

January



2020

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COVENANT COURIER

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION—SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020

Please join us in the Sanctuary at 4:00 PM on Sunday, January 12th for the 3rd Annual Epiphany Festival of *Sonshine*, a worship experience based on Epiphany and organized byCarolynn Bailey of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. This special service will feature choirs from several churches. A reception will follow. Everyone is invited!

CELTIC SERVICE—SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

SAVE THE DATE

**January 26th, the fourth Sunday in January, at 5:30 PM,
we will have an evening worship service in the Celtic tradition.**

Wonder where you have worshiped in the Celtic tradition? Remember the sunrise service at Worship Point during Church Retreat? Cynthia Erdei led us with prayers and readings from *Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter* by J. Philip Newell.

J. Philip and his wife Ali are leaders in the renewed interest in the Celtic way of seeing God in all things and listening for the heartbeat of God. Mary O’Keeffe and Pat Willard recently attended a session of Newell’s School of Celtic Consciousness; they will plan this service. It will be a time of quiet worship and listening, prayer, scripture, meditation, music, and possibly even some poetry.

Come and bring a friend or neighbor.

MOM POWER COMING BACK TO COVENANT!

For 10 weeks, beginning Friday, February 7th, Covenant will work with Families Free and the ETSU Department of Psychology to provide Mom Power for the 3rd year in a row at our facility. This program provides a weekly meal, parenting education and childcare to struggling young mothers and their small children. It has made major impacts on the lives of the families already served because of its nurturing and intensive approach.

We need YOU to help us make it the nurturing experience it is meant to be. Please call or email Julie Wood (904-891-1922 or woodfamily5@bellsouth.net) if you are able to join us in any of these areas: meal prep, hospitality, transportation, and/or childcare. Thank you!

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR IN JANUARY

January begins in the continuation of the Season of Christmas which began on Christmas Day (or in our case, on Christmas Eve) and will end with Epiphany, the sixth of January. Since January 6th is on a Monday in 2020, we will celebrate Epiphany on the preceding Sunday, January 5th. The liturgical color is white.

The remaining Sundays in January, and those in February until Ash Wednesday, are referred to in two different ways: Ordinary Time (which has a short period in January and February, and then a very long period through the summer and into fall) or Sundays after Epiphany. Using either designation, the Sundays are numbered. Each period of Ordinary Time begins and ends with a special day. January 12, 2020 is Baptism of the Lord Sunday (color: white). January 19 will be the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time and the 2nd Sunday after Epiphany. Covenant has been using the designation of Sunday after Epiphany. The Worship Committee has decided that during 2020, we will refer to these Sundays as Ordinary Time. We want to be familiar with both ways of identifying where we are in the liturgical year. The color of these Sundays is green. Ordinary Time is not a season of the church year, so the Sundays are referred to as “in” rather than “of” which is used for Advent and the other seasons. Ordinary Time refers to Sundays in order – not ordinary as in hum-drum but ordinary as a usual part of our lives.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS—JANUARY 5 FROM 3—5 PM

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. This month we are still in Italy! Bring a light snack to share.

AFTER CHURCH LUNCH – JANUARY 12

The theme for the January 12 After Church Lunch is Soup and Sandwiches. Comfort food guaranteed to warm your tummy and your heart on a cold day. Bring your crock pot and we'll plug it in. Bring your soup pot and we'll keep it warm on the stove. Bring sandwiches and we'll keep 'em as hot or cold as you like.



Thank you to those folks who have been signing up for snack fellowship, setting up the Fellowship Hall for meals, and pitching in to help with the all-important clean up. Thank you for your loving service to our church family.

NEW ISSUES CLASS STUDY BOOK

On January 5th, the Issues Adult Sunday School Class will finish a four-month study and discussion of *God Is Not One; The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World and Why Their Differences Matter* by Stephen Prothero.

On January 12th, the Issues Class will begin a new book for study and discussion. Our new selection will be *Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations* by Amy Chua.

