Throughout the gospels, Jesus performs miracles that seem instantaneous: a blind man suddenly can see, a woman’s hemorrhaging suddenly stops, five thousand people are fed simultaneously with just a few loaves and fishes. Could our knowledge of these stories lead us to believe that all miracles should happen this quickly?

Consider this: although Jesus’s own miracles are often instantaneous, the parables he tells suggest that God’s work often takes much longer: the seed is sown and eventually grows into a plant that bears fruit; a treasure is buried in a field and decades later someone buys the field to claim the treasure; a king entrusts his servants with his wealth and returns after many years to judge their stewardship. Apparently, many miracles are of the slowly unfolding variety.

The pace of our world has increased exponentially in the last few decades. When I started college, email was the hot new thing and when I talked to my family once a week it was over a landline; today we can communicate instantaneously with friends and strangers around the globe, and receive instant notifications on our devices when any event happens that someone deems newsworthy. Does this mean that Jesus’s allusions to slowly unfolding miracles are outdated, no longer valid? Surely not. It means that as people of faith sometimes we need to take time to notice the miraculous as it percolates and unfolds around us. It also calls us to be patient when God’s timeline does not match ours!

In these pages you can glimpse the unfolding mission and ministry of the Church of the Covenant in the last year, based on our vision statement to be a welcoming spiritual home, live God’s inclusive love, express Christ’s compassion, and do justice in the world. What is included is by no means exhaustive, but it shows some of the new ways God has moved us to live into our vision statement this year. Each picture offers a glimpse into an ongoing story founded on the history and tradition of this community, and each shows how we are building on this foundation as we follow God into the future. May the ministry we have done and are doing inspire you to notice the fast and slow miracles God is working even now, in your life and in our life together.

The Reverend Amy Starr Redwine
Pastor / Head of Staff

Be a welcoming spiritual home

The Covenant Student Ministries Connection Center, located on the lower level of the Education Building, is a new space open for all CWRU, CIA, and CIM students to hang out, study, or work collaboratively, with free WIFI, snacks and drinks.
We welcomed ten new members and two pastors to the Covenant community in October and four members and one pastor in March.

Music and Readings for the Season provided a brief respite during the Tuesday noon hour for reflective music, readings, and prayers for the season of Advent.

George Leggiero serenaded with Christmas carols those gathered for Christmas in July. The Friends of the McGaffin Carillon sponsored summer Friday Lunchtime Carillon Concerts, which were repeated on Sundays.

A highlight of our month-long study of the Psalms was A Psalm Festival with Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra, Sunday morning, February 12. These banners created for the Psalm Festival may be found in our Sanctuary on selected Sundays.

During this year, we . . .

Introduced the celebration of communion the first Sunday of each month.

Welcomed children and youth to worship in their own space on first Sundays.

Opened the front of the sanctuary by removing pews.

Introduced Prayer Stations during Lent.

Music Department intern Abraham Ross joined Kaori Hongo in working with the children's choir.

New Opportunities for Prayer, Study, and Spiritual Growth through . . .

Christian Meditation Lenten Study
Seasons of the Soul discussion
Wednesday Prayer and Song
Enneagram discussion group
Financial Peace University

“God’s Neighborhood” was the theme for Youth Sunday May 7.

Covenant Dwellers (4th–7th) and Sowers (8th–12th) at Fairmount Presbyterian Church, joining with Fairmount Presbyterian youth.

Welcomed the Penn State Glee Club in worship Sunday, March 5.
**Live God’s inclusive love**

Covenant Eights dinner groups share one of our favorite pastimes—eating—while getting to know one another!

President’s Day Interfaith Service of Prayer: Prayers for Peace
Open to people of any faith, prayers for reconciliation, mercy, justice, and wisdom were offered for our leaders, our nation, and ourselves.

**Express Christ’s compassion**

New Outreach Partnerships

- Giving Tree gifts for Cleveland School of the Arts students.
- Lunches for organ transplant patients and their families at Transplant House of Cleveland.
- Supplies for Camp Kesem, a camp for children of parents challenged by cancer.
- Space for Classrooms to Corporations youth training program.

Ongoing Outreach Opportunities

- Serving meals at North Presbyterian Church.
- Tutoring with the Saturday Tutoring Program and Daniel E. Morgan second graders.
- Rehanging homes with Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build.
- God Before Guns to reduce gun violence.
- Trunk or Treat for neighborhood and Covenant families.

- Covenant Classics “Oberlin Adventure” trip.
- Covenant Classics also visited the Sears think[box] on CWRU’s campus.

The Covenant Cache turned 40 this year! Cache volunteers gathered at the home of Marilyn and Chris Langmack to celebrate this special birthday.

Covenant youth and leadership with other Presbytery of the Western Reserve youth, participated in the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
Do justice in the world

“It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”
~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The lighting mechanism for our Rose Window was replaced with a smaller, energy efficient one.

Hundreds of lights throughout our building have been upgraded for increased energy efficiency and improved visibility.

Covenant is part of the Cleveland 2030 District, a movement to reduce the environmental impacts of building construction and operations.

