

# COVENANT COURIER



Covenant  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHRIST • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY

# FEBRUARY 2024

## JEREMI LUKANUS JUNIOR RECITAL—SAT., FEB. 10 AT 5:00 PM

Jeremi is inviting everyone to his Junior Recital on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 5:00 PM. It will be in the Powell Recital Hall in the Martin Center at ETSU. Entry is free—donations are welcome.

## SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK—FEBRUARY 11



The theme for the Second Sunday After-Church Potluck on February 11, 2024, is **Heart Healthy Foods**. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share and enjoy some time of fun, food, and fellowship.

The Congregational Life Committee is looking for more volunteers to be a part of our team and specifically someone to captain the After-Church Potluck. If you are interested in serving on a fun committee, please contact Stacy Larsen at [stacyllarsen@gmail.com](mailto:stacyllarsen@gmail.com) or 423-491-2052.

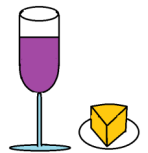
## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING??

From serving on a committee (Communications/Outreach, Local & World-Wide Missions, Congregational Life, etc.), to bringing snacks for times of fellowship, to helping with cleanup after a church lunch, there are **ample** opportunities to be more involved and connected here at Covenant. Contact Tina in the office for more information! [office@cpcjc.org](mailto:office@cpcjc.org) or 423-282-5324.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLES IN FEBRUARY



- ◆ **Red Tent Circle:** Thurs., February 8 at 7:00 PM. At the home of Gwen Hunter, also the contact for this Circle.
- ◆ **Joy Circle:** Day and time to be determined. Contact is Anne Smith.
- ◆ **Friendship Circle:** Wed., February 14 at 1:30 PM in the church library. Contact is Rosemary Whitson.



## GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD OFFERING

We are collecting the following food items on a regular basis: **Jelly/Jam; Peanut Butter; Canned Veggies; Canned Fruits; Dry / Canned Beans; Rice; Soups; Cereals (hot and cold); Canned Meats (Tuna, Vienna Sausage, etc.), and Powdered Milk**. If you wish to make a monetary donation, we will pass it along, too. Thank you for your generous donations to this local ministry.

## TREASURER'S NOTE...FROM LAURA PHILLIPS

As winter persists and I begin to tire of this cold, dreary season, I'm reminded of the importance of 'counting my blessings' and cultivating gratitude. One way I do this is what I call the Five Senses Thanks. Every night, I think back on the day and thank God for something specific that positively affected each of the five senses. It could be a beautiful sunrise you see. The feel of your cat's fur. The sound of a child's laughter. The smell of a wood fire. The taste of the day's first sip of coffee. Often, you'll find several moments that spark a strong reaction to your senses. Embrace all of them! Let us be thankful for all God's blessings filling our senses and souls!



**BLACK/WHITE DIALOGUE**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 6—8 PM AT CARVER CENTER**

This is Black History Month. How appropriate that the topic is exactly that, Black History. We will participate in a forum to hear about a local organization, “Community History 365” that is committed to bring to us the true history of our Black brothers and sisters beginning with the incredible African civilization up to the present. Ms. Pauline Douglas will facilitate the discussion. We will be arranged in separate small groups, not to exceed eight in a group. Contact Ed Wolff for details.

**TREE DAY**

**Volunteers needed for Tennessee Tree Day!** 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 to:

- **Sort** seedlings according to individual orders, wrap roots with wet newspaper and bundle for distribution on March 15 & 16 (4—6 people, depending on number of orders)
- **Hand out** bundles on March 15 from 3—5:30 PM and March 16 from 9 AM—NOON (4 people each day but the more the merrier!)

If you’d like to help, contact Ron Smith at [ronDsmith1349@outlook.com](mailto:ronDsmith1349@outlook.com) or text him at 214-417-3169.

If you’re interested in getting seedlings for yourself, you can order from the TEC website for a suggested donation starting at \$1.99/tree from a selection of 10 varieties. **Deadline for ordering is March 4.** To order, go to <https://www.tectn.org/tennesseetreeday.html>.

**Reserve Your Native Trees Today!**

**Pre-register online** for trees to plant at your home, farm and in your community for the 10th annual Tennessee Tree Day.



