

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Bill Hyers

GREETING

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!
People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP *from Revelation 15:34, NIV*

Leader: Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty!
People: **Just and true are your ways,
King of the ages.**
Leader: Who will not fear you, O Lord,
and bring glory to your name?
People: **For you alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship you!**

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 611 *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Gracious God,
People: **our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
People: **Thanks be to God.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 695 *“Change My Heart, O God”*

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

*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.
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

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*p. 575—OT*) Psalm 133

GOSPEL READING (*p. 84—NT*) John 14:1-7

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON A Song for the Journey Dr. Jeffrey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION (*see insert*)

“All the Way My Savior Leads Me”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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 Anthem *“Enter His Courts With Praise”* S. Porter

*Doxology # 647 *“Give Thanks”*

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

And now let the weak say, “We are strong”;
let the poor say, “We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!”
Give thanks. Give thanks.

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF SENDING # 14 *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

Notes: *All music reprinted under CCLI license*

****Gateway to Worship** is our worship program for 4-year-olds through second 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.

COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY

The **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** will be celebrated next Sunday. Take time this week to prepare yourself in prayer and meditation.

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION—DECEMBER 1, 2019

Please see your insert for details!

This morning we again welcome Dr. Jeffrey Miller. Jeff is Professor of Bible at Milligan College. He holds bachelor's degrees in pastoral ministry and church music. He has earned a master's of divinity from Emmanuel Christian Seminary and a doctorate in biblical interpretation from The University of Denver. He is editor of *Priscilla Papers*, a journal that promotes women in Christian leadership. He has held ministries in Nebraska, Tennessee, and Colorado. Jeff and his wife, Dana, have two married daughters and four grandchildren. Jeff's interests include playing the piano and hiking in the Appalachian Mountains.

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMIN & BUDGET COMMITTEE

We would like to thank everyone who turned in a **pledge card for 2020**. It is from your pledges that the Admin & Budget Committee and Session are able to develop our budget for the coming year. Our budget is more than numbers on a page, it is a mission document that states clearly what we plan to accomplish and who we, at Covenant, pledge to be in the year to come. Help us to continue doing the works of love and mercy in which we are currently involved. Help us to go further in expanding our work here and beyond. Help us to look to the future with the confidence to dream big for what God can do in and through Covenant Presbyterian Church. We're in this work together!

It is very important that we receive your pledge information soon to be able to complete the process of developing the budget for 2020. Pledge cards and envelopes can be found in the pews or on the table in the Narthex. You are invited to place your pledge card in the offering plate this morning, or you can bring it by the church office. (Remember that as year-end approaches, your tithes and offerings will be credited to your **2019 Statement of Giving if made before December 31st**. If you have questions, please contact Gary Smith or the church office.) Thank you for your commitment and generosity in all that we do together at Covenant.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **The deadline for NEXT Sunday's bulletin is tomorrow, Nov. 25!!**
- **The church office will be closed on Wednesday & Thursday (November 27th & 28th) for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

THE NEWSLETTER

The December Courier will be mailed/e-mailed to you this week. Please read today's bulletin and insert for a sneak peak into the events coming up in December.

POINSETTIAS—ORDER DEADLINE IS TODAY!

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary for the Christmas season, please fill out the enclosed order form and place it, along with your payment, in the offering plate. **Cost for the poinsettias is \$10 each.** (Please make checks payable to *Covenant* and note “poinsettia” in the memo line.)

THE MITTEN TREE—FIRST DEADLINE IS TODAY!

The Mitten Tree is a tradition here at Covenant. Every year we collect hats, scarves, and mittens for children in our area who need a little warmth during the winter. The tree has been set up in the hallway across from the church office early this year so that we can get these items to the kids at Rise Up! for Kids before winter really sets in. **Please bring hats, scarves and mittens to hang on the tree by Sunday, November 24.** The committee will distribute the items after Thanksgiving. *We will continue to collect these items throughout the holidays and will distribute them whenever the tree gets full.*

THE CHRISMON TREE

The Chrismons (remember that we made lots of new Chrismons back in July) will be placed on the tree in the Sanctuary during the worship service on **December 1st, the first Sunday of Advent.** The choir will begin by hanging the first Chrismons and then lead the congregation in this activity during the closing hymn. Please come forward, choose a Chrismon and hang it on the tree. As this will be Communion Sunday, you may also bring your 5 Cents a Meal offering when you come forward.

