

(As we enter the sanctuary, let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.)

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

GREETING

Leader: How can we know the way of God?

People: **Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 5

Leader: Give ear to my words, O Lord; take heed of my sighing.
Listen when I call to you my God, for it is to you I pray.

People: **Lord in the morning, you hear my voice;
every morning I put my requests before you,
and I watch and wait.**

Leader: For you are not a God who delights in treachery; evil cannot live in your presence. Arrogant people cannot stand before you; you hate those who twist the truth.

People: **But because of the abundance of your steadfast love, O Lord,
I will enter your house. I will worship in your holy temple,
in awe and reverence.**

Leader: Guide me in your justice, O God; make straight your way before me. Lead me in your righteousness and shield me.

People: **Let all who take refuge in the Lord be glad and rejoice!
Let us sing and give glory to the Lord our God!**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 246

“Christ is Alive!”

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus Christ, the gift of your redeeming love. We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures – feeble in faith, empty of hope, and lacking in love. Open our eyes and hearts once again to your presence and empower us by your Holy Spirit to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, our world, though broken and scarred, still belongs to God, who holds it together and gives us hope. The risen Christ is the firstborn of the new creation, whose reign is righteousness and peace. This is the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

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

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: May the presence and power of our risen Lord fill you with all joy and peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC SOLO “How Beautiful” arr. Lloyd Larsen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 130—NT) Acts 11:1-18

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 157 “I Danced in the Morning”

SECOND LESSON (p. 66—NT) Luke 7:36-8:1

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Rev. Maggie Rust

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *The Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)*

In sovereign love, God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, men and women, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator and ignore God’s commands. We violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet, God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her children, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, our God is forever faithful.

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

*HYMN OF BLESSING # 697 “Take My Life”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please rise, in body or spirit.

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Large-print Hymnals are available in the back of the sanctuary.

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. We invite you to fill out a Visitor Card, found in the pews. If you are seeking a church home, you are welcome to join us in discipleship as a community of faith and service. Pastor Maggie would be happy to talk to you about your journey.

Session is meeting this afternoon. Please be in prayer for our church leaders.

UPDATING THE PRAYER LIST

Please remember to contact the church office in a timely manner with any updates to this list. Going forward, names will remain in the bulletin for three weeks only **unless** you ask to keep them on longer. Thank you.

CARPOOL DRIVERS NEEDED

Do you have room in your car on Sunday mornings for one more person? The Congregational Life Committee is looking for volunteers to help transport members of our congregation to worship and fellowship events who would otherwise not be able to attend. If you can help with this, please contact the church office or CL Committee co-chairs Stacy Larsen and Betsy Moakler. Thank you!!

MOM POWER—OPPORTUNITY TO HELP WITH SUPPLIES

Mom Power is going great! We have volunteers preparing a hot meal, providing hospitality, child care, and others transporting mothers and babies. This is a real Covenant group effort! **If you would like to help with supplies for the little ones, they need diapers (newborn & sizes 1 and 4); small soft balls to play with; and a size 4 soccer ball.**

Thank you to all for being a part of this ministry! As the Mom Power Team works hard to build trust within this little community please continue to pray for transformation in each life.

PENTECOST

Mark your calendars: **June 5th is Pentecost!** Covenant is already making plans to celebrate the Church's Birthday. Worship that morning will be at **10:00 AM** outside (hopefully before it's too hot), followed by a Church Picnic! The meal will be catered by The Firehouse BBQ restaurant. If you wish, please bring a dessert to share with the congregation. There is no charge for the meal, although we will have a donation basket available to help offset costs. We're also looking for volunteers to help with setup and cleanup. Contact Stacy Larsen or Betsy Moakler if you can help. We hope you will join us!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SURVEY

As we continue to define our “new normal” and we learn how to better understand how the congregation is feeling about gatherings and what activities you are interested in, there is still time to have your voice heard through the CL Committee survey! Please fill it out and place it in the collection box located on the table outside the sanctuary where the bulletins are located or in the church office. On behalf of the Congregational Life team, thank you for sharing your thoughts and ideas.

