WELCOME
Convinced of God's grace, the Church of the Covenant seeks to be a welcoming spiritual home, live God's inclusive love, express Christ’s compassion, and do justice in the world.

GATHER
We gather to worship God on the Lord’s Day (Sunday) because the Gospels testify that Jesus rose from the dead early on the first day of the week.

ENCOUNTER
We receive the good news of God’s love, mercy, and justice revealed to us through the Bible.
Call to Worship

We have gathered
    new followers and lifelong disciples,
    the powerful and the powerless,
    those who have too little and those who have too much.

    We have gathered, for we are one in Christ.

We have come
    seekers and skeptics,
    sinners and saints,
    the poor in spirit and the rich in faith.

    We have come, for we are eager to hear God’s word.

We are here, together.

    Let us glorify the one true God.
    Let us worship God.

Music Notes

The anthem, Sing Unto God, is a celebration through song of Judas Maccabaeus’s victory over his enemies. Maccabaeus (191-160 BC) was a Jewish priest who led the Maccabean revolt against the Syrian army—one of the earliest recorded wars for religious freedom. Handel (1685-1759) set this historic tale to music in an oratorio, named for the conquering hero. In this period of Eastertide, we might consider Christ’s victory over death as an appropriate parallel.

As we remember those who offered their lives in service to our country, we might also remember the lives of those who have been lost to COVID-19. Canadian composer Eleanor Daley (b. 1955), who visited Church of the Covenant in the spring of 2016, included a song of remembrance in her Requiem. The movement, “In Remembrance” is set to a 1932 poem by Mary Elizabeth Frye (1905-2004), who was originally from Dayton, Ohio.

The carillon postlude Healing Bells is a musical response to our current pandemic. The composers, Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra and Jet Schouten, explain that the Ukrainian folk tune “Plyve Kacha” with its lamenting quality is a tribute to those who have suffered and those who have died of COVID-19.
The spiraling motive throughout the piece is a musical representation of the COVID-19 virus. The tolling bell represents the Healing Bell that many have believed could ward off and eradicate disease. In the course of the piece, the viral spirals are weakened and subdued by the drone until the virus is knocked away note by note followed by a stately conclusion of the folk tune lament.

OUR LAY WORSHIP LEADER is Gale Bromelmeier.

Gale met her husband, John, at Tower Fellowship, a young adult group sponsored by the Church of the Covenant. They married and joined the church in 1958. Gale has served as Elder, Trustee, Secretary of the Society and on many committees over the year. She currently recruits lay worship leaders and would love to hear from new volunteers. She is the proud mother of Mary Anne, Martha and Matthew; grandmother of nine and a bounty of great grandchildren.
Corporate Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, who loves us even when we are impatient, frustrated, even angry. Forgive us for thinking our forced confinement is Your doing. Help us to accept that sometimes life brings us lemons. Help us to realize how fortunate we really are. Support us as we reach out to others who need a helping hand, a word of encouragement, a prayer or perhaps a bag of groceries. We are imperfect servants. Take our best efforts, O Lord, and transform them by your grace. We ask your forgiveness as we silently confess our sins.

Silent Confession of Sins

Declaration of Forgiveness

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Gloria Patri

Hymn 579

Glory be to the Father** and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**or Maker

Anthem

Chamber Choir of Namur, Belgium

Sing Unto God from Judas Maccabeus

G.F. Handel

Sing unto God, and high affections raise, to crown this conquest with unmeasured praise.

Time for Young Disciples

Kaori Hongo, Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministry

Parting Response

Christopher Moyer, soloist

Hymn 535

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.
Prayer of Illumination

Gospel Lesson

John 17:1-11

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Sermon

Praying for the Journey Ahead

Rev. Mark A. Medina

Time for Quiet Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

9.20, The Confession of 1967

God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in humanity. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which men and women are reconciled to God and to one another. The Spirit enables them to receive forgiveness as they forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as they make peace among themselves. In spite of their sin, humanity gives them power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all people.

