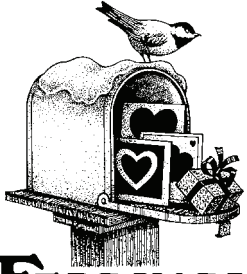


# 2019



## FEBRUARY

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
COVENANT COURIER

### DESCENT AND TRANSFORMATION—SATURDAY, FEB. 9 FROM 10A—2P

Come and hear and discuss video-talks by Richard Rohr and Dr. Barbara Holmes from their CONSPIRE 2018 Conference with the theme of “The Path of Descent is the Path of Transformation”.

On February 9<sup>th</sup> from 10am–2pm, Covenant Presbyterian Church and St. Mary’s Parish are co-sponsoring a gathering in the Fellowship Hall at Covenant Presbyterian Church to hear and discuss 3 talks from Richard Rohr’s CONSPIRE 2018 Conference, which had the theme of “The Path of Descent is the Path of Transformation”. We will watch two talks by Father Richard Rohr and one talk by Barbara Holms, PhD. We will have opportunity for discussion throughout the talks. We will also share a lunch together. Our hope is that this gathering will bring together those interested in a deeper spiritual walk to guide our engagement in social action. To see a video from Richard Rohr about Conspire 2018 please go to: <https://cac.org/conspire2018>.

Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest and teaches primarily on incarnational mysticism, nondual consciousness, and contemplation, with a particular emphasis on how these affect the social justice issues of our time. Dr. Barbara Holmes received a Doctor of Philosophy in Religion (Ethics) from Vanderbilt, and is a spiritual teacher and writer focused on African American spirituality.

**RSVP:** We will be providing lunch so we would appreciate getting an accurate head count. Please RSVP via 1) email to [office@cpcjc.org](mailto:office@cpcjc.org) or via the Facebook Event Page: “Descent and Transformation”.

Discussion Leaders: Father Peter Iorio, Rev. Ed Wolff, and Dr. David Wood

### THE CHILI GATHERING—SUNDAY, FEB. 10 FROM 3P—5P

On March 31, 1968, just days before his assassination, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke these words from the pulpit of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.:

“We must face the sad fact that at eleven o’clock on Sunday morning when we stand to sing ‘In Christ there is no East or West,’ we stand in the most segregated hour of America.”

We don’t have to look very far in our world, and sadly in our own community, to realize that not much has changed since Dr. King spoke these words over fifty years ago. Realizing that we don’t want our children and grandchildren to regretfully say the same thing fifty years from now, representatives from Thankful Baptist Church and Covenant Presbyterian Church began meeting together a few months ago to create an event to remind us that the Church is best when the Church is whole. That event is simply called The Gathering.

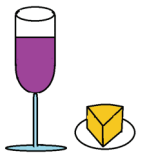
The Gathering is a small step, but a significant one, where we seek to know, not just our neighbors, but our brothers and sisters in Christ here in Johnson City. The Gathering is an intergenerational, inter-racial FUN event where we will laugh together, play together, sing together, and of course EAT TOGETHER. Many churches have been invited and all are welcome as we seek to regain even just a glimpse of the Church that Jesus had in mind.

Building on the success of our first “The Gathering” in October, pastors from several churches are honing their skills for a church chili cookout! The pastors from a number of local congregations are either preparing or assisting in the preparation of chili to enter into the contest. **The Chili Gathering will take place at the Carver Recreation Center (322 W. Watauga Ave.) on Sunday, February 10th from 3:00—5:00 PM.** Although the weather may be “chilly”, The Chili Gathering promises to be a warm and friendly event.

Plan to attend, and plan to celebrate the joy, the beauty, and the richness of the Church of Jesus Christ with friends in Johnson City. The Chili promises to be good, too! Come to The Chili Gathering!



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



- ♦ The **Red Tent Circle** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on **Thurs., February 14, at 7:00 PM at the home of BJ King, 8 Fox Run Lane.** (Contact for this Circle is BJ King.)
- ♦ The **Joy Circle** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on **Tues., February 12, at 7:00 PM in the Bible Discovery classroom** in the hallway near the Sanctuary. (Contact for this Circle is Betsy Moakler.)
- Due to conflict with Theologian in Residence, the next meeting of **Friendship Circle** will be on **WEDNESDAY, February 13, in the Church Library at 1:30 PM.** Estelle Armistead will lead the discussion of Chapter 5, and Linda Sisk will be our hostess.

**NO AFTER CHURCH LUNCH IN FEBRUARY**

Instead of gathering at the church this month, please join us at the Chili Gathering!  
 (see article on front page).