NAME TAGS AND CONTACT INFO

If you are a member or a regular visitor, or even if you have just started coming to Covenant, you **most likely** have a name badge hanging on the wall in the Narthex. We're asking **everyone** to wear their name tags while at the church to make it easier to get to know each other. **If you don't find one with your name on it, please let us know!**

Also, if you would like to be added to our **congregation-wide email list**, please send a message to Tina at office@cpcjc.org. Include your address and phone number if you feel comfortable doing so. If you would like to fill out a **Visitor Card**, you'll find them in the pews and on the tables in the Narthex.

GOOD SAM OFFERING IN MAY

Baby Foods and Fruit, Pudding & Applesauce Cups.

JUNE COURIER DEADLINE—MONDAY, MAY 16

Gentle Reminder: The deadline for articles to be placed in the Courier is the 15th of every month. As the 15th falls on Sunday in May, the deadline for the June Courier will be tomorrow, May 16. Please send all announcements and meeting dates/times for the June calendar to Tina at office@cpcjc.org. Announcements should be written out with all of the details included. Thank you!

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.”

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, May 15

8:30a	Issues Class on Zoom
9:30a	Sojourner's Class
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
11:00a	Worship Service
1:00p	Session Meeting
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Monday, May 16—COURIER DEADLINE

10a—3p Good Sam Food Dropoff

Tuesday, May 17

10a—3p Good Sam Food Dropoff
10:00a Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p Al-Anon Mtg

Wednesday, May 18

9:30a – 2:00p Mom Power
10a—3p Good Sam Food Dropoff
7:00p N.A. Mtg

Thursday, May 19

10a—3p Good Sam Food Dropoff
Noon Al-Anon Mtg

Friday, May 20

6:30p Al-Anon Mtg

*Please see your May Courier
(extra printed copies are on the table in the Narthex)
for the full May calendar and for birthdays and anniversaries.*

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:
Accompanist:
Liturgist:

Jim Starr
David Butzu
Ron Smith

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:
Office Administrator:
Administrative Assistant:

Rev. Maggie Rust
Tina Simon
Anne Webb

PRAYER CONCERNS

*If you know of other reasons for rejoicing or concerns you would like to share feel free to complete a prayer card with your request. **Please contact the church office with any updates to this list.** Names will remain in the bulletin for three weeks unless we are notified about a change.*

Week of May 15—21, 2022

Traci Starr Honeycutt, Jim & Norma Starr's daughter
Annette Mullins, Holly Bland's mother
Mary Elizabeth Armistead, Bob & Estelle's daughter-in-law, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Also her husband, Daniel.
BJ King's sister, Mary Lynn
Family of BJ King's office administrator
Jim & Norma Starr
Pat Smith's mother, Betty
Sharon Fuhrman
Rosemary Whitson's sister, Marshia Adams, and her niece
Pat Zembower, Christian's mom
Don & Anita Wolf, Julie Wood' 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
Sarah Campbell, Sharon Fuhrman's granddaughter
All those in our community affected by Covid-19.
The people of Ukraine, its neighbors, and the innocent people 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



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.

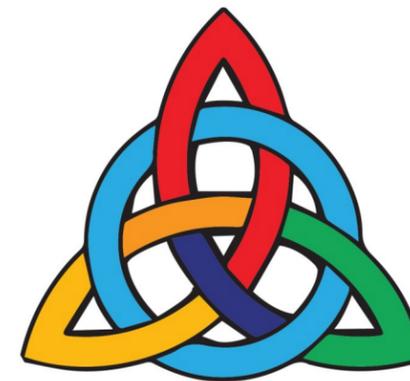


Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud to have received the designation of being an Earth Care Congregation, through the PC (USA).

Covenant Presbyterian Church has been certified as a **Recovery Congregation** by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



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



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

MAY 15, 2022
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.