

2018



GIVING SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 11, 2018

The time of the year is fast approaching when we, as a church, formally set in place our budget for the next year. As many have heard me say before, 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. And so we turn to you, our members and friends, and ask you to consider your personal giving and pledge for 2019.

As members and friends we have chosen to share our lives with one another; we have also covenanted together to share the work that God has for us to do. The work of Covenant Presbyterian Church is needed more than ever in Johnson City. Throughout each week our doors are open to men and women struggling with addiction, and the families of addicts looking for community and support. Each week we open our doors to young people and their families, through the Cub Scouts, giving them a safe and healthy place to learn and grow. Each week we, as the church, gather in worship and fellowship, sharing with all people, regardless of earthly labels, the love of Christ and a positive vision for what that love compels us to do in our own lives and in our life together. And our work goes beyond our walls here on Sunset Drive, supporting local, national, and international ministries and missions that are committed through word and deed to carry the love, compassion, and joy of Christ to all the world.

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!

You will receive a letter in the mail this week with a pledge card and envelope inside. Please consider making a pledge for 2019. If you have pledged in the past, please consider increasing your giving for the year to come. **Giving Sunday will be November 11.** You are invited to place your pledge card in the offering plate that morning, or you can bring it by the church office any time before.

Thank you for your commitment and generosity in all that we do together at Covenant.

Blessings, *Paul*

HOMEMADE CRAFTS & GOODIES SALE AT THE RIVER—NOV. 2

The River ministry serving women and children in need is holding its annual **Homemade Craft & Goodies Sale on Friday, November 2 from 5 PM to 8 PM** at 125 W. Main Street in Johnson City. There is going to be a wonderful selection of items this year. This is a great time to start your Christmas shopping and **all proceeds go to The River**, the ministry that helps women to help themselves.

SONGFEST 2018, AN APPALACHIAN MUSIC EXPERIENCE—NOV. 4

Sunday, November 4 at 3:00 PM at University Parkway Baptist Church
Plan to join Family Promise for a great afternoon of music! Come out to see Carson Peters & Iron Mountain, Ed Snodderly and Friends, and the ETSU Rambling Serenaders. This event is free to the public, donations are welcomed. **Donations will support Family Promise of Greater Johnson City.**

AFTER CHURCH LUNCH—SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

The theme for our November After Church Lunch is **“Your Favorite Winter Comfort Food”**. There's a category that is wide open. It leaves room for all sorts of choices. What'll it be? Macaroni and cheese? Meatloaf? Chili? Beef stew? Sweet potato casserole? Pound cake? Soup beans and cornbread? Yum! Whatever you bring will be joyfully shared at our fellowship tables.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COVENANT COURIER



GOOD SAMARITAN "PEAS" OFFERING—DEADLINE IS NOV. 11

There will be "peas in the valley". Not just in the valley. In Johnson City, too. This year Covenant will be contributing cans of peas to **Good Samaritan's Christmas baskets**. We hope that everyone will participate. (Our Goal = 600 cans!)



P.S.: We've collected cans of peas in previous years. "Peas in the valley" has been voted our favorite "pea" blurb. It makes for a catchy tune, too! We are encouraging everyone to purchase Peas, Perfect Peas!

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

SERVE GOD – GIVE MORE – CONSUME LESS

Don't get us wrong. Mission Committee members still go Christmas shopping for our kids and grandkids like we always have. But when we draw up our own Christmas list, we think carefully and prayerfully about what we put on it and often we say to each other "I really don't need or want anything. Why don't we go to the Alternative Gift Fair after church this year and give to someone in real need?" On November 18th, five mission organizations will participate with us in worship and attend our fair in the Fellowship Hall right after worship. Each will have a representative to help explain their work.

- 1) **Family Promise of the Greater Johnson City Area**
- 2) **The River**
- 3) **Holston Presbytery Camp**
- 4) **Frontera de Cristo**
- 5) **Bear Another's Burden Ministry of Christ (BABMOC)**

Another program that is administered from Covenant, the **Prison Fellowship Angel Tree** (see article below), will also be available at the Alternative Gift Fair.