**THE LUNCH BUNCH IN FEBRUARY**

The Lunch Bunch gathers at various restaurants on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 11:30 AM. Please contact **Victory Cooper at 282-4641** to let her know if you plan to come so she can make the appropriate number of reservations.

**Wed., Feb. 6: O'Charley's, 112 Broyles St.**  
**Wed., Feb. 20: Zaap Lai (Thai and Laotian cuisine), 2244 N. Roan St.**



**ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 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. This month we will again visit Turkey with Rick Steves' Travelog. Snacks are optional, as this will be after lunch but before supper.

**GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING—FEBRUARY 24**

The **Good Sam Food Offering** will be received on **Sunday, Feb. 24.** This month they need: **SOUP! Canned OR dry, single-serve AND family-sized.** Thank you, as always, for your continuing generosity to this important local mission.



**SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES**  
**FEBRUARY 16 AT 7:00 PM IN THE LIBRARY**

Join us Saturday, February 16 at 7:00 PM for a post-Valentine's Day showing of *Sleepless in Seattle* (1993, rated PG), starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, written and directed by Nora Ephron.



After the death of his wife, Sam Baldwin (Tom Hanks) moves to Seattle with his son, Jonah (Ross Mallinger). When Jonah calls in to a talk-radio program to find a new wife for his father, Sam grudgingly gets on the line to discuss his feelings. Thousands of women, including Annie Reed (Meg Ryan) hear Sam speak and fall for him. Unsure where it will lead and inspired by *An Affair to Remember*, Annie writes Sam a letter asking him to meet her at the Empire State Building on Valentine's Day.

Bring a snack to share if you like and remember, we'll save you a good seat!

## **ANNUAL SENIOR BRUNCH—FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019**

### **IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN**

“That Time” means it’s time for the Annual Senior Brunch. This is one of our most popular events and this year we hope to see YOU there. **The brunch has been scheduled for Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, in the Fellowship Hall, at 9:30 AM.** This is in hopes that we will be able to avoid snow and have our biggest crowd ever.

**Cost is only \$4.00 per person, payable at the door.** Sorry we aren’t able to handle credit and debit cards, so please bring only cash or checks (payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church, note “Senior Brunch” on the memo line).



We encourage you to invite your friends, neighbors, regular visitors, those who haven’t reached senior status yet, and even those who just like to eat good food and share in some fun. We’ll have plenty of good hot coffee, great food, and good fun, so please join us. Watch the bulletins in February and please sign up in the Narthex so that we know how many to expect. Questions? Want to help? Please contact Helen Davis. Looking forward to seeing you there!

### **THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The Vision Team recommended, and Session approved, the formation of an Outreach Committee tasked with actively seeking out people and organizations in the Greater Johnson City area who can benefit from the nourishment of the Christ-centered community of Covenant. In November the beginnings of this team started working. Gwen Hunter was tasked with inviting a few people to serve and calling the first meetings. The team at this point is Dr. David Wood, Phyllis Thompson, David Salinas, Lynnea Hunter Salinas, and Jon Fales as liaison to the Communications team. Paul Helphinstine is our mentor, adviser and fellow visionary.

We’ve identified a variety of people in the Johnson City area who we believe are most likely not affiliated with any church, and who we’d like reach. We’ve started planning ways to reach these populations in a non-threatening way. We need to let people know Covenant Presbyterian Church exists. How many times have you told someone where you go to church and the response is “Where is Covenant?” It happens to me all the time. So, brand identification is a top priority. We’ll be working closely with the Communications team on this.

The plan is to have some events which are hosted by Covenant but held outside the church. Many people are skittish about “going to church” so we want to meet them where they’re comfortable. We want to know more people and let them get to know us.

Our goal is to have one event each month. To do this we need input from many Covenant people. Do you know an interesting speaker? Maybe you’re an interesting speaker on a special topic. Do you have a special talent or hobby you’d be willing to share with community? Please share your insights, brainstorm, and ideas with the Outreach team. And, if you want to be part of the team, you’re invited! My email is [grhunter1951@gmail.com](mailto:grhunter1951@gmail.com).

*Gwen Hunter*

### **EARTH CARE CHILDREN’S MOMENTS**

Covenant Presbyterian Church is a certified Earth Care Congregation. As part of our certification, we provide Earth Care Children’s Moments once a month during worship. If you are interested in offering a small Earth Care moment to our young ones in 2019, please contact the church office at [office@cpcjc.org](mailto:office@cpcjc.org), or speak to Ann Freeman.



