

February



2020

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COVENANT COURIER

WELCOME, DR. MICHAEL PHOENIX!

We welcome Dr. Michael Phoenix who will begin his service as our Interim Pastor on Saturday, February 29th, with Sunday, March 1st marking his first time preaching from Covenant’s pulpit. In case you were unable to join us for the Meet and Greet on January 22nd, here’s a little bit about our new Interim Pastor.

In addition to serving as a pastor, Michael has worked as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (WI), a Licensed Professional Counselor (WI, NC, & AL), and a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (NY). He holds a doctorate from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and a Master of Divinity from Princeton (that in itself is an interesting story you can ask him about!). He has completed Interim Pastor training, as well.

Michael’s family has lived all over the country—from New York to Florida to California; and now, Michael and his wife, Diane, live in Signal Mountain, TN where they plan to live out the rest of their lives. Their children and grandchildren are scattered close by, and in nearby states. Because he lives close by, he will be able to commute to us each Saturday morning, arriving about noon, and stay through Monday afternoon.

Because Michael will be in Johnson City a limited amount of time each week, Mary O’Keeffe will be planning weekly “Mondays with Michael”, a time of food and fellowship for small groups of us to get better acquainted with him; sharing our interests, dreams and concerns. Please watch for that sign-up, and ...sign up!

We are fortunate; indeed, to have found an Interim Pastor whose desired church characteristics so closely match our own. In his own words,

“The context of ministry in which I would like to serve would involve people who love the Lord Jesus and who are not afraid to learn about how easy and wonderful it is to share that love with each other and the rest of the world. The congregation I am seeking would be open to small group ministry that would enable them to grow closer to each other and Christ. These small groups would provide a place of entry for friends, family and neighbors who might be unchurched. The congregation I seek would have the capability of honoring the traditions of the past while understanding that a new generation of people around them may need a creative and different venue. The community of faith I envision in my future would be mission-minded with the realization that it is in spending our church resources to help others that we bring spiritual blessings to ourselves. I believe that every congregation has been placed right where they are and have been given unique gifts to fulfill the Lord's perfect will. We discover what the Lord would have us do by surrendering to the Holy Spirit in our intentional and intensive prayer journey. For this to happen a congregation must be prayerful, loving, joyful and open to the leadings of the Holy Spirit. The Pastor and Elders need to be lead through the teachings of Jesus and not the selfish leanings of fallen humankind. This involves plans of action that seem foolish to humans but wise to the Lord.”

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



We will mark the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Service on **Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 5:30 PM in the Sanctuary.** Please join us for a service of contemplation and reflection.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS—FEBRUARY 2

Join us in the Library on the first Sunday of the month from 3—5 PM as we travel to faraway places from the comfort of our armchairs or the sofa. Bring a light snack to share.

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR IN FEBRUARY

We enter February on the fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (also known as the fourth Sunday after Epiphany) and leave during the Season of Lent. February 2020 has four Sundays, all of which are in Ordinary Time. The last Sunday, February 23rd, is also Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday. Ordinary Time is bracketed on its beginning and at its end with a special day. For this shorter period of Ordinary Time (or Sundays after Epiphany), the first Sunday was Baptism of the Lord and the last is Transfiguration of the Lord. The liturgical color of Ordinary Time is green; that for Transfiguration of the Lord is white.

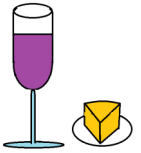
Ash Wednesday, February 26th, is the beginning of the Season of Lent which lasts until Easter Sunday and the beginning of the Season of Easter. The ashes are created by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. The liturgical color for Ash Wednesday and for most of the Season of Lent is purple.

Strove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, began as a religious preparation for Lent but today it is a day for secular joys, especially eating, especially pancakes. Also, Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", reflecting the practice of the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

2019-2020 HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY: LOVE CARVED IN STONE: A FRESH LOOK AT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



- ♦ The **Red Tent Circle** normally meets on the **2nd Thursday** of the month, **but will meet on the 1st Thursday** this month. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 6, at 7:00 PM at the home of BJ King, 8 Fox Run Lane.** (Contact for this Circle is BJ King.)
- ♦ The **Friendship Circle** meets on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 12, at 1:30 PM in the Church Library.** (Contact for this Circle is Elaine Warehime.)
- ♦ The **Joy Circle** now meets on the **2nd Thursday** of the month at the home of **Anne Smith, 239 N. Gilmer Park.** The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 13, at 7:00 PM.** (Anne is the contact person for this Circle.)

THE LUNCH BUNCH IN FEBRUARY

The first Wednesday, **February 5**, we will meet at **12:30 PM at Yum Sushi Burrito and Poke, 1735 W. State of Franklin.** Contact **Victory Cooper at 282-4641** for more information and to let her know if you plan to come so she can make the appropriate number of reservations.

