

2018



December

MORE GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Please plan to stay **after church on Sunday, December 2nd** to help decorate the Fellowship Hall and Narthex for Advent and Christmas. (Sunday, Jan. 6th will be the ‘Un-Greening’ of the church)

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS – SUNDAY, DEC. 2 AT 3:00 PM

Experience travel from the comfort of our Church Library on the first Sunday of the month from 3—5 PM as we view travel logs and cultural videos. Snacks are optional, as this will be after lunch but before supper.

THE LUNCH BUNCH—DECEMBER 5

The next gathering of “The Lunch Bunch” will be on **Wednesday, December 5, at 11:30 AM at Wellington’s, 1216 W. State of Franklin, across from ETSU.** Contact Victory Cooper at 282-4641 ASAP to let her know if you plan to come so she can make the appropriate number of reservations. (The Lunch Bunch will not meet on the 3rd Wednesday in December.)

INVITATION TO AN OPEN HOUSE:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 FROM 6—9 PM

To show our appreciation of your support for the BABMOC elementary school in Liberia, **Bear Another’s Burdens Ministry of Christ (BABMOC)** would like to invite all our Covenant Brothers and Sisters to a **Christmas Open House**. It will be held at the home of Matt & Kathi Cary, 601 Douglas Drive on Saturday, December 8 from 6-9 PM.

AFTER CHURCH LUNCH—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

The theme for our December 9 After Church Lunch is Feliz Navidad! Bring your favorite Mexican dishes to share. Without a doubt, our buffet tables will be heavily laden with great South- of-the Border food. See you there!

Please take time to sign up for snacks and also to check the cart in the Fellowship Hall for dishes some of you (oops!) left behind from the last luncheon. Thanks!

THE MITTEN TREE



The Mitten Tree, which is set up in the hallway across from the church office, will stay up through Christmas. Our goal is to provide hats, scarves, and mittens for children in our area who need a little warmth during the winter. The Mission committee will distribute the items gathered so far, but you are invited to continue to “decorate” the Mitten Tree throughout the Advent season. The additional items will be distributed before the end of the year.

2018 ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

It’s not too late! The *2018 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 five mission organizations featured this year are **Family Promise of Greater Johnson City, The River, Holston Presbytery Camp, Bear Another’s Burdens Ministry of Christ (BABMOC), and Frontera de Cristo.** If you missed the Alternative Gift Fair, you can still participate throughout Advent by filling out the **Giving Form** (in your bulletins and on the table in the Narthex) and dropping it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church along with your check (*made out to “Covenant Presbyterian Church”*).

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COVENANT COURIER**

INVITATION TO THE WEDDING!

To Covenant Congregation:

The pleasure of your company is requested at the marriage of:

Mary Lynnea Hunter

and

David Ross Salinas

Saturday, December 29, 2018 at 1:00 PM at Covenant Presbyterian Church

Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall

They are registered at:

BELK, reg. #2000261160, www.belk.com/wedding

BED, BATH, & BEYOND, reg. # 546659717, www.bedbathandbeyond.com

THE KNOT, www.theknot.com/us/lynnea-and-david

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

2018 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Advent is a time of anticipation and promise, of thanksgiving and celebration. Every year, we pour out our gratitude by giving to the Christmas Joy Offering which supports church workers and their families in need and nurtures the promise of our future racial ethnic leaders. Like the shepherds, we hear the news and we are stunned: in Jesus, God has come among us as one of us, to accompany us and transform us. As we open our hearts to God's love in Jesus, we find it will not be contained but yearns to be shared with others. One of the ways Presbyterians have traditionally responded to the news of God's great gift is by sharing our own gifts through the Christmas Joy Offering. The Offering supports racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, where students develop their gifts and find their calling. It also helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. As we celebrate this good news of great joy – that a Savior has been born to us – may our gifts bear joyful witness to God's uncontainable love.



Our **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**
will be held on **Sunday, December 24 at 5:30 PM.**

Please join us for this special service.



Volunteers needed:

We are looking for a few extra helpers to take care of our little ones in the Nursery on Christmas Eve. If you are able to help, please contact Jane Deaton at 913-2931. Many thanks!!

