

*(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: Live as children of the light.

People: **Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you!**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 23

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I want for nothing.
God lets me lie down in green meadows
and leads me beside restful waters. My soul is refreshed.

People: **The Lord guides me to lush pasture land
for the sake of God's holy name.**

Leader: Even when I am surrounded by shadows of death,
I fear no danger, for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff give me courage.

People: **You spread a feast before me in the presence of my enemies,
and you anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows!**

Leader: Surely, goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

People: **And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
for days without end.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 649

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we predict, but we forget: you do what is good, not what is expected. Forgive us when we fail to recognize your miracles. Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions. Most of all, forgive us Lord, when we do not respond to your call, ignoring what we need to do to show the world your love, grace, and light. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Jesus is our Good Shepherd, who restores our souls
and leads us in right paths for his name's sake.
In him, we are forgiven. Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow us all the days of our lives!

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

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: Walk in God's light, that you too may be children of the light.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 796

"We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON (p. 155—NT)

John 9:1-41

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND ANOINTING OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Jesus Christ, in your mercy:

People: **bring healing, bring peace.**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE # 792

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *the Confession of 1967*

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for the sake of the sheep, atonement made by a priest; it is ransom of a slave, payment of a debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the power of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory and theology in the depths of God's love for humanity. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work in Christ, in whom we find our present hope, faithful response, and new life.

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

In gratitude O God, we come into your presence, to worship in your house. For all that you have done for us, most especially, for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. We long to live as children of light, doing what is pleasing to you. May we carry into the world, the compassion and love of Christ Jesus our Lord, who awakens those who sleep and raises the dead to new life, in whom we pray. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF BLESSING # 797

"We Cannot Measure How You Heal"

*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.

ENTERED INTO THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT:

Erma Hyers —March 12, 2023

The congregations expresses its deepest sympathy to Bill Hyers and his family in the death of his beloved wife, Erma Hyers, on March 12, 2023.

TODAY'S THE DEADLINE TO ORDER

COFFEE FROM CAFÉ JUSTO!

We are placing a group order for coffee from Café Justo as part of our partnership with Frontera de Cristo. There are order forms on the table in the Narthex. **The deadline to turn in your order form is TODAY, March 19, 2023. (Please remember to choose Medium or Dark roast!)** The coffee should be here in time for Easter Sunday—a special treat!

REST – RELAX – RESTORE

CHURCH SPRING RETREAT AT HOLSTON CAMP

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 26TH!

As we noted a few months ago, we're planning a Church Spring Retreat for **April 14 – 16**, the weekend after Easter. Many of you indicated that you are interested and now is the time to officially sign up! Registration forms are on the table in the Narthex and will be posted on our website. The cost for the weekend (lodging and Friday dinner – Sunday breakfast) is \$150/person. If you would like to come on Saturday only, the cost is \$25/person (includes 2 meals). **All participants must be registered and paid by March 26th.** We hope you will join us for this special time of Rest, Relaxation, and Restoration!

LENT STUDY WITH WATAUGA AVENUE

We are once again doing a joint study with our neighbors at Watauga Avenue Presbyterian Church through the Lenten season. **We are meeting every Monday through April 3 at 6:00 PM**, alternating between Watauga and Covenant. The topic of the study is **"Church & Community."** Come and join us for fellowship and learning together!

March 20: Covenant

March 27: Watauga

April 3: Covenant

FINAL EXAM CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Local & World-Wide Missions Committee (LWWM) is sponsoring **"Final Exam" Care Packages.** We will mail the final exam care boxes to our four college students and deliver final exam care gift bags to our 24 UKirk college students. We invite you to bring an item to contribute to one or all of the boxes/gift bags. See the list below for a few potential suggestions, but do not feel constrained by this list. **Be Creative!** There will be a card beside each box/bag, feel free to write a short note to the students and sign. After the cards are signed and boxes and bags are filled, LWWM will make sure that each box or bag has roughly the same amount of "good Covenant loving" inside and will take care of getting them to the students. **Boxes/bags will be set up on a table in the Narthex on March 26th. The deadline to bring items/sign cards is Sunday, April 2nd** as they will be mailed/delivered on Monday, April 3rd. LWWM wants our college students to know that they are loved and cared for and that Covenant is holding them up throughout their final examination period and always.

List of Potential Suggestions—but definitely be creative:

Homemade cookies, Crackers, Mints, Candy, Gum, Snacks, Cracker Jacks, Popcorn, Kleenex, Cool Pen, Highlighters, Paper Clips, Sticky Notes, Highlighters, Chips, Chewing gum, Hand Sanitizer, Tissues, Socks, Small toy, etc...

GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

We are collecting the following items: **Canned foods with pop-tops** that are ready to eat “as is” for folks without resources to cook. Foods that do not require adding water or other ingredients would be ideal. Chef Boyardee canned foods, Vienna Sausages, Beenie Weenie, Soup, Fruit, Vegetable cups, etc. As always, if you wish to make a monetary donation, we will pass it along.

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, March 19—Café Justo Order DEADLINE

8:30a	Issues Class—Zoom
9:30a	Sojourner’s Class w/Zoom option
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
11:00a	Worship Service
2p—4p	Visitation for Hyers family
4:00p	Memorial Service for Erma Hyers
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Monday, March 20

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
2:00p	Graveside Service at Happy Valley
6:00p	Lent Study at Covenant

Tuesday, March 21

9:30a	Worship Comm Mtg
10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
10:00a	Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p	Al-Anon Mtg

Wednesday, March 22

10a—3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
6:00p	Handbell Choir
7:00p	Chancel Choir
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Thursday, March 23

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

Friday, March 24

6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg
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Saturday, March 25

9a—2p	Fellowship Hall reserved
10:00a	Library reserved
7:00p	AA Mtg (Library)

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.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Ann Freeman
Liturgist:	Kathi Cary
Accompanists:	Van Potterton, Guitar Madison Potterton, Cello
Nursery:	Betsy Hagelberg & Anne Smith

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	Rev. Maggie Rust
Music Director:	Katelyn Gabler
Office Administrator:	Tina Simon
AV Tech:	Harvey Trueblood

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 March 19—25, 2023

The Hyers family; Sharon Fuhrman; Twin preemie daughters, Ashlyn & Abigail (especially), of the Easley family; Jeff Lovelace (with our cleaning service); Hope Lee; Vickie Koppel, friend of Don & Patti Coble; Allen White, Maggie’s uncle; Cathy Eades, Jim Starr’s cousin; Charlotte Brumit, Betsy Moakler’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 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

Good Samaritan 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.)”

<https://www.instagram.com/covenantpcjc/>



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

MARCH 19, 2023 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

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.