

*(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: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

People: **Soli Deo gloria!**

PRELUDE "All Creatures of Our God and King" arr: H. Helvey

\*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 119

Leader: Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

People: **Teach us, O God, to follow your path of righteousness.**

Leader: I will seek the Lord with my whole heart; I will steadfastly keep God's commands.

People: **Let us praise the Lord with an upright zeal; let us serve faithfully all our days.**

Leader: I will delight in the word of the Lord; I will meditate daily on God's precepts.

People: **May the Spirit grant us greater understanding, that we may grow in love as we worship our glorious God!**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God of love and justice,

People: **we long for peace within and without.**

**We pray for serenity in the midst of struggle, mindful of those times we have contributed to the chaos of our own and other lives.**

**We have not always walked in the way of your wisdom and we have been fearful of giving our whole selves to your faithful service.**

**Forgive us Lord.**

**Grant us courage and grace as we seek to be ambassadors of your kingdom in a broken world.**

**All this we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends:

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for us; as far as the east is from the west, so far will the Lord remove our transgressions.

Hear the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

#### SHARING 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

FIRST LESSON (p. 735—OT) Jeremiah 31:31-34

SECOND LESSON (p. 49—NT) Mark 12:28-34

SERMON Rev. Maggie Rust

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Chapter XIV of *The Scots Confession*

**We confess and acknowledge that God has given us a holy law, in which not only all such works as displease and offend God's majesty are forbidden, but also those which please the Lord, and which God has promised to reward, are commanded.**

**These works are of two kinds. The one is done to the honor of God, the other to the profit of our neighbor, and both have the revealed will of God as their assurance. To have one God, to worship and honor alone, to call upon in all our troubles, to revere the holy Name, to hear God's Word and believe it, and to share in the holy sacraments, belong to the first kind. To save the lives of the innocent, to repress tyranny, to defend the oppressed, to deal justly with all in word and deed, to love and support and repress any desire to harm our neighbor, are the good works of the second kind, and are most pleasing and acceptable to God as the Lord has commanded.**

#### 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.**

#### INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN OF REFLECTION # 694 "Great God of Every Blessing"

## GOING OUT TO SERVE

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" arr.: A. Jordan

\*Please rise, in body or spirit.

**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.

*The flowers in the pulpit this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving and remembrance of my dear friend, Jeter Collins. Love, Helen Davis*

## 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.

## REV. MAGGIE RUST—CONTACT INFO

Pastor Maggie's email address will be [pastormaggie@cpcjc.org](mailto:pastormaggie@cpcjc.org). Of course, the phone number to contact her is our office number: 423-282-5324. Welcome to Covenant, Pastor Maggie!!

## MESSAGE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship letters with pledge cards enclosed have been mailed to you. If you didn't receive one, there are pledge cards and envelopes on the table in the Narthex. It is from your pledges that our Stewardship Committee and Session are able to develop our budget for the coming year.

**Dedication Sunday will be next week, November 7<sup>th</sup>.** Please place a sealed envelope containing your card(s) in an offering plate by November 7 or deliver it to the church office by that date, or even, in this time of "virtual-ity", e-mail your 2022 pledge intention to the church office at [office@cpcjc.org](mailto:office@cpcjc.org).

We hope all that is happening at Covenant will inspire you to support its work generously. We encourage you to pray for guidance in your giving and that you will be called to increase your support of Covenant in 2022.

## NEWSLETTER

The **NOVEMBER COURIER** will be mailed and/or emailed to you early this week. You will also be able to find the newsletter and November's calendar on our website: [www.cpcjc.org](http://www.cpcjc.org). **As a heads-up**, Sunday, November 7 will be Stewardship Dedication Sunday, Communion, we will commemorate All Saints Day, and we will have a basket out for the 5 Cents a Meal Offering. Please check with your committee leaders to see if you have a meeting scheduled this week. Tina's office hours will again be erratic, so call before you come if you need something from her.

## GENTLE REMINDER: COMMITTEE BUDGETS DUE

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

## 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!

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IS ENDING

**Daylight Saving Time ENDS at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 7.** Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour **before you go to bed** on Saturday (Nov. 6) night!!

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.*



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  
Cynthia Erdei

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:  
Music Director:  
Office Administrator:  
Administrative Assistant:

Rev. Maggie Rust  
Jessica Siple  
Tina Simon  
Anne Webb

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Week of October 31—November 6, 2021

Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter.  
Sharon Fuhrman, who is still recovering from double pneumonia.  
Gary Salazar, friend of Cynthia Erdei.  
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, October 31

8:30a  
9:30a  
9:45a  
11:00a  
7:00p

Issues Class on Zoom  
Sojourner's Class on Zoom  
Bible Discovery Class in person  
Worship Service  
N.A. Mtg

### Monday, Nov. 1

10a—3p  
7:00p

Good Sam Food Dropoff  
NarAnon Mtg

### Tuesday, Nov. 2

10a—3p  
10:00a  
7:00p  
7:00p

Good Sam Food Dropoff  
Al-Anon Mtg  
Property Committee Mtg on Zoom?  
Al-Anon Mtg

### Wednesday, Nov. 3

10a—3p  
Noon—2p  
7:00p  
7:00p

Good Sam Food Dropoff  
Sanctuary reserved  
Chancel Choir on Zoom  
N.A. Mtg

### Thursday, Nov. 4

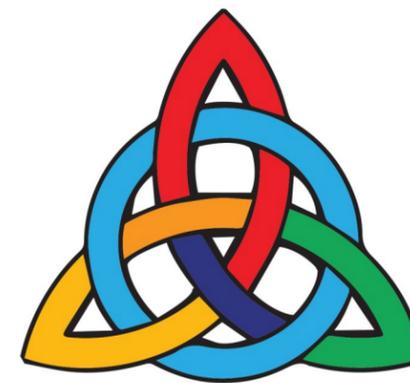
8:30a  
11a—3p  
Noon

Men's Bible Study (Library)  
Good Sam Food Dropoff  
Al-Anon Mtg

### Friday, Nov. 5

6:30p

Al-Anon Mtg



# 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

## OCTOBER 31, 2021 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST REFORMATION SUNDAY

## 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.