

# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## COURIER — NOVEMBER 2021

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### GRATITUDE

The members of Session would like to thank the Rev. Lee Clements for serving as our Session Moderator for the past year. Lee provided guidance and encouragement and served as pulpit supply on several occasions.

We are now recording our in-person worship service and posting on Facebook at approximately 12:30 PM on Sunday mornings.

I'd like to thank the following people who have worked diligently so that we could continue to worship together either at church or virtually throughout the pandemic:

- Mary O'Keeffe and Shannon Moakler: For being part of the virtual worship team for the past 20 months. This team has assembled and posted the virtual worship service for every Sunday for 80+ weeks.
- Jessica Siple: For getting us started when the pandemic began and providing music for the virtual services every week. Without you, we could not have done the virtual service.
- Those who were liturgists, both virtual and in person.
- Tina Simon: For recruiting liturgists and pulpit supply and putting together the virtual (and in person) bulletins.
- Hal Hunter: For tirelessly and persistently working with the live streaming equipment so that now we can record worship live.
- All those who donated towards the purchasing of the live-streaming equipment.

Thank you,

*Kathi Cary*, Clerk of Session

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### STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY — NOVEMBER 7, 2021

This is the time of the year when we, as a church, formally set in place our budget for the next year. **Our budget is more than numbers on a page**, it is a mission document that states clearly what we plan to accomplish and who we, at Covenant, pledge to be in the year to come. And so, we turn to you, our members and friends, and ask you to consider your personal giving and **pledge for 2022**. Help us to continue doing the works of love and mercy in which we are currently involved; Help us to go further in expanding our work here and beyond; Help us to look to the future with the confidence to dream big for what God can do in and through Covenant Presbyterian Church.

You are invited to place your pledge card in the offering plate, or you can bring it by, or mail it, or even email it to the church office. Thank you for your commitment and generosity in all that we do together at Covenant!

Many blessings,

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

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### GET TO KNOW OUR NEW PASTOR!

Pastor Maggie is eager to get to know the members of Covenant and start putting names to faces (with and without masks!). We want to let you know about a few upcoming opportunities to make that happen:

- There will be a **Zoom Meet & Greet** with Pastor Maggie on Sunday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm. Join us for a fun time of fellowship and a couple of get-to-know-you games! (*A Zoom invitation will be sent out by email.*)
- There are also sign-ups on the table in the Narthex for times to schedule a **visit** during the next two weeks. Pastor Maggie is happy to meet in the office, at a park, over coffee, or wherever works for you!
- You can also call the office or email [pastormaggie@cpcjc.org](mailto:pastormaggie@cpcjc.org) to be in touch.

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR MAGGIE

Ever since I was a kid, Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday. It's a day to gather with family, to eat good food, and perhaps most importantly to practice gratitude. 'Counting your blessings' has long been a Christian prayer discipline. It's incredible how taking time to be intentionally thankful can help brighten our perspectives and lift our spirits, even in difficult seasons.

This year, I am especially thankful for Covenant Presbyterian Church. I'm grateful for the warm welcome I've received in Johnson City – for gifts, meals, and a bright banner to show your hospitality and enthusiasm for my arrival! I appreciate those of you who have called and sent cards, introducing yourselves and offering help as I get to know a new community and settle into a new place. I am honored to be among you, and I'm so excited to see how the Spirit will bless our ministry together!

Thank you all and may God continue to shine on us faithfully.

Grace and Peace,

*Rev. Maggie Rust*

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## JEWELRY SALE FOR THE RIVER: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 FROM 2 – 4 PM

Kick off your holiday celebrations at **Cynthia Erdei's Bi-Annual Jewelry Sale on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 4 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. There will be goodies, laughter, friends to visit, and lots of necklaces and earrings to pick from. This is a great way to start your gift buying, whether for friends or family-or for yourself! **As before, all profits go to The River Ministry**, where women help women help themselves. (Covid-19 guidelines will be followed and masks are required)

*The River provides women in poverty both a safe place to meet basic needs on a daily basis and additional support programs that educate and empower women for independent living while sharing loads of God's love.*

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## GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

The Good Samaritan grocery cart continues 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 through the end of the year 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!

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## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- The **Red Tent Circle** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on Thurs., November 11, at 7:00 PM at the home of BJ King, 8 Fox Run Lane. Contact is BJ King.
  - The **Friendship Circle** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month in the church library at 1:30 PM. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 10 at 1:30 PM. Contact is Elaine Warehime.
  - The **Joy Circle** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Unless they change the day/time. The next meeting MAY be on Tues., November 9, at 11:00 a.m. at Metro Kiwanis Pavilion. Contact is Anne Smith.
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## 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 is meeting in person at 9:45a: contact is Bob Armistead at 423-202-3270.

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## 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 in the church library. 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 is Bob Armistead at 423-202-3270 .

## **BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8 FROM 6 TO 8 PM—ZOOM**



The next Black/White Dialogue meeting will be on Zoom on Monday, November 8, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Topic: In 2020, the Johnson City Commission approved moving forward on becoming a certified **Child-friendly City**. Providing a **Child-friendly City** is a reflection of the city's five-year plan. We will discuss this subject at the November 8 BWD Zoom meeting, beginning at 6:00 PM. Julia Turpin, Director of the Johnson City Library, and Dr. David Wood, local pediatrician will lead the discussion. Becoming a **Child-friendly City** could have a major positive impact on future generations of the marginalized and minorities living in our region. Contact Ed Wolff at [bbwolff1937@gmail.com](mailto:bbwolff1937@gmail.com) for details.

### **THANKS, FROM JOHNSON CITY SCHOOLS**

Friends, I wanted to say Thank You for helping us collect so many school supplies for our “Stuff the Bus” drive. We really appreciate your support and kindness. Our community is vital in the support and shaping of our students!

Thank You, *Sydnee DeBusk*

### **MONTHLY MOVIE MATINÉE**

The Saturday afternoon theater in the church library is closed for now.

### **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.]*

### **ATTN: COMMITTEE CHAIRS / LIAISONS**

If you have not turned in your committee's budget request for 2022, please do so as soon as possible. You may email them to the office at [office@cpcjc.org](mailto:office@cpcjc.org) or give them directly to Gary Smith.

### **CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS**

Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter.  
Sharon Fuhrman, who is recovering from double pneumonia.  
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)  
Holston Presbytery Camp

### **FALL Back!**

**Daylight Saving Time ENDS on Sunday, Nov. 7!**  
**Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour**  
**before you go to bed on Saturday night!**



## **SEPTEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **Income to General Fund September**

**Actual**                      **\$11,615.33**  
**vs. Budgeted**            **\$13,186.00**

### **Expenses from General Fund September**

**Actual**                      **\$11,068.42**  
**vs. Budgeted**            **\$13,186.00**

### **Year to Date Income General Fund**

**Actual**                      **\$ \*\*135,646.09**  
**vs. Budgeted**            **\$118,512.00**

### **Year to Date Expenses from General Fund**

**Actual**                      **\$97,449.04**  
**vs. Budgeted**            **\$118,512.00**

*The 5-Cents a Meal Offering  
for September was \$30.00.*

*\*\*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.



## **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.