

*(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: Do good and share what you have,

**People: for such offerings are pleasing to the Lord.**

### PRELUDE

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 112

Leader: Praise the Lord! Happy are those who revere the Lord,  
who delight in God's commands.  
Their children will be blessed;  
each generation will seek justice in the land.

**People: Let righteousness endure forever;  
may God lead us in the way of grace and mercy.**

Leader: For the just, God shines like a lamp in the dark.  
Those who are honest and charitable will be remembered well.  
They are not shaken or upset.

**People: Their hearts are steady and unafraid,  
because they trust in the Lord.**

Leader: They give to the poor and are quick to be generous;  
doing justice always, and so they will be honored.

**People: Let us walk in the paths of justice and peace!  
Let us sing praise to our God.**

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE # 462

*"I Love to Tell the Story"*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

*(Few moments of silent prayer)*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, in Jesus you show us a way that is humble and seeks the wellbeing of others. We confess that we go our own way; we elevate ourselves and ignore the needs of others. Free us from the temptation to pursue only our own pleasure. Help us to live in harmony with all your people, sharing one world and eating at one table, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior, in whom we pray. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: With abundant grace and mercy that reaches wide,  
God gathers us and cleanses us, making us new.  
This is the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

### SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: Friends, let mutual love continue to grow,  
and never forget to show hospitality.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 77—NT)

Luke 14:1, 7-14

\*HYMN OF INVITATION # 375

*"Shall We Gather at the River"*

SECOND LESSON (p. 227—NT)

Hebrews 13:1-3, 5-6

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

Rev. Maggie Rust

### STORIES FROM THE RIVER WITH STACY LARSEN

*For those of you who want to learn more, there is a 10-minute Day in the Life documentary of The River Ministry online at <https://theantidotemovie.com/>.*

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *the Confession of 1967*

**New life in Christ takes shape in community in which we know that God loves and accepts us in spite of our sin. We therefore accept ourselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace. Christian community nurtures the life of faith and equips us for ministry. The church goes out to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Our prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship and theological reflection. Our witness is the church's evangelism. Our daily action in the world is the church in mission in the world. The quality of our relation with other persons is the measure of the church's fidelity. Each member is the church in the world, endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry.**

### OFFERTORY

### 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 # 722

*"Lord Speak to Me That I May Speak"*

\*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, and place it in the offering plate. 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 and church membership.

**This morning, we welcome our new Director of Music, Matthew Potterton!**

## CPC T-SHIRTS ARE HERE!

Please check the table in the Narthex and find yours. A label with your name will be on them to make it easy to know which one(s) belong to you.

## 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. Next week also marks the beginning of the PC(USA) annual **SEASON OF PEACE**. We will be talking about peacemaking as part of our worship throughout the month of September, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency has also published a daily devotional which is available online for download.

## NEWSLETTER

The **SEPTEMBER COURIER** is on the table in the Narthex and has been emailed to you. There are extra printed copies on the table. You will also be able to find the newsletter and September's calendar on our website under the "Media" tab: [www.cpcjc.org](http://www.cpcjc.org).

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLES

Covenant has three Presbyterian Women's Circle Study Groups. **All meet monthly from September through May or June.** All three use the same curriculum from the PW/Horizons Bible Study. This year the title is "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight" by Carol M. Bechtel.

- ◆ **Friendship Circle** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM in the church library. First meeting will be on Wed., Sept. 14. Contact this year is Rosemary Whitson.
- ◆ **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 (through December). The first meeting, though, will be on **Thurs., Sept. 15** (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday). Contact is BJ King.
- ◆ **Joy Circle** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM in the pavilion at Metro Kiwanis Park. First meeting will be on Tues., Sept. 13. Contact is Anne Smith.

If you are attending any of these Circles, **the books are here!** They are on the table in the church office. Please add your name to the list when you pick yours up.

## BACKPACKS FOR BABMOC

We continue to collect backpacks and school supplies for the BABMOC students. You may bring your items to Covenant Tuesdays thru Thursdays (and Sundays, of course) up until September 15<sup>th</sup>. Backpacks can be filled with school supplies such as pens, pencils, erasers, composition books, pencil sharpeners, compasses, rulers, protractors, and glue sticks. Thank you for your generosity!