NEW ADDRESS, AS OF DECEMBER 5:

Bob & Betty Maletich
2101 Christian Lane, #202
Johnson City, TN 37601

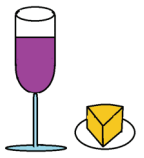


INVITATION TO A PIANO RECITAL

Dustin Odom is having a piano recital on Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 PM at Central Baptist Church. Everyone is invited!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
2018-2019 HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY: GOD'S PROMISE
I AM WITH YOU



- ♦ The **Friendship Circle** will have their **Christmas Luncheon, a Salad Potluck**, on **Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 11:30 AM** in the 2nd floor solarium of the **Colonial Hill Retirement Center**, 3207 Bristol Hwy. Everyone is to bring a salad; everything else will be provided. Pat Willard is the hostess and contact (926-6704). There will not be a lesson but there will be discussion about two saints, Melania the Younger and Paula.
- ♦ The **Joy Circle** will meet on **Tues., Dec. 11 at 6:00 PM** to share a holiday meal at **Olé's Guacamoles**, 1000 S. Roan St. (Contact for this Circle is Betsy Moakler.)
- ♦ The **Red Tent Circle** will meet on **Thurs., Dec. 13, at 7:00 PM** to share a holiday dinner at a local restaurant, still to be determined. (Contact for this Circle is BJ King.)

FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Each year we are given the opportunity to provide monetary gifts to the **Elders' Fund**, the majority of which is used for Christmas honoraria for the people on our fine staff. Their names and positions are listed in each Sunday's bulletin. Our congregation has always been very generous in providing donations to the fund. Our members are appreciative of the dedication of our staff members, and this is a wonderful opportunity to show that appreciation. We ask that each member consider making their donations as generous as possible and, since it would be helpful for the staff to have their gifts well before Christmas, to make their donations **by December 16**. Just mark "Elders' Fund" on your checks and place in the offering plate or send to the church office. We know we can count on our membership, as we always have. Thanks so much.

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES—DEC. 15 AT 7:00 PM IN THE LIBRARY



Join us for a brand new holiday movie, **The Christmas Chronicles**, starring Kurt Russell as the man in red himself--a hipper, cooler Santa than you've ever imagined! After siblings Kate and Teddy Pierce cause a Christmas Eve calamity, their attempt to set things right turns into an unexpected journey that most kids (and kids-at-heart) only dream about. No tickets required and all snacks welcome! We'll save you a good seat!

BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

The next Black/White Dialogue meeting is on December 10, from 6-8:00 PM, at the Carver Center, 322 W. Watauga Ave., JC. We will reflect on 2018, its impact, and what it means for us in 2019. "What happened in 2018? What are you pleased about? In what are you disappointed?" In an informal setting at the Black/White Dialogue meeting, we will have an opportunity to discuss and share our hopes, concerns, passions, and commitment. Christina Erwin will be the lead facilitator.



FAIR TRADEPRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT**EQUAL EXCHANGE**

The Presbyterian Coffee Project is all about fellowship and sharing community through a simple cup of coffee. Our church supports this project by serving Fair Trade coffee and by offering coffee, chocolate and other goodies for sale to our members and visitors. Each purchase helps small farmers earn a fair price for their products, have access to affordable credit, and gain a long-term trading partner they can trust, a Fair Trade Organization called Equal Exchange.

This is the perfect season to consider the lives of our neighbors down the street and around the world as we purchase Equal Exchange products. We always have coffee that is drip ground or whole bean, decaf or regular. Hot Cocoa is back for those chilly evenings around the fire. If you prefer chocolate in bar form, we have a nice selection of dark and milk chocolates from around the world. This is a tasty way to add little social justice and environmental sustainability to your shopping.



GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING—DECEMBER 23

The **Good Sam Food Offering** will be received on **Sunday, Dec. 23.**

This month they need: **Mac 'n Cheese!**

Thank you, as always, for your continuing generosity to this important local mission.

