

# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—APRIL 2021

**We're open for in-person worship!** Please join us on **Easter Sunday, April 4**, for a brief Easter Sunrise Service at **7:00 AM** in the courtyard outside of the Narthex. (In the case of inclement weather, we will move inside the Sanctuary.) Then, join us for a traditional service in the sanctuary at **11:00 AM**. [*\*Covid-19 restrictions will apply. See below. Nursery will not be provided and Sunday school classes will still meet by Zoom.*]

## **IN THE PULPIT—APRIL**

On **Easter Sunday, April 4**, we welcome to our virtual and in-person pulpits the **Rev. Lee Clements**. Lee, a native of Louisville, KY, earned her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She served churches in Lexington, KY, and Martin, TN, until her retirement in 2015. Before attending seminary, Lee completed a career as a U.S. Naval officer. She is currently serving Covenant as Moderator of Session.

On **April 11 & 18**, we will welcome the **Rev. Dr. Brian Alderman** to our virtual and in-person pulpits. Brian, a native of Galax, VA, serves as Chaplain and Associate Professor of Religion at King University. He has taught at McAfee School of Theology (Mercer University), Lee University, and Hiwassee College. He also served as pastor of Madisonville Presbyterian Church in Madisonville, TN, and as chaplain at Hiwassee College. Brian lives in Bristol, TN with his wife, Monica, and their two children, Ella Kate & Wes.

On **April 25<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, we will welcome the **Rev. Edward Wolff** to our virtual and in-person pulpits. Ed, who was ordained into ministry in 1996 by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is a regular worshipper with the Covenant congregation.

## **COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES:**

In an effort to keep everyone healthy, we ask you to help by doing the following. There will be people here to guide you in and out of the building.

1. **If you are sick/not feeling well, please stay home.**
2. Upon entering the building, please wear a mask and use hand sanitizer. Both will be available.
3. Temperatures may be taken.
4. Pews will be roped off to allow social distancing. We ask that you sit 6 feet apart from people who are not in your immediate family unit.
5. We will not be singing hymns at this time. Jessica will provide music.

We will continue to provide online worship services for some time even after we return in person. These services will be available on Facebook and our new YouTube channel. Here are the links.

[https://www.facebook.com/Covenant-Presbyterian-Church-Johnson-City-TN-104423522965945/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/Covenant-Presbyterian-Church-Johnson-City-TN-104423522965945/videos/?ref=page_internal)

“Covenant Presbyterian Church Johnson City, TN”

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeBIAfieuA2oasXHkUoUyVg>

## **QUESTION FROM REOPENING TASK FORCE:**

*[If you have not already responded by email, please email or call the church office with your answer. office@cpcjc.org or 423-282-5324]*

As Covid-19 cases wax and wane in our area, the Reopening Task Force would like your help in determining how safe it is for us to continue to worship together in person. Please provide an answer to the following question:

How many members of your household, who are at least 16 years old, and attend Covenant, have received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine?

**Please respond by Friday, April 9, 2021.**

Thank you for your help, *The Reopening Task Force*

## **BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—MONDAY, APRIL 12 AT 6:00P (ZOOM)**

**Please email Ed Wolff at [bbwolff1937@gmail.com](mailto:bbwolff1937@gmail.com) for your Zoom invitation.**

Program title: Listening Circles: We listen deeply. We speak honestly. We explore patiently.

Do you see a need for safe opportunities to speak honestly and listen deeply to others and be heard on issues that matter, such as Black/White relationships? Do you believe we need a better way to understand one another? Are you interested in building a community that upholds dignity for all, respect for varied voices, and sincere interest in diverse perspectives?

If you do, please participate in the April 12 BWD meeting as Colin Hoover and Ramsey McGowen from Neighborhood Reconciliation Services lead an interactive discussion of listening circles and restorative practices. We will review the history and structure of listening circles as well as explore some of the ways listening circles are used to build social trust, explore community concerns, and lift up all voices. NRS believes communities are safer, more just, and more equitable when we work together to repair the harm caused by conflict.

**BWD Purpose:** Black/White Dialogue has been created to assist in our communication efforts to share stories, information, joys, and concerns about our ability to come together as a people desiring community, understanding, respect, and support for one another.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Several years ago, the Covenant Communications Committee embarked on the daunting task of bringing the Covenant website into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We am pleased to announce that the project is complete and the new site is live, <https://cpcjc.org/>.

Please take a few minutes to check out our new, informative, colorful website. Also, a big thanks to Communications Committee members, past and present, for their efforts, especially Jon Fales who got us started and to Don Hart who reworked the text and developed the new Logo. And a big thanks to Christian Schmid, who rebuilt the site with professionalism and creativity.

New content will be added/updated regularly. Let us know what you think.

*Ron Smith*, Chair, [ronDsmith1349@outlook.com](mailto:ronDsmith1349@outlook.com)

## **A NOTE FROM BOB ARMISTEAD...**

Covenant Presbyterian Church says we are an Earthcare Congregation! It is always in the bulletin.

