

(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: From whirlwind and burning bush,
in the still of night and sheer silence –
People: **God calls the faithful to sacred work
for justice and peace.**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 133

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
People: **It is like precious oil on the head,
running down the beard of Aaron
and soaking into the collar of his robe!**
Leader: It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls heavy and waters all the hills of Zion.
People: **Where the Lord has bestowed a blessing:
life that never ends!**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 327 *“From All that Dwell Below the Skies”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, who hears the cries of the oppressed, you call us to resist evil and hold fast to what is good, to take up the cross and commit our lives to the cause of love. But we are afraid to confront powers that privilege some and diminish others; we do not want to lose the security we enjoy. Forgive us. Open our ears to hear your voice, our eyes to look upon neighbors in need, and our hearts to respond with compassion, that we might follow the way of Christ, in whom 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 “Lord, Listen to Your Children” Ken Medema

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 162—NT) Romans 12:13-18

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 449 “Show Us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love”

SECOND LESSON (p. 660—OT) Isaiah 32:14-18

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 # 804 *“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”*

*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.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS—SAT., 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.

SPECIAL GOOD SAM FOOD OFFERING

For the months of **September and 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, 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!

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.

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.

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!

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.*



During each week of the Season of Peace, we've been focusing on one of the four areas of peacemaking work the Presbyterian Mission Agency has invited us to consider. Week Four is Immigration.

People choose and are forced to relocate for a variety of different reasons: climate, violence, economic opportunity. No matter the circumstances, leaving a place you've lived and loved to find a new home somewhere else is a daunting task. Here are a couple ideas to support immigrants in our community this week (and you may have more!):

- Support a local business owned by or employing new immigrants. Red Meze, Magic Wok, El Charolais, are just a few examples of many in Johnson City.
- Covenant helped sponsor a family of Afghan Refugees this summer. Pray for them this week.

WORLD COMMUNION 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.

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, October 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.



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).

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeters: Jim Starr & Stacy Larsen
 Liturgist: Kathi Cary
 Accompanist: Liesl Huhn
 Nursery: Diana Hewitt & Anne 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 25—October 1, 2022

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

AFFIRMING ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

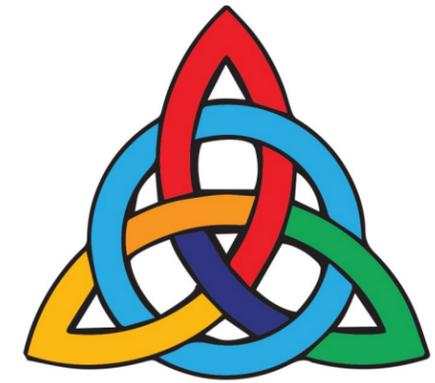
We at Covenant Presbyterian Church of Johnson City, Tennessee, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church (USA), aka PC(USA), present its Churchwide Antiracism Policy, first adopted in 1999 and revised in 2016. It proclaims the following:

“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.”

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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Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022
16TH 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.