## **BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

The next Black/White Dialogue meeting will be on February 11, from 6—8:00 PM, at the Carver Center, 322 W. Watauga Ave., JC. We have a very interesting meeting this February. Ron and Jill Carson, friends of Aubrey Lee, from Pennington Gap, VA will tell their story and insights of racial segregation and the plight of coal miners. Rather than attempting to describe them and the substance of the program, here is their Bio:

Ron Carson was born in Pennington Gap during segregation. He attended a one-room brick primary school (grades primer thru 7) that his great, great grandmother Rachael Scott built in 1939 to provide education to the Black children of Lee County.

In the early 70's, Ron moved to Boston, MA (after working about 6 mos. In the coal mines) where he met his wife Jill and in 1986 they moved back to Southwest Virginia. Soon after moving back Ron and Jill founded what is known today as the Appalachian African American Cultural Center in that same brick school house which now preserves the life stories, history, heritage, culture and experiences of African Americans in the Appalachian Region.

In addition, Ron has spent the past 30 years advocating for coal miners suffering from Black Lung disease. In 2018 he was recognized on the Senate floor in Washington, D.C. for his commitment, work and dedication to coal miners and their families. Later that year, his name was also added to the Southwest Virginia "Walk of Fame."

Ron's wife Jill is a native of Boston, MA and relocated with Ron to Pennington Gap in 1986. Jill worked for Lee County Public Schools for ten years then later worked as a Community Organizer with Virginia Organizing.

Jill is currently serving her 2nd term on the Pennington Gap Town Council and two years ago was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Virginia Municipal League.

Ron and Jill have 2 children, Kevin who is an Attorney and serves as Council to Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, and Alexis who is currently a School Psychologist with Lee County Public Schools.

Peace and love,  
*Ed Wolff*

## **ASH WEDNESDAY—MARCH 6, 2019**

**For your planning calendars:** On Ash Wednesday, March 6, the Worship Committee will be hosting a light lunch (soup) followed by an Ash Wednesday service. We will begin serving lunch at 11:30, followed by the service at 12:15(ish). Please join us for this special time as we observe the beginning of the Lenten season.



## **NEW COFFEE FOR A NEW YEAR**



Two new drip-grind coffees are available on the EQUAL EXCHANGE coffee cart in the hallway across from the church office. Try a new variety or stock up on your old favorites. Check out the SALE shelf.

### **ORGANIC MAMA TIERRA COFFEE**

These one pound bags of medium roast coffee are from the heart of Oaxaca, Mexico. Proceeds support work of Catholic Relief Services to restore and protect coffee communities across southern Mexico and Central America with clean water, healthy soil and resilient farmers.

### **ORGANIC SISTERS' BLEND COFFEE**

With these one pound bags Equal Exchange honors women coffee farmers who are active in their cooperative and women across faith-based denomination in the U.S. who advocate for small farmers.

# GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

**JANET POWELL**

BY

Helen M. Bowman



GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

**REG & MILDRED MURPHY**

BY

Reginald Fleming Murphy, Jr.

*"Thanks so much for being such an important part of my parents' lives!"*

## **ENTERED INTO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT:**

Dave Benner—February 1, 2019

### ADDRESS CHANGES

**Paul & Mary Jane Kelley**

1008 Ross Drive

Champaign, IL 61821



**Tina Simon**

(new mailing address)

729 Well Street

Elizabethton, TN 37643

### DECEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

Income to General Fund  
December

Actual \$20,150.80  
vs. Budgeted \$21,277.00

Expenses from General Fund  
December

Actual \$22,632.78  
vs. Budgeted \$21,277.00

Year to Date Income  
General Fund

Actual \$233,686.57  
vs. Budgeted \$255,321.00

Year to Date Expenses from  
General Fund

Actual \$240,976.48  
vs. Budgeted \$255,321.00

*The 5-Cents a Meal Offering  
for December was \$231.00.*

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

**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.*

**DONATE  
ONLINE**

### **ONLINE GIVING!**

Online Giving is available through our website at [cpcjc.org](http://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](mailto:office@cpcjc.org)

*Find us on Facebook:*

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

*Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity*

### **A GENTLE REMINDER**

#### **\$\$ IMPORTANT \$\$:**

As the weather turns (and stays) colder, please make an extra effort to keep doors closed, turn off heaters and lights after classes or meetings, and generally be aware of ways you can help keep electric costs down. Keeping the doors closed as much as possible in the Sanctuary, and the Fellowship Hall while the heat is on can make a \$500 - \$1,000 difference on our monthly bill. If you get cold easily, remember to bring a jacket, dress in layers, or use one of the blankets available just inside the entrance to the sanctuary. Thank you for helping us be good stewards of our financial resources!



### **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.