Amen.
1. This is my song, Oh God of all the nations, A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
   My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, And sunlight bound where strife has raged so long;

2. This is my home, the lands I have, But other hearts that each may seek to
   Clover-leaf and pine. But other clover, And skies are every-thing, every-thing.

3. Here are my hopes, my dreams, my sacred shrine. But other hearts in other lands are beating,
   My love and build together. My clover, a world united, in its love for freedom.

With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine. A song of peace for their land and for mine.
   For their land and for mine. A song of proclaiming peace together in one song.
Eternal God,  
from whom all life comes, to whom all life returns,  
we give thanks for all who served our country in the military.  
We give thanks for sacrifices made and for those who gave the  
full measure of devotion.  
We give thanks for their lives, their goodness, and their love.  

This day we give special thanks for those we name in our  
hearts at this time and utter their name.  
We are grateful that for a season  
you allowed us to share life with them.  
We commend them to your keeping,  
knowing that they are held forever in your love.  
Still our loss wounds us and we mourn.  

We pray for families and friends and all who grieve for  
loved ones lost in this war.  
Meet them in the valley of death's shadow.  
Embrace them in the healing warmth of  
your comfort, grace, and love.  
Grant them and all of us the assurance  
that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in  
Christ Jesus our Lord,  
in whose name we pray.  

We now come to you, O God, as we join together in praying the prayer  
that your Son taught us to say, Our Father...  

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.
Congregational Amen

All are invited to sing.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

In Remembrance from Requiem

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep
I am the thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight-ripened grain,
I am the gentle morning rain.
And when you wake in the morning’s hush,
I am the sweet uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father,** Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication
5. Let every creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King;  
   Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud Amen!

1. Jesus shall reign where’er the sun Does its course.
2. To Him shall endless prayer be made, And praises
3. People and realms of every tongue Dwell on His
4. Blessings abound where’er He reigns; The prisoners

   cus - liar to our King; Ang - els de - scend with
   cess - sive jour - neys run, His king - dom stretch from
   throng to crown His head; His name, like sweet per -
   love with sweet est song, And in - fant voic - es
   leap to lose their chains, The wea - ry find e -

   songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud A - men!

   shore to shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
   fume, shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
   shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
   ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.
Responsive Benediction  

Friends, be empowered by Christ’s love,  
keeping Christ’s name on your lips,  
the Wisdom of the Holy Spirit in your mind,  
God’s love in your hearts,  
God’s beloved ones always in our sight, and  
God's still speaking voice in our ear. Amen.

Postlude  

Jonathan W. Moyer, organ  

Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist, BWV 671  

Johann Sebastian Bach

Holy Lord, God the Holy Ghost! Who of life and light the fountain art,  
With faith sustain our heart, That at the last we hence in peace depart.  
Have mercy, Lord.

Carillon Postlude  

Healing Bells  

Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra & Jet Schouten  

Richard de Waardt, 17th century carillon of the Laurenskerk, Rotterdam

Please extinguish the candle.

An Update From Session  

Session voted to extend the closing of the church UNTIL MAY 31st.  
This is in response to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic that’s affecting our country.  
While our building remains closed, please know that our hearts and spirits remain open and connected through our celebrations of faith and fellowship.

We Keep in our Prayers: Thelma Everhart, Theodis Fipps, David Keltner, Pat Owen-Keltner, Greg Madison, Reathel McWhorter, Susan Moyer (Jonathan’s mother), Nicole Murray, Gene Papp, George Peters (Michael’s father), Lou Salvator, Lyn Cooper Tomaszewski, Kim Voss, Kate and Paul Williams and Gabriel (Jenny Conner’s grand-nephew). We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, or homebound; patients, family, and staff in our surrounding hospitals; and those who left prayer requests in our Carpenter’s Bo

Covenant After-Worship Coffee Hour, by ZOOM, May 24, and 31  
The Ministry of Faith Formation is hosting a virtual coffee hour and fellowship time at 11:00 a.m.  
CLICK HERE for today’s Coffee Hour  
Email Elder Matthew Garrett for additional information: mgarrett@covenantweb.org.  
MoFF hopes you will take this opportunity to get familiar with the Zoom App!
Help The Deacons Create Masks
The Deacons are looking for members who want to help create masks for visitors to Church of the Covenant once we return to worship in person. You can donate your time, materials and sewing skills as our team providing masks for visitors. If you want to be part of this team, please contact Joan Drushel at sailorlorien@yahoo.com.