## UKIRK CAMPUS MINISTRY MEALS

The new semester has begun at ETSU! As students come back to campus, UKirk is planning for another great year of ministry! If you'd like to help sponsor a Monday night meal, please sign-up online (ask Tina for the link). Please be in prayer for these students and for our friend, UKirk Chaplain John Golden!

## WELCOME OUR NEW NEIGHBORS!

After weeks in transit and a very long journey, our new neighbors have arrived. Adult siblings, Hasiba and Delawar, moved into the apartment furnished by Jonesborough Presbyterian and Covenant as part of our co-sponsorship of an Afghan refugee family this week! Please continue to keep Hasiba and Delawar in your prayers as they settle into our community. Thank you to everyone who generously gave to this project.

**GOOD SAM FOOD OFFERING FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR**  
 Baby Foods and Fruit, Pudding & Applesauce Cups or canned meats, soups, veggies, Mac 'n Cheese, cereal...let's just fill up the shopping carts!

**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.*

**GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER**

Do you have a name tag? If you are a member or a regular visitor, or even if you have just started coming to Covenant, you **most likely** have one 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 Tina know!** (*office@cpcjc.org or 423-282-5324*)

**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**

<b><u>Today, August 28</u></b>	8:30a Issues Class on Zoom
9:15a	Sojourner's Class on Zoom
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
11:00a	Worship Service
1:30p—2:30p	Library reserved
4p—6p	Library reserved
7:00p	N.A. Mtg
<b><u>Monday, August 29</u></b>	
10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
<b><u>Tuesday, August 30</u></b>	
10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
10:00a	Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p	Al-Anon Mtg
<b><u>Wednesday, August 31</u></b>	
10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
7:00p	N.A. Mtg
<b><u>Thursday, September 1</u></b>	
10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
10:00a	Worship Comm Mtg
Noon	Al-Anon Mtg
<b><u>Friday, September 2</u></b>	
6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg

Please see your September Courier for **birthdays and anniversaries**, and the full September calendar for this month's events.

**TODAY AT COVENANT**

Morning Greeters: Jim Starr & Tony Madden  
 Liturgist: Christian Zembower  
 Accompanist: David Butzu

**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Rust  
 Director of Music: Matthew Potterton  
 Office Administrator: Tina Simon

**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 August 28—September 3, 2022**

The family of David Thomas.  
 The family of Dorothy “Dotty” Bowman Scholten Freeman.  
 Felix Emmanuel Wood, David & Julie Wood’s new grandson, who is now home with his family!!  
 Jim Starr and his grandchildren, Keaton & Kaden  
 Pat and Vickie Koppel, friends of Don & Patti Coble  
 David Armistead, Bob & Estelle’s nephew  
 Annette Mullins, Holly Bland’s mother  
 Cynthia Erdei  
 BJ King’s sister, Mary Lynn  
 All those affected by gun violence  
 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.

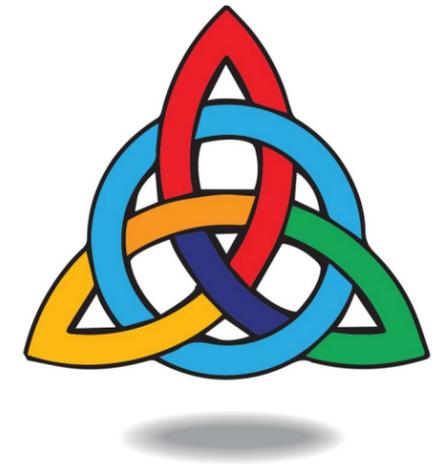


Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud to have received the designation of being an Earth Care Congregation, through the PC (USA).

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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 423-282-5324 ☩ fax 423-282-5346 ☩ office@cpcjc.org ☩ www.cpcjc.org  
 Facebook: “Covenant Presbyterian Church (Johnson City, TN.)”



# Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY**

**AUGUST 28, 2022**

**12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**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.