

COVENANT COURIER



OCTOBER 2022



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 FROM 1—2P

Bring your furry, feathered, scaled, or hooved pets to be blessed by Pastor Maggie in a brief service followed by treats, lemonade, a photo booth and goody bags. Please keep your pets on a leash or in a carrier. If they are too large to transport, or uneasy in a crowded area, feel free to bring along a photo of your pet that can be blessed.

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING—OCTOBER 2

God's presence empowers us to live joyfully within our communities and to bring peace to all around us. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, which will be taken up on **World Communion Sunday**, Oct. 2, we connect with each other to confront systems of injustice and promote reconciliation in places around the world — and right here at home. 25% of this Offering will stay with Covenant for our own ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation. 25% of this Offering will join with other congregations in our area to support peacemaking work in the region. 50% of this Offering supports programs and ministries working actively for peace and justice around our nation and the world.

Peace begins with each of us. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world. Together we are building God's household of peace where everyone is welcome; where all can find compassion, peace and justice.

THE RIVER CRAFT & GOODIES FAIR—OCTOBER 8

The River is holding its 10th annual Craft & Goodies Fair on **Saturday, October 8 from 10 am to 2 pm** in the basement of First Presbyterian Church at 105 S. Boone Street in Johnson City. There will be a variety of hand-crafted items and many tasty treats. There will be live music by the Bluebirds, door prizes every hour, and a Game of Chance for the opportunity to win a night at the Carnegie with a complementary couples massage and gift certificate to Wellingtons. All proceeds benefit The River ministry serving women and children through a variety of supportive services and the practice of radical hospitality. For more information contact Stacy Larsen at 423-926-8111.

SPECIAL GOOD SAM FOOD OFFERING

Through the end of **October**, we are collecting **canned fruit** to contribute to Good Sam's holiday food boxes. **Their** goal is to fill 1,500 boxes of food, so **OUR** goal is to collect as many cans as we possibly "can" towards their goal. As of Thursday, Sept. 22nd, we have **200** cans!!! **If you are unable to shop in person** and you would still like to help, you may contribute financially, and **someone will go shopping for you**. Just make your check payable to CPC and note on the memo line "fruit for Good Sam". Thank you!



SPRING CHURCH RETREAT

We're planning a Spring Retreat at Holston Camp & Retreat Center for April 14 - 16, 2023. It's the weekend after Easter. To plan accordingly, **we need a headcount of interested folks!** You don't have to commit today, but would you like to join us for either:

- **The weekend** (lodging and Friday dinner - Sunday breakfast at \$150/per person **OR**
- **Just for Saturday** with 2 meals for \$25/per person?

We need to know ASAP (by October 2nd would be great) so that we can confirm our reservation with the camp and put down a deposit to hold the weekend. There are forms on the table in the Narthex, on our website **OR** you may email the church office (office@cpcjc.org) and let us know. No \$\$ is due at this time.

2023 STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Fall is a beautiful time of year – the colorful leaves, the crisp morning air, and a harvest season that invites us to gratitude and thanksgiving. The return of autumn also means another opportunity to deeply consider our Stewardship. With the gifts God has graciously given us, how will we build up our church and our community, giving glory back to God through our generosity?

You'll be seeing pledge cards go out in the coming weeks. It is from the pledges of Covenant's members and friends that our Stewardship Committee and Session are able to develop our budget for the coming year. Your personal financial contributions are necessary to support every aspect of our ministry as our congregation engages in worship and mission together.

From Sunday school, worship services, and retreats that feed our souls, to fellowship meals and picnics that feed our stomachs, when you give you support the church in its work. Mission projects with our partners like BABMOC, ETSU UKirk, Frontera de Cristo, and The River, maintaining our building to host almost daily recovery meetings for NA and Al Anon, supporting our staff to preach, provide music, and keep us connected – none of this would be possible without your gifts.

We are a community of faith, hope, and love. We may be small in number, but we are mighty in what we can do in ministry together. God has faithfully shown us exactly that in recent years, and we trust the Spirit will continue to guide us in the days to come. Please prayerfully consider how you will be a part of this community and give your financial support, your talents and time, in the coming year.

