

(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: The day of the Lord is surely coming,
People: **when the promise of God will be fulfilled.**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 122

Leader: I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
And now my feet are standing at Jerusalem's gate.

People: **Jerusalem – restored as a city united and whole!
Here the tribes ascend to praise God's holy name.**

Leader: Here the Lord sits upon the judgment seat,
dispensing justice and righteousness for the oppressed.

People: **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: peace be within her walls.
May her towers provide a refuge of security.**

Leader: May those who love the city prosper.
For the sake of the house of the Lord,
I will seek the city's good.

People: **To all our relatives and friends, "Peace be with you."
Come let us worship together in the Lord's house.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 757 *"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"*

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of steadfast love, how often do we utter careless words that humiliate or harm? How often do we lash out in anger, when we could reach out in compassion? How often do we hurt those we love and ruin relationships that give life? Forgive us, we pray. In your abundant mercy, give us the grace to recognize our faults and work for reconciliation in our homes and our communities. Turn our hearts back to you and teach us the ways of love, that we might hold fast to one another and draw near to your presence, through Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Beloved of God, know this: the God of Presence, the God of Transformation, the God of Peace, hears our prayers and grants us the mercy to live together in shalom.
Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: As people forgiven by the abundant grace of God, we are at peace with God, and we are called to live in peace with one another. The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" S. Temple

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 5—NT) Matthew 5:38-45

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 373 "O Day of Peace"

SECOND LESSON (p. 631—OT) Isaiah 2:1-5

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 Confession of 1967*

Jesus Christ is God with us, the eternal Son of the Father, who became man and lived among us to fulfill the ministry of reconciliation between God and creation, and he is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete this mission. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which people are reconciled to God and to one another. God enables us to receive forgiveness as we forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as we make peace among ourselves. In spite of our sin, the Holy Spirit gives us power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all the world.

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 # 756 "O God of Every Nation"
Tune: AURELIA

*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.

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.

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

BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE—MONDAY, SEPT. 12 ON ZOOM

The September Zoom meeting of Black/White Dialogue on Monday, September 12, **from 6—8 PM** will be presented by LaDawn Brown Hudgins who is employed by the Johnson City School System. Michelle Treece, a school board member, will assist. The topic will be Ethnic Minority/Racial & Social Justice. If you don't have the Zoom link, contact Ed Wolff or the church office.

BACKPACKS FOR BABMOC

We continue to collect backpacks and school supplies for the BABMOC students. **Bring your items to Covenant up until September 15th.** 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!

SPECIAL GOOD SAM FOOD OFFERING

For the months of **September and October**, we will collect **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. 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!

COVENANT T-SHIRTS

You've seen them (they ARE pretty)...and now you want one!! Due to popular demand, we will place another order for CPC T-Shirts. Order forms are enclosed. The **deadline** to order this time is Sunday, Sept. 18.

PRESBYTERIAN Women's Circles

If you are participating in one of the PW Circles, please pick up your book in the church office.

- **Friendship Circle** will meet on **Wednesday, Sept. 14**. Contact is Rosemary Whitson.
- **Red Tent Circle** will meet on **Thursday, Sept. 15** (3rd Thursday this month. Normally it is the 2nd Thursday.). Contact is BJ King.
- **Joy Circle** will meet on **Tuesday, Sept. 13**. Contact is Anne Smith.

PATH OF PEACE DAILY REFLECTIONS

As we continue through the **2022 Season of Peace**, there is a set of daily devotions available from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The writers cover four areas of peace work:

- Week 2** Sept. 11-17: Non-Violence
- Week 3** Sept. 18-24: The Intersection Between Race and Poverty
- Week 4** Sept. 24-Oct. 2: Immigration and Migration

You can subscribe to these reflections for daily delivery into your inbox or download and print the written portion of the reflections as a devotional resource. Please contact the office for the links.

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

Name tags are 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!



During each week of the Season of Peace, we'll be focusing on one of the four areas of peacemaking work the Presbyterian Mission Agency has invited us to consider. Week Two is Non-Violence.

We sometimes think of violence only as a physical thing, but the true definition is any "destructive force, emotion, or behavior intended to intimidate, hurt, damage or kill someone or something." So, living a way of non-violence includes many different aspects of our lives. Here are a few practical ideas to practice peacemaking this week:

- Reducing the number of weapons in our community limits the violence those weapons can inflict. How familiar are you with gun control legislation currently before the state and federal government? Write a letter of support to your representative about why these issues matter.
- Violence is not only something that can be inflicted on others but can also be turned inward. September is Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention Month. This week, learn or refresh yourself on the warning signs for suicide and intentionally pray for the victims, families, and communities (including ours) which have been affected by tragedies like this.
- How much do you know about the practice of Non-Violent Communication? Rosenberg's NVC methodology seeks to foster empathy and cooperation between people, rather than the (often unintentional) hurt that our words can cause in our relationships. Pay special attention to how you can practice honest and affirming communication in conversation and on social media this week.

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."

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 & Stacy Larsen
Liturgist:	Hal Hunter
Accompanist:	Liesl Huhn
Nursery:	Julie Wood & Pat Smith

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	Rev. Maggie Rust
Director of Music:	Dr. 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 September 11—17, 2022

Ed Wolff
 BJ King's sister, Mary Lynn
 Cynthia Erdei
 Jeri DeWeese
 Bob, Estelle, & Rob Armistead
 Jim Starr and his grandchildren, Keaton & Kaden
 Charlotte Brumit, Betsy Moakler's mother
 Pat and Vickie Koppel, friends of Don & Patti Coble
 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



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.

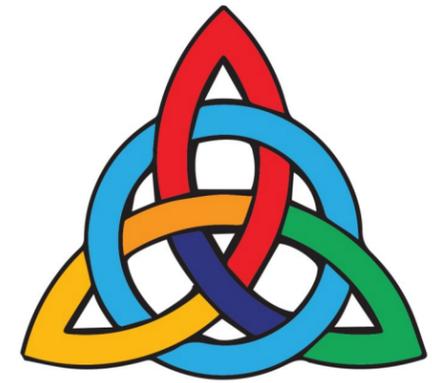


Covenant Presbyterian Church

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



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

14TH 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.