

*(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: Our faith depends upon the grace of God.
People: **Praise the Lord, who gives life to the dead.**

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 121

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the mountains –
from where will my help come?
People: **My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth!**
Leader: God will not let our footsteps slip:
our Guardian never slumbers, never sleeps.
People: **The Lord is our Guardian,
our shade against the scorching noonday heat.**
Leader: God guards us from harm;
the Lord will keep our life.
People: **The Lord watches over our leaving and our coming home
again now and forever. Praise the Lord!**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN OF PRAISE # 415 *“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Few moments of silent prayer)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Teacher, you call us to go, following the plan you have set out for us.
You promise us blessings and purpose, but we do not trust your
words. We cling to what we already know, we trust in what we can see
and touch, we make excuses for our failure to trust in you. Call to us
again, that we may be born anew through your Spirit. Help us to
believe and give us the abundant life that comes from following your
will, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Savior. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.
Let us bear witness to the saving grace of God:
in Christ, we are forgiven.
People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

Leader: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC *“What Wondrous Love Is This”* Handbell Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON (p. 154—NT) Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

*HYMN OF INVITATION # 162 *“O Carpenter, Why Leave the Bench”*

SECOND LESSON (p. 93—NT) John 3:1-17

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*

**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

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 # 314 *“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”*

*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.

TREE DAY AT COVENANT—VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Covenant’s role in the Tennessee Environmental Council’s (TEC) Tree Day is to serve as a distribution site for seedlings. The Earth Care Team is looking for volunteers on **Thursday, March 16** to sort seedlings according to individual orders, wrap roots with wet newspaper and bundle for distribution; and on **March 17 & 18** (see hours below) to hand out bundles.

Friday, March 17: 1:00 to 5:00

Saturday, March 18: 10:00a to 1:00p

If you are able to help, contact Laura Phillips at lauralivep@gmail.com or text her at 304-546-7831.

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 6: Covenant

March 27: Watauga

March 13: Watauga

April 3: Covenant

March 20: Covenant

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 Sunday, March 19, 2023.** The coffee should be here in time for Easter Sunday—a special treat!

REST – RELAX – RESTORE

CHURCH SPRING RETREAT AT HOLSTON CAMP

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!

HOLSTON CAMP & RETREAT CENTER—SUMMER CAMP

Summer camp registration is now open! Visit www.HolstonCenter.org for information and to register. Summer staff applications are available on the website too. Staff need to be at least 18 years old, love working with children, and be able to be a good role model for young people. Know a child who would benefit from going to camp? Please share this information. Same with summer camp staff.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Nursery is available to children up to 3 years old. We are looking for 2 volunteers each week to serve in the Nursery. If there are no children by the time the first hymn begins, you may join the congregation in the Sanctuary. This is also a great opportunity to meet and greet folks as they come in. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

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, Beanie Weenie, Soup, Fruit, Vegetable cups, etc. As always, if you wish to make a monetary donation, we will pass it along

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.

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 5

8:30a	Issues Class–Zoom
9:30a	Sojourner’s Class w/Zoom option
9:45a	Bible Discovery Class
11:00a	Worship Service
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Monday, March 6

10a–3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
6:00p	Lent Study at Covenant

Tuesday, March 7

10a–3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
10:00a	Al-Anon Mtg
7:00p	Property Comm Mtg
7:00p	Al-Anon Mtg

Wednesday, March 8

10a–3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
1:30p	Friendship Circle
6:00p	Handbell Choir
7:00p	Chancel Choir
7:00p	N.A. Mtg

Thursday, March 9

10a–3p	Good Sam Food Dropoff
1:30p	Joy Circle
Noon	Al-Anon Mtg
3:30p	Cong. Life Comm Mtg
7:00p	Red Tent Circle

Friday, March 10

6:30p	Al-Anon Mtg
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Saturday, March 11

7:00p	AA Mtg (Library)
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Spring Forward: Set your clocks ahead one hour before bed!



TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Ron Smith
Liturgist:	Hal Hunter
Accompanist:	Jeremi Lukanus
Nursery:	Victory Cooper
Covenant Handbell Choir	

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 5—11, 2023

Sharon Fuhrman; Twin preemie daughters, Ashlyn & Abigail, of the Easley family; Elaine Warehime; 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.

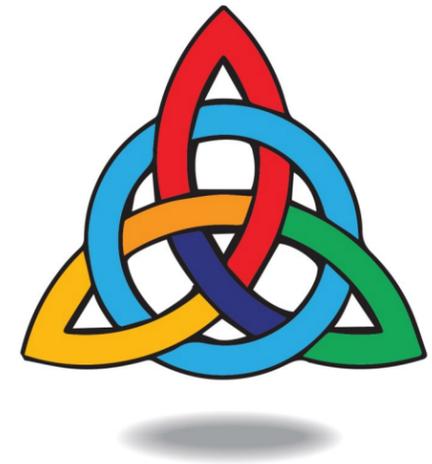


Covenant Presbyterian Church

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



Covenant

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

MARCH 5, 2023
2ND 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.