The third Wednesday, **February 19**, we will meet at **12:30 PM at Logan's Roadhouse, 3112 Brown's Mill Rd.** Please contact **Carlyn Sue Hoffman at 202-7281** for more information and to let her know if you plan to come so she can make the appropriate number of reservations.

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Join us in the library on **February 15th at 7:00 PM for Somewhere in Time**, a story of love that transcends time, starring Jane Seymour and Christopher Reeve, co-starring Christopher Plummer.

While staying at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Richard Collier, a successful playwright, becomes obsessed with a photograph taken in 1912 of a young woman, Elise McKenna, a woman he met in 1972. Is time-travel possible? According to this story, when love is strong enough, anything can happen.

1980, Rated PG running time: 103 minutes

2020 THEOLOGIAN-IN-RESIDENCE, WADING INTO THE PROPHETIC TRADITION

Theologian-In-Residence at Tusculum University will meet on Wednesdays (instead of Tuesdays) during February 2020. The dates are February 5, February 12, February 19, and February 26. Each session begins at 10:00 AM, followed by a luncheon at 12:15 PM. There are no fees for this event, however donations for Theologian-In-Residence are greatly appreciated. For more information or to make reservations, you may email nrader@tusculum.edu or call 423-636-7303. Brochures are available on the table in the Narthex.

AFTER CHURCH LUNCH – FEBRUARY 9

The theme of the February 9th After Church Lunch will be **DEEP SOUTH**. We're going back to traditional Southern cuisine for dishes like chicken and dumplings, meatloaf, greens, squash casserole, dressing, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, pecan pie, pound cake, etc... You get the idea.



GRAB YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!

The **March After Church Lunch** has been moved to **March 1st** so that we can welcome Dr. Phoenix with a tasty meal and fellowship after worship. We've chosen a theme favorite for this day. **Italian!** Lasagna, spaghetti pie, antipasto, garlic bread, salad caprese, or meatballs, maybe? It's guaranteed that *your* favorite will be someone else's favorite, too!

NOTE:

As always, we need and value help with **cleanup** after our church lunches. Many hands really DO make light work. See you in the kitchen.

AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP SNACKS SIGN-UP

Please be sure to **go online** to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b4caba82aa1fa7-church1> and sign up for after church snacks. *Or* you can sign up in the Narthex, *or* contact Margie McGonagle at 423-477-3863 *or* oakiejack@embarqmail.com. We appreciate and truly need your help with simple treats for this important fellowship time with church family. If you can provide snacks but can't do the whole setup and cleanup, just let us know so that we can help you.



GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

The **Good Sam Food Offering** will be received on **Sunday, February 23**. This month they need: **SOUP**. Cans, packets, liquid, dry. Thank you, as always, for your generosity!



BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10 FROM 6-8P AT CARVER CENTER

The February meeting will be facilitated by Dr. Elwood Watson, a professor at ETSU. In 2019, he published *Keepin' It Real, Essays on Race in Contemporary America*. He will speak to those issues during our time together.

COVENANT AV CLUB



It has been suggested on numerous occasions that it would be helpful to have a group of men and women who are knowledgeable about the operation of Covenant's various audio/visual equipment. With that thought in mind, we are asking for volunteers. This would not be a full-time commitment, but you would be used on more of an on-call or as-needed basis. Hal Hunter has graciously volunteered to share his knowledge with us and we welcome anyone else who has special knowledge in these areas that they are willing to share. The training would include the audio equipment in the Sanctuary, setting up the projector, the various TV's we have and any other equipment that I don't know about that makes a sound or shows a picture.

So if you are, were, or always wanted to be, an A/V geek, please contact me at dwcoble1@gmail.com. The date and time of the training will be set depending on the response. I don't envision this requiring a huge time commitment.

Don Coble



NEW! PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH ACTIVITIES: PY FIRST SUNDAYS

This following letter from Phyllis Thompson and David Wood describes this new activity:

PY First Sundays

Dear Junior- and Senior-Highs and Parents,

As we have been discovering the “Super Sheroes and Heroes of the Bible” in Sunday School this year, we have witnessed God sending them and us out into the world to live our faith. Most recently, we’ve been exploring Saul’s experience, his epiphany on the road to Damascus, his *YES!* to God’s invitation to be transformed in and through Christ, and our own rather rocky paths and faith journeys. In his letters to the church at Rome, Paul strengthens the congregation there and us here as he charges us to

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honor all persons. Honor all creation. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the love of God, the Light of Christ, and the power and communion of that Spirit be with us all.
(from Romans 12:9-21)

Let’s reread the passage. He definitely does not charge us to stay in our warm, well-lighted, and tidy Sunday School classrooms but challenges us to “go out into the world” and take Christ’s “peace,” “courage,” “love,” and “light” with us. Because we can depend on this knowledge that the power and communion of the Spirit is with us and that we meet Jesus not only in the Sunday School room but also out on the street, Covenant invites all junior- and senior-high youth to Presbyterian Youth (PY) *First Sundays*.

