

(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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
People: **Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

Leader: Know that the LORD is God.
People: **It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
People: **Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

Leader: For the LORD is good;
People: **his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

All: Let us worship God together.

*OPENING PRAYER

***HYMN OF PRAISE** # 41 "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!"

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Holy and merciful God,
People: **in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you and against each other. You alone know how often we have sinned; in wandering from your ways, in failing to use your gifts, in forgetting your love.**
Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for the times we have disappointed you, Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

READING FROM THE PSALMS (p. 573—OT) Psalm 130

GOSPEL READING (p. 98—NT) John 6:35, 41-51

SERMON Murmuring, Prayer, and the Life of Faith Rev. Dr. Brian Alderman

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN OF CONTEMPLATION** # 286 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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** # 65 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

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.

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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 once again welcome the Rev. Dr. Brian Alderman to the pulpit. 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.

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. The Red Tent Circle will begin this month (Thursday, August 19 at 7:00 PM); the others will begin in September. Details are in your August Courier.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The weekly Men's Bible Study group has begun meeting again on Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 AM!! All men of the church (and friends of the men in the church) are invited. We will 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.

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.

BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—MONDAY, AUGUST 9 FROM 6 TO 8 PM—ZOOM

Topic of the month: Dr. Daryl Carter will facilitate a discussion on the current sensitive issue of Critical Race Theory as it applies to education in the public school system. Dr. Carter is a professor of history, focusing on African-American history. He is also Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences for Diversity and Inclusion.

Please contact Ed Wolff at bbwolff1937@gmail.com for details.

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, Monday thru Thursday**. Just drive up, load your items into the cart, and drive off! The grocery carts will be in the hallway 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. Thank you for your generous donations to this local ministry!

GIVING TO THE CHURCH

Besides online giving or dropping off or mailing a check, it is also easy (and free) to set up **automatic payments** through your banking institution or online BillPay. Thank you for continuing to support the work of Covenant Presbyterian Church. *If you have any questions, please contact Tina in the church office.*

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.

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, August 8

8:30a	Issues Class on Zoom
9:45a	Sojourner's Class in person
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class in person
11:00a	Worship Service
1:00p	Session Mtg
4:00p	Fellowship Hall reserved (mtg.)
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Monday, August 9

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
6p—8p	Black/White Dialogue on Zoom
7:00p	NarAnon Mtg

Tuesday, August 10

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
10:00a	Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p	Al-Anon Mtg
8:00p	PNC Mtg. on Zoom

Wednesday, August 11

Noon—2p	Sanctuary reserved
10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Thursday, August 12

8:30a	Men's Bible Study
10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
Noon	Al-Anon Mtg

Friday, August 13

Re-Store picking up items from Garage Sale	
6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgist:

Jim Starr
Anne Smith

CHURCH STAFF

Music Director:
Office Administrator:
Administrative Assistant:

Jessica Siple
Tina Simon
Anne Webb

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week of August 8—14, 2021

Fred Lewis, friend of the Cobles, who has cancer that has spread to his brain.
Gary Salazar, friend of Cynthia Erdei.
Vance Egan, friend of the Cobles.
Pat Zembower, Christian's mom.
Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter.
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

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.



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

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

Instagram: @covenantpcjohnsoncity

AUGUST 8, 2021

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

We live in a world divided. Yet know that God dwells even there, in all places, in this time. And also know that there is no real division for everything is in God and God is with all. We are one in God's oneness. Be aware of that sacred presence. Let it strengthen you. Let it transform you.

Build shalom. Love with abandon. Abide in peace.

(Diana Butler Bass)