

# COVENANT COURIER



Covenant  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

# APRIL 2022

## HOLY WEEK AT COVENANT

**PALM SUNDAY:** *April 10, 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.*

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** *April 14, 5:30 PM*

Please join us for a Maundy Thursday dinner and service at Covenant with Watauga Ave. Presbyterian. Weather permitting, we will be outside. Otherwise, we will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Please sign up in the Narthex or by calling or e-mailing the church office by April 11.

**GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 15, Noon**

There will be a Good Friday Service at Watauga Ave. Presbyterian Church beginning at Noon. (610 E. Watauga Ave., J.C.) We encourage everyone to attend.

**EASTER SUNDAY: April 17**

**Sunrise Service** at 7:00 AM—This will be a brief service followed by refreshments.

**Traditional Service** at 11 AM in the Sanctuary.



## LENTEN STUDY

We continue our partnership with Watauga Avenue Presbyterian to study Rachel Held Evans' book *Inspired* on **Wednesdays during Lent**. There are two sessions being held on Wednesdays, one is in person, alternating between the host churches at 3:30 PM, and the other is on Zoom at 7 PM. **The next in-person session will be at Covenant on March 30. Zoom invitations will be emailed every week on Wednesday morning.**

**Here is the schedule for the 3:30 PM in-person sessions:**

March 30: Covenant      April 6: Watauga Avenue      April 13: Covenant

## HOLY WEEK LABYRINTH

Walking a labyrinth can provide a time for prayerful reflection and meditation. Again this year we will have one on the lawn in the front of the church during Holy Week. Labyrinths have been used for centuries in Christian churches as a way to deepen prayer lives. A Labyrinth is like a maze, but it has no dead ends. The walk to the center of the labyrinth represents our life's journeys – there are many twists and turns, but life's path will lead us to the center. The center represents that part of ourselves that is irrevocably connected to God (nothing can “separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”). After prayerful reflection in the center, the walk away from the center represents our taking the grace we have received in our relationship with God out into the world through seeking justice, through acts of loving kindness and through humility.

## COVENANT HOLY WEEK SCAVENGER HUNT

We are hosting the first ever Covenant Holy Week Scavenger Hunt which will begin on Sunday, April 10 when we will distribute a list of items to find/do. People can participate as individuals or teams. The "hunt" will culminate on Saturday, April 16 at 3:00 PM with cookies/lemonade on the lawn to celebrate, share our "finds," and give a few prizes!

**April 24<sup>th</sup> is EARTH CARE SUNDAY. Come to a special service of worship as we celebrate Creation.**

## UPDATED STATEMENT ON MASKS

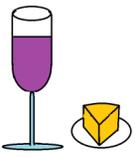
On behalf of Session:

Out of an abundance of caution, we require participants attending indoor activities at Covenant to wear masks, unless Washington County is in the **Yellow** or **Green** zone on CovidActNow.org. Then masks will be optional. The weekly email announcement to prepare for worship and the signs on the church doors will have that week's color status. They may differ if the status changes after Tina posts the signs and sends the email.



## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLES IN APRIL**

- ◆ The **Joy Circle** MAY meet on Tues., **April 12**, at 11:30 a.m. Contact Anne Smith to find out!!!
- ◆ The **Friendship Circle** will meet on Wed., **April 13** at **1:00 PM** (note change of time).
- ◆ The **Red Tent Circle** normally meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the home of BJ King. In April, this falls on Maundy Thursday so an alternate date for the next meeting is still TBD.



## **PC(USA) RESPONSE TO UKRAINE**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is taking donations to support response on the ground in Eastern Europe. The Disaster Relief-International Refugee Program account supplements the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering to enable relief for humanitarian efforts assisting refugees and displaced persons. You can give through the PC(USA) at pcusa.org or through the church by designating your offering. Please make your check out to Covenant and note "Ukraine" on the memo line. We will be taking up the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday (see below).

## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING—APRIL 17, 2022**

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please plan to make a contribution to our One Great Hour of Sharing part of your Easter celebration.

## **MOM POWER RETURNS TO COVENANT! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Join us in serving young families as we partner with Families Free and the ETSU Department of Psychology in Mom Power's holistic parenting program. Sessions begin Wednesday, April 27 for 10 weeks. Call Julie Wood ASAP if you can help with meals, transportation or childcare on Wednesdays. 904 891-1922. Woodfamily5@bellsouth.net.

## **BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022**

Black/White Dialogue is meeting in person on **April 11 from 6—8:00 pm at the Pro-To Club in Johnson City**. The story of Tom Devert, a black railroad worker living in Erwin, TN, in August of 1919, will be told by Tama Luncford, a member of the Jonesborough Storytelling Guild.

Light food will be served since it is meal time. We will have ample time for participants to make connections in conversation, share with one another, and build bridges of community. The food will be catered by Lorraine and Elmer Washington of Taste Budz. As in the past, there will be an opportunity for contributions to help pay for this excellent cuisine. Please bring friend(s).

Contact Ed Wolff for more information.



**Pro-To-Club**  
509 W. Main Street  
Johnson City, TN

## GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING IN APRIL



This month, we will collect: **Canned Meats (tuna, Spam, Vienna Sausages, Ravioli, etc.) and Veggies.** You may drop off your contributions in the shopping cart outside the front door during office hours. On Sundays the cart will be in the Narthex. If you wish to make a monetary donation, we will pass it along, too. Thank you for your generous donations to this local ministry!



## COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGES!

College students everywhere are gearing up for final exams. The last big push has started—late night cram sessions for those last chapter tests, semester projects and papers coming due, and everyone seems to be grabbing a few last-minute extra credit assignments to pull up that GPA just a bit more. The pressure is on, and the stress is rising.