(In case you didn't see the notice a few weeks ago,
the final count for the **Peas Offering** was **664 cans!**)



WEEKLY PRAYER GROUP

Please join the **Weekly Prayer Group** on **Sundays from 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 lifts up in prayer our church family, pastor, new Church Vision, neighborhood and global communities. Everyone is welcome. Join us!

MEN'S 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.

BRIDGE & OTHER GAMES

Join us for **BRIDGE AND OTHER GAMES** in the Library at the church on **Thursday afternoons from 2p—4p,** everyone is welcome!! There are usually enough players for a regular bridge game, and other games are played as well.



FROM PROPERTY & STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEES

BRRRR!!! COLD WEATHER IS HERE!



As we continue our attempt to be good stewards of our resources, the heating temperature is set at 68 degrees throughout the church for the winter months. We realize that we cannot achieve a setting that is ideal for everyone so we are asking that you keep this in mind when dressing for events this winter. There are also blankets available just inside the sanctuary on your right which may be used if needed.

The electric bill is the single largest expense for our church after payroll. **We use about 40% of our electric budget from January–March each year.** We appreciate your help in keeping these costs as low as possible.

Let's ALL help by reminding and helping each other turn off heaters and lights after Bible studies and meetings. Thank you!

A Special Note: Please use **ONLY** the up and down arrows to adjust the heat, **NOT** the "HOLD" button! All of the thermostats are painstakingly programmed by one of our church members to turn on and off at specific times, according to scheduled use for worship, meetings, etc. **The arrows** will adjust the temperature and then automatically resume its programming once that time period is over, **but using the "HOLD" button will keep the heat (and AC in the summer) running indefinitely.**

Power outages sometimes "upset" the schedule, so if the heat or AC is not running during a scheduled event, please tell Tina in the office so that the thermostat programming can be checked. In the meantime, read the notes attached to the thermostats and use the arrows!

NOTES ABOUT YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Here are just a few reminders as you consider your year-end contributions to the church.

- ♦ If possible, please consider fulfilling your “2018” Pledge. To those who have made your 2019 Pledge, thank you for supporting the church and its mission.
- ♦ If you are planning on giving a contribution of stock, please have a broker statement in the Church Office no later than December 31, 2018, for the gift to be included as a “2018” contribution.
- ♦ **All donations must be delivered or mailed (and postmarked) on or before December 31, 2018 in order to receive a charitable tax donation for “2018”.**
- ♦ Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2019 will not qualify for a charitable tax contribution deduction in 2018.
- ♦ However, checks that are written, mailed and postmarked in “2018” will be deductible in 2018 even if not received by the church until 2019. Thank you for your generous gifts to the church,

The Stewardship Committee

COMMITTEE ACTION NEEDED

Please give your Committee budget requests for 2019 to Gary Smith as soon as possible!

2018 ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Note to Committee Chairs: 2018 Committee Reports for the Annual Report need to be e-mailed to Tina **by January 4, 2019**. *Don't panic, reports from 2017 will be e-mailed to you next week. You may use them as samples for your 2018 reports.* Questions? Ask Tina.

OCTOBER TREASURER'S REPORT

Income to General Fund October

Actual ** \$14,936.50
vs. Budgeted \$21,277.00

Expenses from General Fund October

Actual \$19,071.18
vs. Budgeted \$21,277.00

Year to Date Income General Fund

Actual \$190,146.74
vs. Budgeted \$212,770.00

Year to Date Expenses from General Fund

Actual \$199,823.15
vs. Budgeted \$212,770.00

*The 5-Cents a Meal Offering
for October was \$118.00.*

***Note: Online Giving began in June.
There is a one-month delay for Online
Contributions to show on our reports.*



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.*

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

Phone: 423-282-5324, Fax: 423-282-5346

<http://www.cpcjc.org>, E-mail: office@cpcjc.org

Find us on Facebook:

“Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)”

Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR WINTER:

MONDAY: 1:00P – 4:00P

TUES.-THURS.: 9:00A – 4:00P

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS.

Messages may be left on the church voicemail at any time, 423-282-5324.

Press “2” to leave a message for Tina; press “1” for Paul.

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.