Scan the code, find your local pick-up site and reserve your trees at  
**[tectn.org/tennesseetreeday](https://www.tectn.org/tennesseetreeday)**

Pick-up dates and times may vary depending on location.

Dear Covenant Presbyterian Church,

As we look forward to all that 2024 offers, we can’t help but express our heartfelt gratitude to our donors. Thanks to your generous donation, we can provide nutritious meals and groceries to thousands of families in need. Thank you for opening your heart once again to help your friends and neighbors who are hungry. You are vital to our vision of a hunger-free Northeast Tennessee. Your generosity helps working families put food on their tables. It ensures seniors don’t have to choose between a nutritious meal and much-needed medication. It gives children the nutrition they need to do well in school and to grow up healthy and strong. Thank you for helping us solve hunger!

Sincerely,

*Rhonda Chafin*

Executive Director, Second Harvest Food Bank of NE TN

Dear Friends at Covenant Presbyterian Church,

Rise Up for Kids is immensely grateful for your generous monetary gift from your recent Alternative Gift Fair. We thank you for the privilege of attending the AGF and for each Covenant member who expressed support for Rise Up youth by donating. By giving, you are propelling Rise Up in our mission to help youth be relationally successful and prepared for the future.

**AND**

Oh, how you have blessed Rise Up for Kids youth! You have met a need with love for the kids we serve, and all of us at Rise Up are immensely grateful. Thank you for the generous assortment of winter outerwear. A precious boy or girl will receive an item and be thrilled to do so. We appreciate your giving hearts and your efforts to purchase and collect on behalf of the youth at Rise Up. You've made a tangible and positive difference in their lives.

With heartfelt appreciation,

*Lisa Smalling*

Dear Covenant Church Family,

Julie and I want to thank you for your generous support for For the Future of Guangaje, to support scholarships for indigenous youth in Ecuador. The indigenous youth in Ecuador have had very limited opportunity to go to college. But that is changing! They now are preparing themselves to go to college. Unfortunately, their families, who are extremely poor subsistence farmers, are unable to completely support them for the room and board and other fees they incur while living away from home (their communities are way up in the highlands of the Andes mountains, far from the University). Here is a picture of the 2 of our newest scholarship recipients (in the foreground --Ismael, studying dentistry and Katarina, studying tourism) and Sisa, in the back, who graduated last May in accounting. She now is working as an accountant! They are young, hopeful and want to make a life for themselves, just like our young people. Thanks to you and others, they have a chance to do that through education.



Sincerely, *David & Julie Wood*

Dear Covenant Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your generous gift to UKirk ETSU! We are so grateful for the opportunity to share a little about the work and ministry happening on ETSU's campus during your Christmas Alternative Gift Fair. May God bless you this year, rewarding you with joy and continuous opportunities to praise God.

Grace and Peace, *John W. Golden*

Dear Friends,

From all of us at Holston Center, I wanted to take a moment and thank you for your generous gift. We will be using this gift to help children from Holston Presbytery to attend camp that otherwise would be unable to attend. Our goal is for every child that wants to attend camp to attend camp regardless of ability to do so.

Thank you so much,

*Dave Cohn*, Executive Director

# MEMORIAL GIFTS TO THE CHURCH



GIVEN IN MEMORY OF

**CAROLYN ROWLAND**  
(Gwen Hunter's mother)

BY

Gary & Anne Smith

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Frankie Wolff; John Rowland (Gwen Hunter's father); Stacy Larsen; Judy Moakler (Rich's mother); Becca Van Weiren; Shelby Ingram; Estelle Armistead; Kendall Harris; Evelyn Hill (Anne Trask's mother); Sharon Benner; Allen White (Maggie's uncle); Cathy Eades (Jim Starr's cousin); those affected by gun violence; for peace in areas of conflict: Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine.

**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



## 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.

## DECEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

### Income to General Fund

#### December

Actual \$18,746.30  
vs. Budgeted \$17,981.67

### Expenses from General Fund

#### December

Actual \$17,591.64  
vs. Budgeted \$17,981.67

### Year to Date Income

#### General Fund

Actual \$ \*\*222,180.44  
vs. Budgeted \$215,779.98

### Year to Date Expenses from

#### General Fund

Actual \$224,740.74  
vs. Budgeted \$215,779.98

*The 5-Cents a Meal Offering  
for December was \$175.95.*

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



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Find us on Facebook:

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

### **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.