

**SEPTEMBER IS THE SEASON OF PEACE**

Covenant will once again be celebrating the Season of Peace with the PCUSA throughout the month of September as we lead up to World Communion Sunday, October 1. The denomination offers daily devotions during this season, which you can find at [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org).

**SUNDAY EVENING ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

Pastor Maggie is starting a new weekly Bible Study on Sunday Evenings, beginning tonight at 6 PM. This will be a time to prayerfully dig deeper into the morning's texts and discuss what we're hearing the Spirit say to us and to our congregation. A Zoom invitation has been emailed to you. The meeting ID is 894 5108 8507 and the passcode is study.

**FIRST SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP**

**Please join us in the sanctuary on Sept. 3 at 7 PM for our First Sunday Evening Worship service.** These services will be held on the first Sunday of every month and will offer opportunities to experience different styles of worship and prayer practices together. We hope you will join us!

**FRONTERA DE CRISTO**

On May 22, just a half block from Mark & Miriam's office, an arsonist set fire to the sanctuaries of First Presbyterian and St. Stephen's Episcopal churches. Fortunately, no one was injured. If you would like to help First Presbyterian Church rebuild, you may give through Covenant. Please make your checks payable to Covenant and note "Douglas Church Fires" on the memo line. If you wish to give directly, you may donate online at [fronteradecristo.org](http://fronteradecristo.org) where there's a dedicated link for fire recovery donation.



**TRIPRIDE FESTIVAL**

The annual TriPride Festival is in Founders Park on **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Covenant will have a table at the event again this year, and we are looking for volunteers to help us greet our neighbors. If you're available to help, please let the church office know!



Everyone is invited to attend the Second Sunday Potluck every each month immediately following the service.

The theme for September 10<sup>th</sup> is **TAILGATING** – think Cook-Out, Team Spirit, Fun Fellowship, and...

**YUMMY FOOD!**

Bring a dish or desert to share.

### **BACKPACKS FOR BABMOC—DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>!**

Backpacks can be filled with school supplies such as pens, pencils, erasers, composition books, pencil sharpeners, compasses, rulers, protractors, and glue sticks. You may bring these supplies on Sundays or during the week (same hours as our Good Sam collection times – see below)

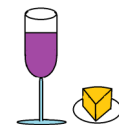
### **GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING**

We continue to collect 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, also Peanut Butter & Jelly. If you wish to make a monetary donation, we will pass it along, too.

Remember, the Good Sam cart is outside in front of the church office Monday-Thursday from 10a-3p. Thank you, as always, for your generous donations to this local ministry!



### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S CIRCLES**



- ◆ **Friendship Circle** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM in the church library. First meeting will be on **Wed., Sept. 13**. Contact is Rosemary Whitson.
- ◆ **Red Tent Circle** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the home of Gwen Hunter, 512 W Maple St. The first meeting will be on **Thurs., Sept. 14**. Contact is Gwen Hunter.
- ◆ **Joy Circle** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 11:00 AM in the pavilion at Metro Kiwanis Park. Times and places may vary, depending on weather. First meeting will be on **Tues., Sept. 12**. Contact is Anne Smith.

### **A MESSAGE FROM OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS**

**Technology** now offers Covenant an opportunity to reach far beyond the walls of the physical building through our social media accounts. Through **Facebook** and **Instagram**, Sunday services, special events, and other church activities are available online. We can extend the reach by sharing Covenant posts to our personal social media outlets. Through recent conversations with new members and visitors, I’ve found that folks often find us online and through social media. Technology gives us a digital front door, by which folks can learn about who we are and what we are doing. If you would like more information about what we can do through social media, I’ll be happy to offer my thoughts.



Peace and blessings to all,

*Ron Smith*

Chair, Outreach and Communications Committee



### **BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE**

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 AT CARVER CENTER**

The presenter/facilitator of September’s meeting will be the Rev. Aaron Murphy, pastor at Thankful Baptist Church, Executive Director of Good Samaritan Ministries, & Vice Mayor of Johnson City. He has been asked to provide his insight into building community, working for the benefit of all people in the city, and bridging cultural differences. Contact Ed Wolff for details.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Shelby Ingram; Jeri DeWeese; Estelle Armistead; Ed Wolff; Laura Phillips; Kendall Harris; Evelyn Hill, Anne Trask's mother; Sharon Benner; Annette Mullins, Holly Bland's mother; Jeff Lovelace (with our cleaning service); Allen White, Maggie's uncle; Cathy Eades, Jim Starr's cousin; 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 Ministries † The River † BABMOC



## ELDERS OF COVENANT (SESSION)

### Class of 2023

Kathi Cary, Worship, Admin/Budget  
Lauri Zembower, Admin/Budget

Laura Phillips, Treasurer

### Class of 2024

Cynthia Erdei, Local & World-Wide Missions  
Stacy Larsen, Congregational Life  
Ron Smith, Communications/Outreach



### Class of 2025

Patti Coble, Christian Education  
Ann Freeman, Clerk of Session, Communications/Outreach  
Hal Hunter, Property  
Phyllis Thompson, Local & World-Wide Missions



## ONLINE GIVING

Did you know that you can make your contributions to the church online?

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.

## JULY TREASURER'S REPORT

### Income to General Fund

July

Actual \*\*\$13,862.02  
vs. Budgeted \$17,981.67

### Expenses from General Fund

July

Actual \$13,964.63  
vs. Budgeted \$17,981.67

### Year to Date Income

General Fund

Actual \$144,584.84  
vs. Budgeted \$125,871.69

### Year to Date Expenses from

General Fund

Actual \$117,627.32  
vs. Budgeted \$125,871.69

*The 5-Cents a Meal Offering  
for July was \$84.00.*

*\*\*includes pre-paid pledges from 2022  
and applied to 2023.*



**Covenant**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

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Find us on Facebook:

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

### **TREASURER’S NOTE...FROM LAURA PHILLIPS**

“Do not be afraid, little flock,  
for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”

*Luke 12:32*

I thank God every day for all that I have been given, not just the monetary means for survival and the occasional luxury, but also for some natural and learned abilities and the time to offer those God-given gifts where and when needed.

If we were to sit quietly and take an assessment of all that we have in terms of time, treasure and talents, we’d realize how richly blessed we are. But stockpiling our gifts doesn’t exactly honor God.

As we enter the coming stewardship season, let’s think about, and ask how we may share our gifts with our church and, by extension, our community. Clearly financial help is always necessary. But please don’t overlook your talents and time.

Let’s honor God by sharing the blessings we’ve been given.

### **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.



Covenant is proud to be an **Earth Care Congregation**, a **More Light Church** – supporting the LGBTQ+ community, and a **PC(USA) Matthew 25 Church** – committed to dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty, and building congregational vitality.