PY First Sundays is all about Meeting Jesus out in the World. This will be valuable time to bond and play, ride bikes and kayak, go to Barter for a play and AMC-14 for a movie and popcorn. *PY First Sundays* is also time to build on the lessons we are learning on Sunday mornings and take those lessons out on the road, looking for, expecting, and finding Jesus wherever we go--on the trail, in a wildflower, on the river, in a rock on the banks, or in the people waiting in line at the theatre. Jesus is there. We will join him out in the world.

First Sunday PY events will look like this:

- February 2: Tweetsie Trail Bike Ride, Johnson City and Elizabethton, TN
- March 1: Linear Trail Bike Ride, Erwin, TN
- April 5: Bike Ride, Location TBD (to be determined) by the group
- May: TBA Movies and Popcorn or Barter Theatre!
- June 7: Nolichucky paddle trip
- July 5: Holiday weekend so no Sunday event
- August 2: Bike Ride, Location TBD by the group

Logistics: Logistics will need to be somewhat flexible to accommodate location of event and daylight savings time. Also, since we do not have a church van, transporting PYs may require an extra driver/vehicle at times. Here is a sample of what logistics will look like for February and March outings.

February 2 Logistics: Meet at Tweetsie Trailhead in Johnson City at 2:00PM. Ride! We’ll grab a light snack on the trail. Bring your own water. Helmets are required. Dress for the weather. Pick-up back at trailhead at 4:30PM, but we’ll call parents/guardians from the trail to let them know we are getting close.

March 1 Logistics: Leave from church at 2:00PM or meet at Linear Trail trailhead in Erwin at 2:30PM, off to the trails! Ride! Bring your own water. Helmets are required. Dress for the weather. Bring some money if you would like to eat at McDonald’s in Erwin afterward the ride. Return to church. Pick-up at church at 5:30PM.

Logistics for other trips, coming soon!

Waiver: We will have a waiver for each participant/parent/guardian to sign before we set out for the trails/river/theatre.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming PY events! We hope to see you at each one, but feel totally free to pick your favorite outings and come just to those! That’s cool, too!

In Christ,

Phyllis Thompson and David Wood

ENTERED INTO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT:
Clayton "C.B." Willis, Jr.—January 29, 2020

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.

NEW ADDRESS

Harry Powell
3207 Bristol Hwy., #319
Johnson City, TN 37601
Cell: 423-612-2628 (no more landline)

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.

CHILDREN'S EARTH CARE 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 short Earth Care moment to our young ones in 2020, please contact the church office at office@cpjc.org, or speak to Ann Freeman.



THANK YOU, COVENANT

I want to express my deep gratitude to all my Covenant family for your prayers and concern during the last challenging several weeks. Thank you from the depths of my heart.

Cynthia Erdei



TO MY COVENANT FAMILY,

Once again, I want to express my sincere appreciation for all of your "get well wishes", the phone calls, the cards and gifts, and most of all your love and prayers. You may never understand how much your expressions of concern and love mean until they are temporarily missing from one's life because of having to miss church. Believe me, that's a lonely feeling! I could never repay each of you, but I can certainly pay it forward, and that is my promise to you. Hope to be back soon.

Congratulations to those of you who worked on securing an interim minister for Covenant. I have talked with most of you and know that you took your task quite seriously and put a lot of time and effort into your work. I am sure that all of us are most appreciative of your willingness to serve and look forward to the future as we move ahead with our newest addition. Welcome to Michael Phoenix!

Helen Davis

DECEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

**Income to General Fund
December**

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Actual | \$20,182.65 |
| vs. Budgeted | \$20,777.00 |

**Expenses from General Fund
December**

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Actual | \$19,416.97 |
| vs. Budgeted | \$20,777.00 |

**Year to Date Income
General Fund**

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Actual | \$236,049.77 |
| vs. Budgeted | \$249,318.00 |

**Year to Date Expenses from
General Fund**

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Actual | \$216,828.53 |
| vs. Budgeted | \$249,318.00 |

***The 5-Cents a Meal Offering
for December was \$167.00.***

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

COLD & FLU SEASON

There are *Purell hand sanitizers* located throughout the building. These were given to the church as a donation to help reduce the spread of illness during cold and flu season. So shake hands (or “fist bump”) all you like, just stop by one of the hand sanitizers on your way out!



\$\$ IMPORTANT \$\$:



As the weather turns 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.

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.