We will decorate the rest of the church (**Greening of the Church**) on the morning of **Saturday, December 7th.**

PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

At the **Alternative Gift Fair** last week we had the opportunity to choose an “angel” from the Christmas tree and help strengthen the relationship between children and their parent who is in prison by providing a gift of clothing and/or a toy in their parent's name. You can still put your faith into action by choosing a child's name from the Christmas tree that is set up in the Narthex. After you have chosen your “angel”, **please bring your gifts to the church, wrapped and labeled, on or before Sunday, December 1st.** Angel Tree Volunteers will deliver the gifts on Sunday, December 8th.

2019 ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

For many of us, Christmas has become commercialized to the point that we feel pressure to buy and consume. But what do we buy a friend or loved one who has few needs or wants? Last week, Covenant sponsored its **26th Alternative Christmas Gift Fair.** The *2019 Alternative Christmas Giving Guide* can be found on the table in the Narthex and gives you a chance to learn more about worthy organizations and how we as a Christian community can become partners in the work of the church. The mission organizations featured this year are **Family Promise of Greater Johnson City, The River, Holston Presbytery Camp, and World Missions (BABMOC, Bob & Kristi Rice, and Jon & Kathy Christiansen).** If you missed the Alternative Gift Fair, you can still participate throughout Advent by filling out the enclosed **Giving Form** and dropping it in the offering plate along with your check (*made out to “Covenant Presbyterian Church”*).



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.



ONLINE GIVING!

Online Giving is available through our website at **cpcjc.org.** Getting started is easy—just click on the **Online Giving** link. This is a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. *If you have any questions, please contact Tina in the church office.*

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!**

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Jim Starr
Liturgist:	Frankie Wolff
Section Leader:	Shawn Hale
Nursery:	Laura Harrington
Gateway:	Jane Deaton

CHURCH STAFF

Music Director:	Jessica Siple
Office Administrator:	Tina Simon
Administrative Assistant:	Anne Webb
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. **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.*

Week of November 24—30, 2019.

Liz Kuehling, Lauri Zembower's mother in Colorado, who will be having back surgery tomorrow, Nov. 25th.

CB Willis, who is in room 141 at NHC for rehab. Visitors welcome.

Steve Jones, a dear friend of Sharon Fuhrman, who has been diagnosed with kidney cancer.

Bob & Betty Thompson, Phyllis' parents.

Michael & Karen, missionaries who are stationed in Afghanistan.

Please remember those in our congregation who are homebound and unable to join us regularly in worship:

Vi Block, Jeter Collins, Lattie Collins, Mary Derouen,
Helen Fletcher, Glay Hood, Barbara Quisenberry

Join us in continually lifting up in prayer our mission co-workers:

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan † Jon & Kathy Christiansen: Zimbabwe

and Ministries of the Presbytery:

UKirk ETSU (Pres. Campus Ministry) † Holston Presbytery Camp



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.

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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Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

NOVEMBER 24, 2019



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O God, we joyously come together to worship,
realizing we need not summon you into our midst,
for you are here.
We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts,
for you are there.
We need our eyes of faith to be opened,
that we may see you;
our ears to be unstopped,
that we may hear you;
our minds to be sensitive,
that we may know you;
our hearts to be tender,
that we may receive you.
Grant each one a blessing, O Lord,
as each has need,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION – DECEMBER 1, 2019

There will be a **Meeting of the Congregation** immediately following worship **next Sunday, December 1**, for the purpose of electing officers. The following are the nominees being presented by the Nominating Committee:

Tony Madden: A native of Rome, Georgia, Tony has lived in Johnson City with his lovely wife Eileen since 2004. They have two adult children, Sean and Grace, and an old dog named Moose. Tony's faith journey began in childhood as a member of Second Avenue Baptist Church in Rome, Georgia. Having been born into the Baptist faith, by the grace of God, Tony became a Presbyterian shortly after marrying Eileen more than 28 years ago. Having previously served on the Session at Covenant in the class of 2009, he is an active member of the Local and World Missions committee. Tony is a Navy veteran and a project engineer currently working for A.O. Smith Corporation in Johnson City. An avid runner, Tony completed his first ultra-marathon (30 miles) this past August.