Completed pledge cards can be returned to the church office by mail, dropped off during the week, or emailed to office@cpcjc.org.

Thank you for supporting our ministry and being part of the Covenant Community!

Grace and Peace,

Your Stewardship Committee



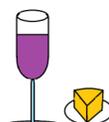
BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—MONDAY, OCT. 10

The October 10 Black/White Dialogue meeting will be held at 6:00 PM at **Jubilee World Outreach Congregation**, 1409 Indian Ridge Rd, JC. (The congregational facilities are located behind Krispy Kreme.). Light refreshments will be provided. The presenter/facilitator is Susan Jordan, MA, BSW, a Certified ACES trainer. Her focus will be on **“Adverse Childhood Experiences from A Black Perspective”** which provides a connection between ACES and chronic diseases. The presentation will give a definition of trauma and give an understanding of an ACES score and what it means. We will look at the affects of trauma on the brain and as a society we can all become trauma-informed to become better people.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLES

All of the women of the church are invited to attend our monthly PW Circle study groups. If you have not already picked up your book, it can be found in the church office.



- ♦ **Joy Circle** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM in the pavilion at Metro Kiwanis Park. **The next meeting is on October 11.** Contact is Anne Smith.
- ♦ **Friendship Circle** meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM in the church library. **The next meeting is on October 12.** Contact this year is Rosemary Whitson.
- ♦ **Red Tent Circle** meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the home of BJ King (through December). **The next meeting is on October 13.** Contact is BJ King.



*You Are Invited To A
Reception Held After-Church On
Sunday, October 30th In Celebration Of The
First Anniversary For
Reverend Maggie Rust
At Covenant Presbyterian Church*

Bible Trivia (answers can be found somewhere in this newsletter):

1. Who was the only female judge of Israel?
2. Where did Jesus turn water into wine?

Please join us in the Library for cake, punch, treats, fun, and fellowship!

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

GIVEN IN MEMORY OF

**NORMA STARR,
HELEN DAVIS, AND
LATTIE & JETER COLLINS**

BY

Bob & Estelle Armistead

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pat and Vickie Koppel, friends of Don & Patti Coble; Bob Clark; BJ King's sister, Mary Lynn; Ed Wolff; Cynthia Erdei; Jeri DeWeese; Charlotte Brumit, Betsy Moakler's mother; David Armistead, Bob & Estelle's nephew; Annette Mullins, Holly Bland's mother; 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



A NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A new adult Sunday school class called the **Explorers Class** is meeting on Sundays from 9:45 to 10:45 AM in the youth classroom. It's the room on the right before you enter the Fellowship Hall if you're coming from the Sanctuary. Contacts for this class are Elaine Warehime and Carlyn Sue Hoffman.

AFTER CHURCH LUNCH

After Church Lunches will begin as soon as our Covid levels drop.
Check your email and listen to announcements on Sundays.

Answers to Bible Trivia:
1. Deborah.
2. Cana.

ATTN: COMMITTEE CHAIRS / LIAISONS

It's time to prepare your
2023 budget requests.

Please turn them in to
Gary Smith by November 1, 2022.

AUGUST TREASURER'S REPORT

Income to General Fund
August

Actual	**\$10,577.28
vs. Budgeted	\$17,892.00

Expenses from General Fund
August

Actual	\$13,109.64
vs. Budgeted	\$17,892.00

Year to Date Income
General Fund

Actual	\$**134,374.83
vs. Budgeted	\$143,136.00

Year to Date Expenses from
General Fund

Actual	\$123,887.78
vs. Budgeted	\$143,136.00

*The 5-Cents a Meal Offering
for August was \$132.00.*

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

GIVING TO THE CHURCH

Did you know that you can make your contributions to the church online? *There's also an option to give towards offsetting the online fees.* 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's online BillPay. If you have any questions, please contact Tina in the church office. Thank you for continuing to support the work of Covenant Presbyterian Church.

DONATE
ONLINE

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

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.