“Making the Space to Talk about Race.” Members of the Covenant and Fairmount Presbyterian Church communities engaged in conversations about race, privilege, and power on Sunday evenings in early 2017.

“Unpacking Black Lives Matter” Adult Forums in February. Dr. Zachery Williams, Associate Professor of African American History, University of Akron, helped us unpack the various understandings, implications, and numerous questions surrounding the “Black Lives Matter” movement.

Covenant participated in the DISGRACE conference in Montreat, North Carolina, October 10–13, to consider what might be a faithful response to the embedded and structural racism in church and culture.

Pray for Peace - June 15: a time of prayer, meditation and music to stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, remembering the lives lost in the Orlando shooting, and all affected by gun violence. A prayer wall for ribbons was placed on our front lawn.

“Prayers for Peace” during the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, July 18–21 and July 24–28.

Mr. Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, spoke at Covenant on Sunday, October 2, 2:00 pm; “With Justice for All in a Changing America.”

Thank you to the many photographers who generously share their pictures capturing the life of the Covenant.
2016 Financial Summary

Consolidated Endowment 2016 Activity
2016 Net withdrawals $245,000
2016 Gifts Received $105,000 *
2016 Investment income $607,275

* $75,000 Established the Winifred Mead and Violet Inez Martin fund for Music
$30,000 Estate gift

Consolidated Endowment Year End Balances

Personnel includes all paid staff and related benefits, including pastors, program and support staff, and contracted choral positions.

May 1, 2017
### The Church of the Covenant Leadership

#### Session
Rev. Amy Starr Redwine, Moderator  
Rev. Melanie Marsh Baum  
Will Klein, Clerk

#### Class of 2017
Mary Anne Bromelmeier  
David Finkenthal  
Mike Heines  
Denise Horstman  
Catherine Jarjisian  
Carol Roe  
Erin Tomko  
Harriet Wadsworth

#### Class of 2018
Barbara Clint  
Elizabeth Hagen  
Jim Tomaszewski

#### Class of 2019
Jennifer Conner  
Virginia Kallay  
LaShawna Adams Mitchell  
Jim Smekal  
Louis Stark

#### Class of 2018
Stephanie Finkenthal  
Cheri Keys  
Cathy Luck  
Reaver Nelson  
Norma Shuskey

#### Class of 2019
Matthew Garrett  
Marjorie Heines  
Elizabeth Holbein  
Pat Owen-Keltner  
Mildred Russin  
Elizabeth Shriver  
Ann Stark

#### Board of Deacons
Norma Shuskey, Moderator

#### Class of 2017
Renee Boykin  
Stephanie Johnson  
Ed Laylin  
Lorna Mierke  
Dick Miller  
Donna Prease

#### Officers of the Society
**President:** Keith Kallay (5/16–10/17)  
Martha Goble (11/16–5/17)

**Secretary:** Kathleen Farkas

**Treasurer:** Robert Baker (5/16–12/16)  
Keith Kallay (1/17–5/17)

#### Trustees
**Class of 2017**  
Catherine C. Miller  
Jim Prince

**Class of 2018**  
Patricia Fowler  
Ron James  
James Mate

**Class of 2019**  
Robert Jefferis (5/16-12/16)  
Ann Williams

### Covenant Staff (May 1, 2017)

#### Pastoral Staff
The Rev. Amy Starr Redwine, Pastor/Head of Staff  
The Rev. Melanie Marsh Baum, Associate Pastor  
The Rev. Nancy Lynch, Parish Associate

#### Administration and Operations
Mr. Willie Howard, Administrative Services Manager  
Mrs. Este Pozza, Manager of Finance and Operations  
Mrs. Mildred Russin, Volunteer Coordinator  
Ms. Lyn Cooper Tomaszewski, Communications Manager  
Mr. Willie Parker and Mr. Shannon James, Custodians

#### Music
Dr. Jonathan W. Moyer, Organist & Director of Music  
Dr. Matthew Garrett, Associate Director of Music  
Dr. Kaori Hongo, Director of Music for Children and Youth  
Mr. George Leggiero, Covenant & University Circle Carillonneur  
Dr. Jennifer Conner, Music Librarian

#### Student and Family Ministries
Mr. Kevin J. Lowry, Chaplain to Students  
Ms. Mindy Stewart, Director of Family Ministries  
Ms. Christina Cameron-Hollyfield, Crèche Coordinator

### Covenant University and Community Ministries ~ CUCM
CUCM is a non-profit organization founded in 2010 by the Church of the Covenant to provide a home for programs that reach out and engage both the university and Greater Cleveland community. Four programs are currently under the CUCM umbrella. In 2015 The Friends of the McGaffin Carillon in University Circle, Inc. secured a 501c3 status and the Grafton Community Service Program moved to Covenant mission. CovenantUCM.weebly.com.

Ms. Linda Wilson, Saturday Tutoring Program  
Mr. Kevin J. Lowry, Covenant Student Ministries  
Ms. Anne Pillot, Community Meals  
Mr. David Eggert, God Before Guns