

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

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 23, 2018
18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Christ Jesus,
 we come into your presence
 from many different places.
 We come with songs of joy
 and shouts of gratitude.
 We come carrying heavy burdens
 and sighs of suffering.
 As you welcome us into your house,
 lift our burdens
 and receive our praise.
 Salt us with your grace
 and flavor us with your mercy.
 Bind us together,
 that we may be at peace with one another
 and be strengthened to go forth
 in service to the world.
 In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

- Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009*, © 2008 Abingdon Press.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, Sept. 23

9:30a – 9:55a **Weekly Prayer Group**
10:00a Sunday School
11:00a Worship Service
12:30p Mission Committee Meeting
7:00p N.A. Meeting

Monday, Sept. 24

8:30a N.A. Meeting
6:00p U-Kirk Dinner
7:00p NarAnon Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 25

8:30a N.A. Meeting
6:30p Cub Scouts
7:00p **4th Tuesday Prayer at The River**
7:00p Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 26

6:00p **GROW**
6:00p Handbell Choir
6:30p SAFG
7:00p Chancel Choir
7:00p N.A. Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 27

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

Friday, Sept. 28

Noon CoDA Meeting
1:30p N.A. Meeting