If you have a friend or family member who really doesn't need the latest widget, why not consider giving to one of these groups that need your help with their chosen mission? Greeting cards will be available for you to fill out and mail to your friend/family so that they will know what has been given in their names. We're sure they will appreciate your thoughtfulness. If you can't make it to worship on the 18th, the opportunity to give to these ministries will continue through the Advent season, so you will still have ample time to participate. (Alternative Gift Fair Giving Forms will be in your bulletins and on the table in the Narthex.) Hope to see you there!

PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

At the Alternative Gift Fair on November 18th, we will again have the opportunity to help strengthen the relationship between children and their parent who is in prison. We do what an incarcerated parent cannot do by providing a gift of clothing and/or a toy in their parent's name. You can put your faith into action by choosing a child's name from the Christmas tree that will be set up in the Fellowship Hall during the Alternative Gift Fair. **Your gifts can be brought to the church, wrapped and labeled, on or before Sunday, December 2nd.** Angel Tree Volunteers will deliver the gifts on Sunday, December 9th.



POINSETTIAS

We will be decorating the Sanctuary with poinsettias this year for Christmas. These may be purchased in memory or in honor of family, friends, and loved ones. **The cost for the poinsettias is \$10 each.** Order forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins and on the table in the Narthex beginning November 4th. **The deadline to order is Sunday, November 18th.** Please fill out an order form and place it, along with your payment, in the offering plate or in the church office. (Please make checks payable to *Covenant* and note "poinsettia" in the memo line.)

THE MITTEN TREE

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 will be set up in the hallway across from the church office. **Please bring hats, scarves and mittens to hang on the tree by Sunday, November 25.** The committee will distribute the items after Thanksgiving.



ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS—NOVEMBER 4 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 visit Greece with Rick Steves' Travelog, so come join us! Bring a light snack to share.

THE LUNCH BUNCH IN NOVEMBER

The Lunch Bunch will gather on **Wed., Nov. 7 at 11:30 AM at Korean Taco House**, 101 Buffalo St. **Contact Victory Cooper at 423-282-4641** for more info and to let her know if you plan to come so she can make the appropriate number of reservations. (We will not meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in November or December because of the holidays.)

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES—NOVEMBER 17 AT 7:00 PM IN THE LIBRARY

Join us Saturday, November 17th in the library for “Bonneville”, a story of love, loss, friendship and promises kept. Starring Jessica Lange, Kathy Bates and Joan Allen, co-starring Christine Baranski and Tom Skerritt. As always, no tickets required and all snacks welcome!

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.

2018-2019 LECTURE SERIES AT KING UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR FAITH & CULTURE

All of the King Institute events are free of charge, and all are open to the public. See the schedule on the wall in the Narthex or visit Faithandculture.king.edu for more info.

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The committee is already gearing up for Christmas. Save these dates and join us!

- In November, be on the lookout for Poinsettia order forms in the bulletin.
- On Wed, November 28th at 5:30 we will have a **Greening of the Sanctuary service**. Last year this service was well received and meaningful to many, we encourage you to join us this year. (GROW will not meet that evening.)
- Sunday, December 2nd after the service we will be decorating the rest of the church.
- Our Christmas Eve service will be at 5:30 PM on Monday, the 24th. Childcare will be provided.
- Sunday, December 30th, you may take home any poinsettias that you donated for the season.
- After the worship service on Sunday, January 6th will be the ‘Un-Greening’ of the church.



DECK THE HALLS—NOV. 28 AND DEC. 2!!

...and the Narthex, Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary, too!

On **Wednesday, November 28th at 5:30 PM** we will have a **“Greening of the Church”** Service to prepare the Sanctuary for Advent.

Then, please plan to stay **after church on Sunday, December 2nd** to help with decorating the Fellowship Hall and Narthex for Advent and Christmas.

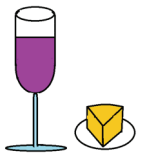
INVITATION TO AN OPEN HOUSE:

SAVE THE DATE! 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.



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



- ♦ **The Red Tent Circle meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month.** The next meeting will be on **Thurs., Nov. 8, 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 Tuesday of the month.** The next meeting will be on **Tues., Nov. 13, at 1:30 PM in the Church Library.** Hostess: Helen Davis. Discussion Leader: Sally Nagel. (Contacts for this Circle are Sally Nagel and Pat Willard.)
- ♦ **The Joy Circle now also meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.** The next meeting will be on **Tues., Nov. 13, at 7:00 PM in the Bible Discovery classroom** in the hallway near the Sanctuary. (Contact for this Circle is Betsy Moakler.)

BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—MONDAY, OCTOBER 8



Black/White Dialogue meets at the Carver Park Center at 322 W. Watauga Avenue on the 2nd Monday of the month **from 6—8 PM.** The next meeting on **Monday, November 12** will provide a little local history for us as we discuss the impact of Langston High School on Johnson City and the city's impact on Langston.

It is an interesting story about the African-American community in Johnson City, the experience of segregation, the impact of desegregation, the struggle to keep the high school's legacy alive, and the desire to have the remaining structure provide a lasting legacy to Johnson City.

The presenters include two alumni from the school's last graduating class, one of which was the very last student to graduate from Langston, and a student who graduated from high school after integration. We will experience some living history of our area, examining the relationship of the African-American community to the White majority.

Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

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. It is 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.

4TH TUESDAY COMMUNITY PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE RIVER

Community Prayer Gatherings are being held at The River on the **4th Tuesday of each month at 7 PM.** Men, women, and children are invited and a guest speaker will provide a "sermon" each time. Covenant is such a huge supporter of our ministry, and we would love to have your congregation join us and fill The River with the Holy Spirit. The River is located at 125 West Main Street.

Stacy Larsen

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE



Please remember to sign up to bring snacks for fellowship time after our worship service. Snacks don't need to be fancy. There's a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. We can have this important time for fellowship with our church family and visitors if YOU sign up, so please do!



GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF:

CHARLES RAY MOYERS
(Diana Hewitt's father)

BY

Bob & Estelle Armistead
Dave & Sharon Benner



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR WINTER:

MONDAY: 1:00P – 4:00P
TUES.-THURS.: 9:00A – 4:00P

**THE CHURCH OFFICE
IS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS.**

COMMITTEE ACTION NEEDED

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

SEPTEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

Income to General Fund September

Actual ** \$17,336.39
vs. Budgeted \$21,277.00

Expenses from General Fund September

Actual \$16,882.82
vs. Budgeted \$21,277.00

Year to Date Income General Fund

Actual \$175,210.24
vs. Budgeted \$191,493.00

Year to Date Expenses from General Fund

Actual \$180,751.97
vs. Budgeted \$191,493.00

***The 5-Cents a Meal Offering
for September was \$137.39.***

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCTOBER SESSION MEETING

Session received new member Betsy Moakler.

Christian Education Committee is pleased with the updating of a classroom – new paint and new furniture. Many thanks to Hal & Gwen Hunter, Anne & Gary Smith and David Miller for their generosity in painting the classroom.

Congregational Life is thrilled with the new refrigerator and freezer. (If you haven't seen them, peek into the kitchen and check them out.) Many thanks to Barbara Quisenberry for her very generous donation of these much needed appliances.

Local and Worldwide Missions

- ◆ Covenant will be teaming with UKirk (the Presbyterian Campus Ministry) to provide one meal a month for one of UKirk's programs.
- ◆ The committee has identified 20 children who will be served this year by our Angel Tree program.
- ◆ Please keep Bob and Kristi Rice in your prayers. South Sudan is a dangerous place. One of their recent blog posts reads that they "don't want to live in fear, and they seek wisdom to serve the needy."

Property

- ◆ Fall Clean-Up is Saturday, October 20th beginning at 9:00 a.m. and should be finished around lunchtime.
- ◆ Landscaping of the hill in the front yard under the cross is being addressed – grass will be planted.



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

Daylight Saving Time ENDS on Sunday, November 4th!
Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour
before you go to bed on Saturday night!



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Give, Act, Pray. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) responds to disasters in the U.S. and internationally. Please visit <http://pda.pcusa.org/> for details. If you wish to make a donation to this effort through the church, please make your checks payable to Covenant and note “PDA” on the memo line. You may also give online through the church website. Thank you for your support.

HABITAT T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPANTS AND DONORS

As a gesture of thanks and recognition, Holston Habitat for Humanity has provided a **free T-shirt** for each participant and supporter of the “Harrison Build” recently dedicated for use and occupancy. You may pick up your T-shirt in the Narthex.

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.