The Local & Worldwide Missions Committee (LWWM) is sponsoring “**Final Exam**” Care Packages to be mailed to our three (3) college students. We’ll also be filling small gift bags for the ETSU UKirk students (about a dozen) this year. We invite you to bring an item to contribute to one or all of the boxes/bags. See the list below for a few potential suggestions, but do not feel constrained by this list. Be Creative! There will be a card beside each box/bag, feel free to write a short note to the students and sign. After the cards are signed and boxes and bags are filled, LWWM will make sure that each box or bag has roughly the same amount of “good Covenant loving” inside and will take care of getting them to the students. Boxes/bags will be set up on a table in the Narthex from **Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> thru Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** so that they can be mailed/delivered on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

LWWM wants our college students to know that they are loved and cared for both here and away and that Covenant is holding them up throughout their final examination period and always.

All good things,

*Phyllis Thompson* for the Local & Worldwide Missions Committee

### **List of Potential Suggestions—but definitely be creative:**

Homemade cookies  
Homemade snacks  
Chips  
Crackers  
Cracker Jacks



Candy  
Popcorn  
Chewing gum  
Mints  
Highlighters  
Airborne

Cool Pen  
Kleenex  
Hand Sanitizer  
Sticky Notes  
Paper Clips



## AN EXCERPT FROM THE BABMOC SPRING NEWSLETTER

*Check your email for the full newsletter or find one on the table in the Narthex.*

### **Third Period Begins at BABMOC School**

Our 156 students, grades kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, started the third period of the first semester on February 14<sup>th</sup> and will begin the second semester in April. Our students are 93 girls and 63 boys. 113 children returned to school from last year out of a possible 126 that could have been retained. BABMOC continues to prioritize enrolling students who would be unable to attend any existing schools due to their parents being unable to afford the fees to send them.

[www.babmoc.org](http://www.babmoc.org)

*BABMOC is an equal opportunity, nondenominational organization.*

*As such, its schools and the programs it runs do not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religious belief, tribal identity, or ethnicity.*

## ELDERS OF COVENANT (SESSION)

### Class of 2022

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

### Class of 2023

Kathi Cary, Worship  
Lauri Zembower, Admin/Budget

### Clerk of Session:

Mary O’Keeffe

### Class of 2024

Cynthia Erdei  
*(Nomination pending)*  
Stacy Larsen  
Ron Smith

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Gary Smith; Family of BJ King's office administrator; Jim & Norma Starr; Reg Murphy; Ed Wolff; Pat Smith's mother, Betty; Sharon Fuhrman; Rosemary Whitson's sister, Marshia Adams, and her niece; BJ King's sister, Mary Lynn; Pat Zembower, Christian's mom; Don & Anita Wolf, Julie Wood's parents; Ron Smith's sister, Rhonda and her husband Joe; Pat and Vickie Koppel, friends of Don & Patti Coble; Steve Jones, friend of Sharon Fuhrman; Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter; Sarah Campbell, Sharon Fuhrman's granddaughter; and all those in our community affected by Covid-19; and the people of Ukraine, its neighbors, and the innocent peoples of Russia.

*Join us in continually lifting up in prayer our mission co-workers:*

Bob & Kristi Rice: South Sudan ☩ The Adams Maldonado Family: Frontera de Cristo

*and these Covenant ministry partners:*

UKirk ETSU (Pres. Campus Ministry) ☩ Holston Presbytery Camp LatinX Ministry  
The River ☩ BABMOC

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## MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS...by Mary O'Keefe, Clerk of Session

Session decided last year we would reduce the number of active Elders from 12 to 9 which better reflects our congregation's size. Apologies if this info didn't get fully disseminated at that time.

### **In more recent news...**

Session approved the **Mom Power** group to again use Covenant for their classes. Contact Julie Wood if you would like to volunteer to help with meals, transportation or childcare.

**Property Committee** has been busy: leaks in the kitchen roof, drain issues in the kitchen, sewer lines, and tree issues have all been addressed. Please advise the committee (you can leave a message through Tina) of any problems you see so they can be addressed and/or prioritized quickly.

**Local and Worldwide Missions** is organizing care boxes to distribute to our college students and for students involved with UKirk. LWWM is also exploring the possibility of assisting in sponsoring a refugee family in conjunction with other churches.

**Worship Committee** is busy with Holy Week and Easter plans:

- ◆ A **labyrinth** will be available in the front lawn during Holy Week.
- ◆ Also during Holy Week, there will be the first ever **Covenant Scavenger Hunt**. (Think of it as an adult Easter egg hunt!) More news will be coming. The Scavenger Hunt will provide fun opportunities for comradery and connection.
- ◆ On **Easter Sunday** we will have a Sunrise Service at 7:00 AM with coffee and donuts afterwards. We will have a 'flower cross' available for both the Sunrise and the 11:00 traditional services. We will have flowers (or bring some from your home garden) to place on the cross.
- ◆ On **Maundy Thursday** we will host dinner and a service on the grounds (we'll move it indoors if the weather doesn't cooperate). This service will be in conjunction with Watauga Ave Presbyterian.

DONATE  
ONLINE

## 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.

### FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

#### Income to General Fund

February

Actual \*\*\$10,549.83  
vs. Budgeted \$17,892.00

#### Expenses from General Fund

February

Actual \$16,039.11  
vs. Budgeted \$17,892.00

#### Year to Date Income

General Fund

Actual \$ \*\*53,226.93  
vs. Budgeted \$35,784.00

#### Year to Date Expenses from

General Fund

Actual \$35,456.41  
vs. Budgeted \$35,784.00

*The 5-Cents a Meal Offering  
for February was \$113.00.*

*\*\*includes pre-paid pledges from 2021  
and applied to 2022.*

## 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.