To that end I am recommending a book: *“The Nature of Nature: Why We Need the Wild”* by Enric Sala. Dubbed “A Love Letter to the Planet.” (I found the book in the Johnson City library.)

Sala reveals that our survival depends on ALL species. From microbes to mammals, from seaweed to sharks, every living thing plays a crucial role in our interwoven biosphere. Honoring the natural world is an important principle across many faiths.

“Deep thanks to Pope Frances and others, for awakening in me (Enric Sala) the importance of spirituality for saving the natural world.” Published by Nat Geo Partners, LLC.

## **GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING**

The **Good Samaritan grocery carts** continue to be placed outside the double doors in front of the office, under the overhang, **between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.** Just drive up, load your items into the cart, and drive off! If you need help, honk your horn and Tina will be happy to assist you. The donations for the month will be picked up from the church after the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday to be delivered to Good Samaritan.

The grocery carts will be in the Narthex on Sundays.

**We will continue collecting the following food items as they are staples:**

**Jelly/Jam    Peanut Butter    Canned Veggies    Canned Fruits**

**Dry / Canned Beans    Rice    Soups**

**Cereals (hot and cold)    Canned Meats (Tuna, Vienna Sausage, etc.)**

If you wish to make a monetary donation, we will pass it along, too.



# MEMORIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF MILDRED MURPHY

BY

Carole Brittingham  
Patte Earley  
Ruth LeCompte  
Matt & Mavis Onks  
Joan Seaver  
William & Janice Serman  
Linda & Lew Wexler



To My Peeps at Covenant,

Thank you for all of the cards, the gifts, the White Rose, your well wishes and concerns, and for your prayers for me and my family since the loss of my sister, Lori, on March 6, 2021. Mostly, thank you for your love. I miss her every day and I don't know how I would be getting through this if it wasn't for all of you. You keep me in your thoughts, and you let me know that. You remind me that I'm loved and cared for. And, most of all, you keep me busy!!! I'm grateful for everything you do.

Love always,

*Tina*

## NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER:

**Doris Sanders has moved from NHC to Cornerstone South.**

213 University Pkwy., Rm. 315  
Johnson City, TN 37604  
**Landline: 423-232-5453**

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!



We are great-grandparents again! Our granddaughter, Annelise and her husband Johannes, celebrated the arrival of Espen Patrick Sandom on Thursday. All are doing well. We are blessed.

*David and Jeri DeWeese*

## CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS

Gary Davis, Charlotte Corbett's son-in-law; Carolyn Rowland, Gwen Hunter's mother; Doris Sanders; Tom Wolf, Julie Wood's brother; the families of those we have lost; all those suffering the health and economic effects of Covid-19.

### *Our mission co-workers:*

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan  
Jon & Kathy Christiansen: Zimbabwe

### *Ministries of the Presbytery:*

UKirk ETSU (Pres. Campus Ministry)  
Holston Presbytery Camp



## GIVING TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

There are various ways to contribute while the church building remains closed. Besides dropping off or mailing a check, or using online giving, it is also easy (and free) to set up automatic payments through your banking institution. Thank you for continuing to support the work of Covenant Presbyterian Church.

DONATE  
ONLINE

## FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

### Income to General Fund February

Actual \$24,083.87  
vs. Budgeted \$13,186.00

### Expenses from General Fund February

Actual \$9,088.25  
vs. Budgeted \$13,186.00

### Year to Date Income General Fund

Actual \$\*\*46,457.64  
vs. Budgeted \$26,372.00

### Year to Date Expenses from General Fund

Actual \$22,823.10  
vs. Budgeted \$26,372.00

*The 5-Cents a Meal Offering  
for February was \$35.00.*

*\*\*included pre-paid pledges from  
2020 and applied to 2021.*



**Covenant**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

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.)”*

### **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.

### **AFFIRMING ALL GOD’S CHILDREN:**

We at Covenant Presbyterian Church of Johnson City, Tennessee, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church (USA), aka PC(USA), present its Churchwide Antiracism Policy, first adopted in 1999 and revised in 2016. It proclaims the following:

“While recognizing that racism victimizes many different racial ethnic groups, we acknowledge its unique impact on the African American community. Given the particular forms that anti-Black racism has taken in the United States of America, both historically (including slavery and Jim Crow) and today (including mass incarceration, disproportionate policing, economic inequality, and continuing acts of racially oriented violence and hate), we state clearly: GOD LOVES BLACKNESS. Too many have denied this basic truth for too long. Our choice to align ourselves with love and not hate requires both a rejection of racism and a positive proclamation that God delights in Black lives.”

### **STATEMENT OF OPENNESS AND WELCOME**

We aspire to Christ’s model of openness and love for all persons. As God has welcomed us, we also welcome everyone into the life, leadership, and community of Christ’s church, regardless of abilities, age, economic status, education, ethnicity, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, social position or any identity or status that might be perceived as separating us from God or one another.

We pledge to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of each of God’s children, with membership, leadership, and employment open to whomever God calls.