Betsy Moakler: Betsy grew up in the area and graduated from Science Hill High School. She doesn't have a dramatic faith story as she has been a Christian for as long as she can remember. Her parents were faithful church goers (Methodist) and she accepted Jesus into her heart as a little girl. However, regular church attendance stopped after high school and didn't resume until her first child was born. She wanted to raise her children in church. Having faith in God and Jesus Christ is the most important aspect of life. Betsy and her husband Rich have been married twenty-nine years and have two grown children. They have lived in Washington, DC; Ithaca, NY; and Tucson, AZ before moving back home to Johnson City in 2003.

Anne Smith: Anne was raised in Columbia, TN and has been a life-long Presbyterian. She has an MA in Latin American History and has taught in junior high, high school and in college. She is married to Gary Smith and has two sons – Andy and Lee – and four grandchildren – Austin, Mason, Brian and Juli. Her mother, Carlene Adams, also attends Covenant Church. Anne enjoys music, traveling and crafts. This will be her 3rd term on the Session.

David Wood: Dr. David is a Professor and past Chair of the Department of Pediatrics in the Quillen College of Medicine at ETSU. He specializes in the care of adolescents and young adults. He has been married to Julie, who is a public health nurse, for 31 years. They have 3 lovely adult children and 5 grandchildren. They love to do CrossFit 3-4 mornings per week and travel to see their children and see the world. David grew up in the Evangelical Covenant Church of America. He is now a recovering evangelical, but still loves Jesus as best he can. He is particularly interested in the contemplative tradition in Christianity.

WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

Please join us as we lift up our church, community and world missions at our weekly time of intercessory prayer. We meet before the Sunday School hour at 9:30 AM in the High School Classroom next to the Fellowship Hall entrance from the office.

NOTES FROM COVENANT CHOIR

Have you heard the sound of beautiful music filling the halls of Covenant? Our choral department is working hard to support our Sunday services with anthems that will sing in your heart throughout the week--anthems of joy, anthems of hope, anthems of the sustaining love of the Creator.

Have you heard that we are now learning a Christmas Cantata to be presented on December 15 at our 11:00 am service? In this Cantata, composed by Joel Raney, the texts of familiar Christmas carols are set to beloved Irish and Welch folk tunes. From its ethereal beginning to its stirring conclusion, you will not want to miss this imaginative and inspiring work!

Have you heard that all are welcome at Covenant Presbyterian Church and we are inviting all our neighbors and families to hear our musical offering? Make a list, invite everyone you know, plan to attend this beautiful Cantata! You'll be glad you did!

SAVE THE DATES:

(details will be in your December Courier)

- **Communion and Chrismons:** Sunday, Dec. 1st
- **Armchair Travelers:** Sunday, Dec. 1st from 3 – 5
- **Melting Pot:** Monday, Dec. 2nd
- **Greening of the Church:** Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9 – noon
- **After Church Lunch:** Sunday, Dec. 8th
- **Jewelry Sale for The River:** Sunday, Dec. 8th from 3 – 5 at the home of Cynthia Erdei
- **All Church Christmas Party:** Saturday, Dec. 14th from 1-5 at the home of Dave & Julie Wood
- **Christmas Cantata:** Sunday, Dec. 15th during the worship service
- **Saturday Night at the Movies:** Dec. 21st at 7:00 PM
- **Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols:** Tues., Dec. 24th

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, November 24

9:30a – 9:55a	Weekly Prayer Group
9:45a/10:00a	Sunday School
9:45a/10:00a	Chancel Choir/Ensemble Practice
11:00a	Worship Service
12:30p	Chancel Choir
12:30p	Local & World Mission Comm. Mtg.
7:00p	N.A. Meeting

Monday, November 25

BULLETIN DEADLINE!

5:00p	UKirk Meal
7:00p	NarAnon Meeting

Tuesday, November 26

2:00p – 4:00p	Games in the Library
7:00p	Al-Anon Meeting

Wednesday, November 27

Church Office Closed

7:00p	N.A. Meeting
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Thursday, November 28 – Thanksgiving Day

Church Office Closed

Noon	Al-Anon Meeting
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Friday, November 29

Noon	CoDA Meeting
1:30p	N.A. Meeting
6:30p	Al-Anon Meeting