

(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: Women and men, children and teen-agers, friends and neighbors, enemies and strangers,

People: draw near to the God of love.

Leader: Wise and foolish, compassionate and angry, loving and kind, disappointed and discouraged,

People: draw near to the God of love.

Leader: Sinners and saints, selfish and generous, strong and weak, courageous and fearful,

People: draw near to the God of love.

Leader: From all walks of life, as one body gathered here in Christ's arms of grace,

People: draw near to the God of love.

Let us worship the God who loves us.

*OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Merciful God,

People: we confess that we have not followed your way.

We sow the seeds of conflict while you seek the harvest of peace.

We argue about who is greatest while you welcome the last and least.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Draw near to us this day with the wisdom of your Word, and teach us how to serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Isaiah tells us, "You shall be like a watered garden, like a deep spring whose waters never fail."

Feel like a watered garden, ready to thrive and grow, knowing that you are soaked in the waters of forgiveness.

Friends, believe the good news—in Jesus Christ you are forgiven and energized for the journey!

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. 489—OT)*

Psalm 1

NEW TESTAMENT READING *(p. 230—NT)*

James 3:12-4:3, 7-8a

SERMON

Deeply Rooted

Rev. Dr. Brian Alderman

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

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.

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, September 22, 2021.

A NEW PASTOR FOR COVENANT!

As most of you already know, we have a new pastor! **The Rev. Maggie Rust will be in the pulpit on Sunday, October 31, 2021.** She's written us a letter (it was included in the email announcement). There are copies of it on the table in the Narthex if you would like to have one. This is an exciting time! We thank the PNC for their dedication and commitment to finding just the right person for Covenant.

CHURCH FALL CLEAN-UP DAY—SATURDAY, SEPT. 25, 2021

Please join the Property Committee on Saturday, September 25th from 9 to Noon for Church Fall Clean-Up Day! The Committee will have some cleaning materials available, but everyone is encouraged to bring cleaning-type supplies and materials, such as cleaning cloths/buckets/brooms/step ladders, etc. The work tasks will be split into groups such as window cleaning group, floor cleaning group, landscape bed cleaning, etc., so come prepared to work on a particular task, or several. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a Property Committee member.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLE BOOKS

If you have not picked up your book for the Red Tent, the Friendship, or the Joy Circle, they are on the counter in the church office workroom.

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!

ITEMS FOR THE RIVER'S CRAFT SALE NEEDED

The River's Craft & Goodies Fair is coming up in October and they are looking for **donations of handmade crafts and goodies** for this fundraiser. If you are a baker, crafter, or maker, please contact Stacy Larsen at theriverministryforwomen@yahoo.com or 423-926-8111 to learn more about donating for the Fair.

And be sure to **SAVE THE DATE** for the sale: It's **Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Pavilion behind The River at First Presbyterian Church.

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.

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.

STATEMENT ON MASKS

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

Out of an abundance of caution, we require participants attending indoor activities at Covenant to wear masks.



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.



TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Liturgist:

Jim Starr
Stacy Larsen

CHURCH STAFF

Music Director:
Office Administrator:
Administrative Assistant:

Jessica Siple
Tina Simon
Anne Webb

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week of September 19—25, 2021

Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter.
Sharon Fuhrman, who is recovering from double pneumonia.
Gary Salazar, friend of Cynthia Erdei.
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

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, September 19

8:30a
9:30a
11:00a
7:00p

Issues Class on Zoom
Sojourner's Class on Zoom
Worship Service
N.A. Mtg

Monday, September 20

10a—3p
7:00p

Good Sam Food Dropoff
NarAnon Mtg

Tuesday, September 21

10a—3p
10:00a
7:00p

Good Sam Food Dropoff
Al-Anon Mtg
Al-Anon Mtg

Wednesday, September 22

Noon—2p
7:00p
7:00p

Church Office Closed
Sanctuary reserved
Chancel Choir on Zoom
N.A. Mtg

Thursday, September 23

10a—3p
Noon

Good Sam Food Dropoff
Al-Anon Mtg

Friday, September 24

6:30p

Al-Anon Mtg



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

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

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing
on the church in this place.

Here may the faithful find salvation,
and the careless be awakened.

Here may the doubting find faith,
and the anxious be encouraged.

Here may the tempted find help,
and the sorrowful find comfort.

Here may the weary find rest,
and the strong be renewed.

Here may the aged find consolation
and the young be inspired;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.