

(As we enter the sanctuary, let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Please observe social distancing, keep your masks on while you are in the building, and please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.)

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

GREETING

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made!

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

PRELUDE

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

arr.: Robert Lowry

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Through the abundance of your steadfast love, O God,

People: **we will enter your house.**

Leader: Through the abundance of your steadfast love, O God,

People: **we will bow down in awe in your holy temple.**

Leader: Through the abundance of your steadfast love, O God,

People: **we will listen to your holy word.**

Leader: Through the abundance of your steadfast love, O God,

People: **we will follow the path you lay before us.**

Leader: Through the abundance of your steadfast love, O God,

People: **we will worship you in love and gratitude.**

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 263

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Almighty God who is our hope,

People: **Forgive us, Good Lord,
for what we waited to do until it was too late,
for what we mistakenly did before we thought twice,
for what we were able to do
because we ceased to see others as people,
for what we were unable to do
because we failed to see our own possibilities,
for what we pretended we could control
when we should have stood in awe,
for what we feared
which should have been made little and overcome.
Make us new so that we may begin anew;
in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news,
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE PEACE

Leader: As people forgiven by the abundant grace of God,
we are at peace with God,
and we are called to live in peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*p. 193—NT*)

Ephesians 3:14-21

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*p. 284—OT*)

2 Samuel 11:1-15

SERMON

Setting the Record Straight

Rev. Dr. Brian Alderman

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION # 498

"Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God:

**who welcomes our laughter
and moves us to wonder...**

We believe in Christ:

**who welcomes our questions
and loves us to trust...**

We believe in Spirit:

**who welcomes our doubts
and inspires us to faith.**

This we believe! Amen!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF SENDING # 515

"I Come with Joy"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Nyland"

arr.: Gordon Young

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

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Large-print Hymnals are available in the back of the sanctuary; and **large-print bulletins** are on the table in the Narthex.

Hearing Assist Devices are located in the rear of the Sanctuary. Disposable ear buds are available for your convenience. They can be disposed after use in the labeled slot. **Please note**, only one ear bud receives signal, so please check both buds to determine that the unit is working. Contact the church office with any other issues.

WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad you are here. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join with us in service to Christ.

This morning we welcome back to our pulpit the Rev. Dr. Brian Alderman. Brian is 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.

COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY

The **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** will be celebrated next Sunday. Take time this week to prepare yourself in prayer and meditation.

NEWSLETTER

The **AUGUST COURIER** is on the table in the Narthex, so if you have not already received it via email, please pick up your copy. There are extra copies on the table if you want a printed one, but **first look to see if there's one with your name on it.** You will also find the newsletter and August's calendar on our website: www.cpcjc.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLE BOOKS

The **2021-2022 PW Circle study books have arrived.** If you are in the Red Tent Circle, the Friendship Circle, or the Joy Circle, you may pick up your book from the workroom next to the church office. There's a sign-out sheet next to the box. If you're new to Covenant, or just haven't participated in PW Circles before, please see more information in your newsletter!

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR GLAY HOOD

From Marti Saltzman (Glax's daughter): "Please join us to celebrate the life of Glax Morgan Hood on Sunday, August 8 at 3:30 at the Down Home, 300 West Main Street, Johnson City. All are welcome!"

UPDATED STATEMENT ON MASKS

On behalf of Session and the Re-Opening Task Force:

Out of an abundance of caution, we advise that participants attending indoor activities at Covenant continue to wear masks until the risk level of COVID-19 infection is low. The CDC guidelines relaxing the wearing of masks apply to fully vaccinated individuals. Our informal poll of Covenant worship attendees found that approximately 20% are not vaccinated. There are some that are too young, are allergic, or are immunosuppressed and can't be fully vaccinated. To determine the COVID-19 risk level, we are using the Covid Tracker website for Washington county:

https://covidactnow.org/us/tennessee-tn/county/washington_county/

We will check the website each week, and when the parameters are all in the **green - low risk - zone**, we will email a notice and place signs on the doors indicating that **masks are voluntary**. Should the COVID-19 risk level cross back into the **yellow - medium risk - zone**, we will email a notice and place signs on the doors that **masks are required**. Thank you.

STUFF THE BUS UPDATE

The Local & Worldwide Missions Committee would like to send out a HUGE Thank YOU for your support for our local mission - Stuff the Bus. Your donations will make a big impact and difference this year in the lives of the at-risk children in the Johnson City Schools. Between the items you brought in and the \$535.00 (!!!) in monetary contributions, our church was able to donate **six large boxes of school supplies, which included 65 backpacks.** Wow! That's amazing!

Thank you for sharing God's love,
The Local & Worldwide Missions Committee



ITEMS FOR UPCOMING GARAGE SALE

We continue to accept items for the **Church Wide Garage Sale**, which is scheduled for Saturday, August 7th. The proceeds will go toward supporting Covenant's mission activities. We will accept any donated items, except for clothing. Items are being stored in the classroom next to the kitchen off the Fellowship Hall. (The basement storage area is FULL). The Habitat for Humanity "Restore" will receive all donated items that do not sell.

We also need volunteers to help with organizing, pricing, and then working on the day of the sale. If you feel led to help support this effort, contact any of the LWWMC members, or email Don Coble at dwcoble1@gmail.com.

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."

CPC 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.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgist:

Jim Starr
Eileen Madden

CHURCH STAFF

Music Director:
Office Administrator:
Administrative Assistant:

Jessica Siple
Tina Simon
Anne Webb

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week of July 25—31, 2021

Gary Salazar, friend of Cynthia Erdei.
Vance Egan, friend of the Cobles.
Pat Zembower, Christian's mom, has improved in health over the past month. She is now back at home with Tom and is taking care of herself more independently as well. The cancer that was detected in her colon was a misdiagnosis. Please continue to keep her/them in your prayers.
Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter, who continues her recovery at home.
Gary Davis, Charlotte Corbett's son-in-law.
Sarah Campbell, Sharon Fuhrman's granddaughter.

Join us in continually lifting up in prayer our mission co-workers:

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan
Jon & Kathy Christiansen: Zimbabwe
and Ministries of the Presbytery:
UKirk ETSU (Pres. Campus Ministry)
Holston Presbytery Camp

ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving is available through our website at www.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. 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. *If you have any questions, please contact Tina in the church office.*

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – 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.

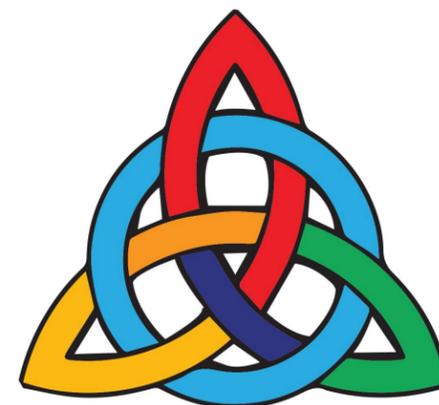


In the event of emergency, be aware that our Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Unit is located on the wall outside the front door of the Church Office.



Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud to have received the designation of being an Earth Care Congregation, through the PC (USA).

Covenant Presbyterian Church has been certified as a **Recovery Congregation** by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

423-282-5324 ♦ fax 423-282-5346 ♦ office@cpcjc.org ♦ www.cpcjc.org

Facebook: "Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)"

Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

JULY 25, 2021

9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Father, help us to worship you in spirit and in truth, that our consciences may be quickened by your holiness, our minds nourished by your truth, our imagination purified by your beauty, our hearts opened by your love, our wills surrendered to your purpose; and may all this be gathered up in adoration, as we ascribe glory, praise and honor to you alone, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

--Howard Booth