

# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## COURIER – OCTOBER 2021

### GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW PASTOR!

*As announced by the PNC on September 12, the Rev. Maggie Rust will begin on Sunday, October 31, 2021. Here is the letter she wrote to us:*

To the community of faith at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Grace and Peace!

When I left the Tri-Cities after graduating from King College, I didn't yet know that I would one day return to such a special part of the world. Joining you in Johnson City will be something of a homecoming for me! Having grown up in the foothills south of Knoxville, the mountains of Tennessee will always have a special place in my heart. While I love to travel (and have been and lived in lots of different places!), there's something about coming home that's unlike any other feeling.

Perhaps that's why I've always been drawn to stories of faith told through the lens of pilgrimage. Our scriptures are full of tales of nomads and wanderers – those who sought out promised places and followed where the Spirit led. It was Rabbi Abraham Heschel who called faith “an endless pilgrimage of the heart.” We are all of us on a journey, ever deeper into our discipleship, until we arrive at last at Home in the heart of God.

I am thrilled that the Spirit has guided the next stretch of my path to be with Covenant Presbyterian Church. I cannot wait to meet you as fellow travelers, to share our stories and our hopes, and discover together where God might be leading us next! Know that you are already in my prayers ahead of my arrival; may the Lord richly bless us all along the way!

Shalom,

*Rev. Maggie Rust*

### 2022 STEWARDSHIP SEASON

As we approach Stewardship season, it is time to begin considering what you can pledge as your financial support for the work of our church for the coming year. It is from these pledges that our Stewardship Committee and Session are able to develop our budget for the coming year. With our recent affirmative vote to call the Reverend Maggie Rust to our pulpit in a full-time capacity starting October 31st, our personal financial contributions will be even more essential to maintain a healthy budget for 2022.

The practice of generosity is a faith discipline. Growing in generosity is the mark of a developing faith and a deeper walk with Christ. As a congregation, we are seeking to be fed spiritually and to actively engage the world where its deepest needs meet our abilities, and with God's help, to be a difference for good.

It has continued to be an interesting and challenging time as COVID-19 has changed the way we all interact. The Session, Worship Committee and other members of our church have worked creatively to adjust our virtual and in person formats that permit us to continue to operate in this ever-changing landscape. Our church staff continues to work diligently to stay in touch and keep you informed about church-wide news and activities. We continue to enjoy our wonderful music program on Sunday morning in conjunction with dedicated ministers who share God's word and plan for us. Sunday school classes provide personal interaction and spiritual enrichment to our congregation, and mission activities provide physical and monetary support to those in need, while Session and its committees continue to ensure the business of our church is taken care of.

It is in times like these that the church shows its real strength as a community of faith that glorifies God any way it can. Pledge cards will be mailed in the coming weeks. Please mail them back or drop them off at the church as soon as you can, or even, in this time of “virtual-ity”, email your 2022 pledge intention to the church office at [office@cpcjc.org](mailto:office@cpcjc.org). We thank you for supporting Covenant Presbyterian Church in the past and ask that you prayerfully consider what to contribute both in terms of financial support and time and effort this coming year.

Many blessings,

Your Stewardship Committee: *Kathi Cary, Bud King, Gary Smith, & Lauri Zembower*

**NOTE from Tina:** I will be out of town from October 1 – 10. The church office will be closed. If you have an emergency, you may contact Pat Smith at 940-390-5607 or dalpsmith@gmail.com or leave a voicemail on the church phone. Messages will be checked.



### IN THE PULPIT—OCTOBER

October 3	Rev. Lee Clements
October 10	John Golden
October 17	Rev. Dr. Brian Alderman
October 31	Rev. Maggie Rust!!!

### 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!

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

The Issues Class continues to meet on Zoom at 8:30a, contact is Jerry Nagel at [swnjwn4@gmail.com](mailto:swnjwn4@gmail.com); the Sojourners Class continues to meet on Zoom at 9:45a;

contact is Ron Smith at [ronDsmith1349@outlook.com](mailto:ronDsmith1349@outlook.com). The Bible Discovery Sunday School: Contact Bob Armistead at 423-202-3270 for the latest schedule.

### 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 8:30 to 9:30 AM. When the church is open to Covenant-sponsored activities again, 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. **Contact Bob Armistead at 423-202-3270 to make certain they are meeting in person.**

### BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—MONDAY, OCTOBER 11 FROM 6 TO 8 PM—ZOOM



The next Black/White Dialogue Zoom meeting will be on Monday, October 11, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. The topic will be "A Spiritual Pathway for Freedom and Mutuality for a Nation Divided by Race." Contact Ed Wolff at [bbwolff1937@gmail.com](mailto:bbwolff1937@gmail.com) for details.