Following is an excerpt from the Amazon review of this book:

“Humans are tribal. We need to belong to groups. In many parts of the world, the group identities that matter most – the ones that people will kill and die for – are ethnic, religious, sectarian, or clan-based. But because America tends to see the world in terms of nation-states engaged in great ideological battles – Capitalism vs. Communism, Democracy vs. Authoritarianism, the “Free World” vs. the “Axis of Evil” – we are often spectacularly blind to the power of tribal politics. Time and again this blindness has undermined American foreign policy.

In characteristically persuasive style, Amy Chua argues that America must rediscover a national identity that transcends our political tribes. It is time for a more difficult unity that acknowledges the reality of group differences and fights the deep inequities that divide us.”

THE LUNCH BUNCH IN JANUARY

The next meeting of the Lunch Bunch will be on Wednesday, **January 15th at 12:30 PM at Carraba's Italian Grill**, 175 Marketplace Dr. **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.

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES—JANUARY 18

Join us Saturday, January 18th for **Finding Neverland**, the story of J.M. Barrie's platonic relationship with a widow and her children – the story that inspired the writer's most beloved story, *Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*. **Finding Neverland** stars Johnny Depp as J.M. Barrie and Kate Winslet as Sylvia Lewellyn Davies, with cameo appearances by Dustin Hoffman and Julie Christie. Running time:106 minutes. Rated PG.

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.

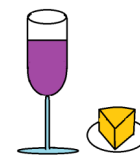
MEN'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

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.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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



- ♦ The **Friendship Circle** meets on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 8, at 1:30 PM in the Church Library.** (Contact for this Circle is Elaine Warehime.)
- ♦ The **Red Tent Circle** meets on the **2nd Thursday** of the month. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 9, at 7:00 PM at the home of BJ King, 8 Fox Run Lane.** (Contact for this Circle is BJ King.)
- ♦ The **Joy Circle** will also begin meeting on the **2nd Thursday** of the month at the home of **Anne Smith, 239 N. Gilmer Park.** The next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 9, at 7:00 PM.** (Anne is the contact person for this Circle.)

A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

In March 2018 Covenant Presbyterian Church reaffirmed our long-standing mission statement, and adopted newly created vision and strategy statements to guide us as we look to the future. These statements were adopted by Session and approved by the congregation. In part, the Vision Statement says, “We seek to be more engaged in Holston Presbytery and the Johnson City community, to nourish people of all ages, and to reach out to a diverse community,” and the Strategy Statement says Covenant wants to, “Grow our congregation in greater Johnson City by being known as a Christ-centered community that seeks out individuals and families, wherever they are on their faith journey.”

Outreach Committee was formed to focus on developing activities to implement our vision and strategy. The committee decided to focus on reaching five demographic groups: empty nesters; new faculty and staff at ETSU & Ballad Health; young families; LBGTQ, and environmental advocates.

Our philosophy is Covenant needs to go out in the community and meet people where they are comfortable. In the past year we have organized several events which have been held both at the church and in the community. We are currently working on hosting a conversation to learn from women who are being successful in traditionally male careers. We are developing a relationship with our neighborhood school, Towne Acres Elementary, to assist with mentoring needs for students. This has been enthusiastically accepted by the principal, so volunteers are encouraged to contact Pat Smith to learn more. To help us reach out to a diverse community it is important to understand how to be accepting of all. To that end we are planning to schedule an educational event or two for anyone interested.

We welcome your thoughts, ideas, questions, and involvement. Contact any committee member. We'd love to hear from you.

Gwen Hunter, grhunter1951@gmail.com

Dr. David Wood, wooddl@mail.etsu.edu

David Salinas, salinasdrs@gmail.com

Lynnea Salinas, lynneasalinas@gmail.com

Phyllis Thompson, thomsop@mail.etsu.edu

Pat Smith, dalpsmith@gmail.com

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.

BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE



MONDAY, JANUARY 13 FROM 6-8 PM AT CARVER CENTER

The January Black/White Dialogue meeting will focus on the Langston Centre and its role, both now and in the future, for Johnson City and its environs. As part of Parks and Recreation, Sam Miller, Recreation Service Manager for Johnson City, will present and facilitate our discussion. (Adam Dickson, Supervisor of Langston Centre, is always involved with Jonesborough as Alderman of its Board of Mayor and Aldermen on the second Monday of the month.)