Cache Resale Shop Update
A date for reopening the Cache has not yet been set. The shop may not be open for some time. “The Cache Ladies” respectfully request that no donations be brought in to the church until further notice. Thank you, and stay well.

This Week at Covenant (May 24– May 31)

**Sunday:** Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 10 am; Covenant Coffee Hour, by Zoom, 11 am; Youth Meeting, by Zoom, 2 pm.
Church Building is Closed.

**Monday:** No scheduled activities. Memorial Day. Church Building is Closed.

**Tuesday:** Staff Meeting, by Zoom, 9:30 am.
Church Building is Closed.

**Wednesday:** Food Pantry, 10 am–12 pm, Tower Door; Session Meeting, by Zoom, 7 pm.
Church Building is Closed.

**Thursday:** No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.

**Friday:** Food Pantry, 10 am–12 pm, Tower Door; Lunchtime Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 12:15 pm.
Church Building is Closed.

**Saturday:** No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.

Zooming Through Technical Issues
Covenant’s first-ever LIVE Zoom Sunday morning event just happened to coincide with a Zoom-wide technical breakdown. What are the chances?!! Many thanks to Michael Peters for prevailing through the difficulties and welcoming 55+ participants to a sort of meeting re-boot when it became possible. Thanks also to Matthew Garrett for monitoring those joining the meeting to make sure we achieved the quorum of members necessary to conduct a congregational meeting.

With the help of technology, we were able to allow hardworking elders and deacons to retire on schedule and to ordain and install new members of session and the board of deacons. After hearing and responding to reports from Transitional Interim Pastor Rev. Medina, Chair of Trustees and President of the Society Martha Goble, and Treasurer Keith Kallay, many members enjoyed each other’s company in Zoom “breakout rooms” created by Michael until nearly 1 p.m.—greeting familiar faces (and the occasional cat strolling by) for the first time in long months.
Food Pantry Update From Ministry of Service
Session has approved the limited operation of the church’s food pantry during the building closure. However, we cannot accept food donations at this time. You can support this important ministry by making a monetary donation to the COTC hunger fund. Your generosity will help those in our neighborhood who are hungry and need help during this pandemic. Thank you!

Ways to Help Feed The Hungry
From the Ministry of Service and the Hunger Action Network: Ways to Address Hunger from a distance.
1. Consider providing financial support for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, Feeding America.

2. Make a Donation to the Church of the Covenant Hunger Fund. https://onrealm.org/covenantweb/-/give/now

3. Join the Ministry of Service OFFERING OF LETTERS on May 17, 2020. Presbyterians have partnered for years with Bread for the World, and your voice is needed now more than ever. Visit Bread’s page about Hunger and Coronavirus to see how you can support those most drastically affected by our current situation.

4. Embrace Meatless Mondays cutting back on our consumption of meat is good for us and good for the planet! There are abundant resources on going meatless, but may we suggest starting with the Meatless Monday website, and seeing where that takes you.

5. Donate to Centsability Offering: We may not be gathering weekly for coffee fellowship after church, or any of our usual meetings, but that doesn’t mean that we can’t collect funds for the Centsability/2 Cents-a-Meal offering. These small amounts of change become large donations when we all contribute! The Presbytery uses our Centsability Offering funds to support three groups doing important hunger justice work: City Rising Farm, an urban garden in the Hough neighborhood of Cleveland; Bread for the World; and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a worker-based human rights organization internationally recognized for its achievements in fighting human trafficking and gender-based violence at work.