### ATTN: COMMITTEE CHAIRS / LIAISONS

It's time to prepare your **2022 budget requests**. Please turn them in to Gary Smith by October 31, 2021.

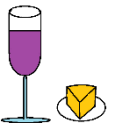
### BABMOC

BABMOC wants to thank all those who donated backpacks for our students. **155 children** finished the school year on August 22, and we anticipate the government to allow the next school year to start in November. <http://www.babmoc.org>.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### **2021-22 HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY: WHAT MY GRANDMOTHERS TAUGHT ME LEARNING FROM THE WOMEN IN MATTHEW'S GENEALOGY OF JESUS**



All of the women of the church, and friends of the women in the church, are invited to attend our monthly PW Circle study groups. There are three (3) groups from which to choose: one daytime, one evening, and one that is switching it up depending on the weather! All 3 use the same study book, which is available for pick up in the church office workroom on Sundays or during office hours. The Circles meet from Fall to Spring, and take Summers off. If you are interested in knowing more about the PW Circles, please connect with one the contacts.

- The **Red Tent Circle** meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on Thurs., October 14, at 7:00 PM at the home of BJ King, 8 Fox Run Lane. Contact BJ King to confirm.
- The **Friendship Circle** meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the church library at 1:30 PM. Their first meeting **may** be on Wednesday, October 13. Contact Elaine Warehime to confirm.
- The **Joy Circle** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Unless they change the day/time. The next meeting **MAY** be on Tues., October 12, at 11:00 a.m. at Metro Kiwanis Pavilion. Contact Anne Smith to find out!!!

### LOCAL & WORLD WIDE MISSIONS MESSAGE

Hello from the Local and World Wide Missions Committee,

As you all know, we had to cancel our proposed Garage Sale twice, due to the pandemic. We had already decided to send all of the unsold items to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, so due to the uncertainty of the pandemic environment and the lack of good storage space, the committee voted to just send everything to the ReStore. Our hope is that they will be able to make more money selling things out of their storefront than we would make in a garage sale atmosphere. The good news is that we collected 3 truckloads of useful items! The ReStore was very impressed and thankful.

Well done, Covenant!! Not only have we supplied some much-needed items for families who are trying to start a new home, and provided needed income for the Habitat for Humanity program; we have also made our own homes more livable and spacious.

Many thanks to all those who donated their time and materials for this effort. Please keep the ReStore in mind for any future items you may wish to donate. Call (423) 378-4760 if you have any questions. Stay safe and stay well,

*Local and World Wide Missions Committee*



### ELDERS OF COVENANT (SESSION)

#### Class of 2021

Don Hart, Communications  
Bud King, Admin. & Budget  
Pat Smith, Christian Ed.  
Frankie Wolff, Cong. Life

#### Class of 2022

Betsy Moakler, Cong. Life  
Anne Smith, Christian Ed.  
David L. Wood, Worship  
Tony Madden, Property

#### Class of 2023

Kathi Cary, Worship & Clerk of Session  
\*Don Coble, LWWM  
\*Gwen Hunter, Cong. Life  
Lauri Zembower, Admin. & Budget  
[\*Extending one year per PC(USA)  
Covid-19 guidelines.]



## MEMORIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

**GIVEN IN MEMORY OF  
MARTHA FRANCIS**

(Ann Freemans' mother)

By

Marilou & John Hildenbrand



**GIVEN IN MEMORY OF  
MARY DEROUEN**

By

Betty Maletich



**GIVEN IN MEMORY OF  
BRUCE BALLARD**

(former member)

By

Marvin Dickerson

## CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS

Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter.

Sharon Fuhrman, who is recovering from double pneumonia.

Gary Salazar, friend of Cynthia Erdei.

Sarah Campbell, Sharon Fuhrman's granddaughter.

### Our mission co-workers:

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan

Jon & Kathy Christiansen: Zimbabwe

### Ministries of the Presbytery:

UKirk ETSU (Pres. Campus Ministry)

olston Presbytery Camp

## AUGUST TREASURER'S REPORT

### Income to General Fund

#### August

Actual	\$12,129.54
vs. Budgeted	\$13,186.00

### Expenses from General Fund

#### August

Actual	\$9,658.04
vs. Budgeted	\$13,186.00

### Year to Date Income

#### General Fund

Actual	\$ **124,030.76
vs. Budgeted	\$105,488.00

### Year to Date Expenses from

#### General Fund

Actual	\$86,380.62
vs. Budgeted	\$105,488.00

*The 5-Cents a Meal Offering  
for August was \$43.00.*

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

## ONLINE GIVING

Did you know that you can make your contributions to the church online?

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.

DONATE  
ONLINE

## **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](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.