Mr. Miller will discuss the policies of this multi-cultural center, what has developed already, and the vision for the future. This unique program-centered facility has great potential for all of us to focus on leadership development, education, and the arts.

\$\$ 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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN 2020

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 small Earth Care moment to our young ones in 2020, please contact the church office at office@cpcc.org, or speak to Ann Freeman.

AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP SNACKS: 2020 is a brand new year that offers up many opportunities for you to be of service to your church family. Won't you start the year off right by signing up to bring After Church Snacks for our important fellowship time as we greet visitors and spend time with one another? You may sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b4caba82aa1fa7-church1> or contact Julie Wood at 904-891-1922 or woodfamily5@bellsouth.net.

USHERS: The Worship Committee is looking for a Few Good Men – and Women! **Ushers** are needed for 2020. The job is easy – passing the offertory plate. You can assist in two ways. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex for specific dates. Or, you can let it be known that you'd be glad to serve on an as-needed basis, which means that Jim Starr will draft you into service if we need someone that day. If you would like to usher on an as-needed basis, please let Jim Starr know.

COMMUNION SERVERS: Are you an elder of the church and are you available and willing to help serve communion during 2020? You may sign up online at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/AFXXD> or contact Kathi Cary at 423-737-3102 or tilegal2@aol.com.

GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

The Good Sam Food Offering will be received on **Sunday, January 26**. This month they need: **Cereal and Instant Breakfast. Cold, hot, boxes, bags, family-size and individual size.** Thank you, as always, for your generosity!



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!**



THANK YOU, COVENANT

Dear Friends at Covenant Presbyterian Church,

All of us at **Rise Up! for Kids** send our collective thanks for the winter warming items you brought to our youth. This annual gift is such a blessing to kids in need! Rise Up appreciates your generosity and your thoughtfulness and your love in action.

Merry Christmas, *Lisa Smalling*



The staff at Covenant thanks all of you for your generous gifts through the Elders Fund. We are grateful for your support and look forward to serving you well in 2020.

Jessica, Marie, Jeanne, Anne, & Tina



Thank you to the Hanukkah elves (*you* know who you are even if *I* don't!!) who made the 8 days/nights of Hanukkah this year the best time I've had in a very, very long time. I loved every minute of it! You all are special in every way and I love you very much. *T*

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

WILLIAM BUDDY WILEY, III
(Pat Wiley's son)

BY

Billie Price



GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

JOHN GRAHAM SMITH
(Cynthia Erdei's father)

BY

Bob & Estelle Armistead



**GIVEN IN HONOR
OF HIS PARENTS,
REG & MILDRED MURPHY**

BY

Reginald Fleming Murphy, Jr.



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!



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.*



MEMBERS & REGULAR VISITORS:

Please pick up your **2020 Offering Envelopes**, which are on the table in the Narthex. If you would like envelopes for 2020, but don't see your name, please call Tina in the church office at 282-5324!

NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

**Income to General Fund
November**

Actual	\$12,544.14
vs. Budgeted	\$20,777.00

**Expenses from General Fund
November**

Actual	\$11,592.23
vs. Budgeted	\$20,777.00

**Year to Date Income
General Fund**

Actual	\$215,867.12
vs. Budgeted	\$228,547.00

**Year to Date Expenses from
General Fund**

Actual	\$197,411.56
vs. Budgeted	\$228,547.00

*The 5-Cents a Meal Offering
for November was \$68.00*

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 1:00p – 4:00p

Tuesday – Thursday: 9:00a – 4:00p

The office is closed on Friday.

Note that voicemail messages are forwarded to the church email, which Tina can access at any time, **so if you have an emergency, PLEASE** leave a voicemail. Tina will return your call as soon as possible. 423-282-5324.

ATTN: COMMITTEE CHAIRS/LIAISONS

By now you should have received an email with your committee’s 2018 Annual Report attached. **Please revise it for 2019 and email it to Tina by Wednesday, January 8, 2020**, for inclusion in Covenant’s 2019 Annual Report. If you have any questions, please contact Tina. Thank you!

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.