Family Promise Needs Our Help.
In this time of such uncertainty, Family Promise Continues to Need Our Help. Their Volunteer and Donor Relations Coordinator Lisa Fritz recently updated Bob Ault on their current needs: paper towels, non-perishable pantry food items, frozen foods, Pull-Ups (size 2T/3T), diapers (size 4, 5, 6), Ziplock bags (gallon and quart), new bed pillows, and women’s body wash. If you would like to donate any of the above items, please call Bob Ault (440-565-7710) who will arrange to pick up your donations from your home, physical contact-free, and deliver them to Family Promise. If you would rather make a cash donation, you can either send a check made out to Family Promise of Greater Cleveland and mailed to: 3470 East 152nd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44120 or donate on-line via the following link: https://familypromisecle.org/Donate

The Ministry of Service thanks you for your continued generosity.
Thank You From Family Promise
Dear Bob and our friends at Church of the Covenant, thank you so much for the continued support and donations. Your most recent delivery of paper towels, diapers, pillows and food pantry items will all be put to use and are so very appreciated by us and our families.
Wishing you well, Lisa Fritz Volunteer and Donor Relations Coordinator

Coronavirus NOT Stopping Carillonneurs!
Greater Cleveland carillonneurs, including our own George Leggiero, continue to provide free music as a solace to a coronavirus-worn public. The outdoor nature of carillon listening supports Governor DeWine’s plea for social distancing as well as his urging to get outside for our mental health.

Here is a link to WCPN ideastream’s stories about the “coalition of carillonneurs” (and stories from 2014 and 2017): https://www.ideastream.org/news/northeast-ohio-carillons-provide-musical-relief-during-pandemic. The Friday concerts are sponsored by the Friends of the McGaffin Carillon in University Circle.

Here are additional details:

Church of the Covenant
George Leggiero & guests
Fridays 12:15–12:45 p.m.
Sundays 10–10:30 a.m.

Church of the Saviour (2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Hts.)
Sheryl Modlin
Saturdays 10–10:20 a.m.
Sundays 11:30–11:50 a.m.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Hts.)
David Osburn
Sundays 11–11:30 a.m.

St. Christopher By-the-River (7601 Old Mill Road, Gates Mills)
Becky Everett
Sundays 10:15–10:35 a.m.

Online Donations
Our website’s Giving page is up and running. You can now make donations and pledges from your phone or computer. Check it out at: http://www.covenantweb.org/giving/

Rev. Medina
Rev. Medina made a request (which Session has approved) to return to his home in Chambersburg, PA during this time of “shelter at home.” This puts him near his primary care doctor. He is contributing all work remotely and staying in close touch with Ruling Elders, Deacons, staff and members of the church. You are welcome to contact him at mmedina@covenantweb.org or his cellphone at 269-303-2205. Thank you.
COMING SOON: Resources for Remote Worship and Fellowship

Are you looking for devotional or prayer ideas to nourish your faith formation? The Ministry of Faith Formation will be collecting ideas for online resources to nourish spirits and help remind us that we are always connected through our faith in Christ. A new link on the Covenant website will be available the week of May 25th!

If you need some help accessing technology to engage with one another, please send us an email at faithformation@covenantweb.org. MoFF members are ready and willing to help with technology access or challenges so that we can still fellowship from the comfort of our homes.

Supplies Needed

Covenant member Dale Goode is looking for donations of any old paint, polyurethane, varnish or shellac you may have. He’s also looking for all kind of old bed linens such as blankets, pillow cases, comforters and sheets, in any condition. He is working on a very large project and needs the supplies. Call Dale at: 216-229-7906 and he will pick up your donation.

The Much Anticipated TFYD Solution

Here’s the solution to the Presbyterian logo mystery!!

The Church of the Covenant

11205 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.
216.421.0482 • CovenantWeb.org
Covenant@CovenantWeb.org