I will sing new songs of gladness; I will sing Jehovah’s praises, upon a ten-stringed psaltery. Every day will I extol thee, and will bless thy holy name. Great is God and great his mercy; who shall tell of all his greatness? Who shall his power declare? My song shall be of praise and honor, and of thy glorious acts, thy works are wonderful, past our knowing. Yea, men shall tell of thy great kindness, and of thy wondrous might, and my voice shall proclaim aloud thy glory.
Friends, please join me in the Call to Worship.

The Shepherd calls us by name and leads us to abundant life.
We hear your voice and hasten to follow.
The Shepherd prepares a table and lavishly pours out grace.
We hear your invitation and take our place at the feast.
The Shepherd gathers us in and welcomes us to the house of the Lord.
We hear your call and give you praise.
Let us worship God.

Hymn 465  Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

1. Here, O Lord, your servants gather, Hand we link with hand;
   Looking t'ward our Saviour's cross, joined in love we stand.
   As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray;
   Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.

2. Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands;
   Yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.
   E'en in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth;
   Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.

3. Nature's secrets open wide, changes never cease;
   Where, O where, can weary souls find the source of peace?
   Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife;
   Jesus, healer bring your balm, for you are the Life.

4. Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with death-less love;
   Help us as we work and pray, send us from above;
   Truth and courage, faith and power, need ed in our strife;
   Jesus, Savior, be our way, be our truth our life.
Corporate Prayer of Confession

Holy Creator, we acknowledge that we do not always show compassion for others as you show compassion for us. We are impatient, slow to forgive and admit that we hold on to anger. We do not utilize the gifts you have given us for building your kingdom here on earth. We see our accomplishments as our own and fail to recognize your role. Please forgive us for our selfishness and arrogance. Help us to heed your guidance in our everyday lives so that we can be the disciples you would have us be. We ask for your forgiveness as we silently confess our sins.

Silent Confession of Sin

Responsorial Kyrie

Lutheran Book of Worship (ELCA), Communion Setting 2

Michael Peters, cantor

All are invited to sing at the “c”.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen

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WE WELCOME the Rev. Shelley Nelson-Bridger, to our pulpit.

Rev. Shelley Nelson-Bridger is an ELCA Lutheran pastor and the Executive Director of UPCaM - the United Protestant Campus Ministries in Cleveland which serves students of Tri-C Metro Campus, Cleveland State University and Case Western Reserve University. After serving Lutheran congregations in Georgia’s deep south and around Ohio, she celebrates UPCaM’s ecumenical mission to invest in and equip college students to serve God’s church and world.

Shelley currently resides in North Olmsted with her husband and two sons.

TODAY

10:00 Carillon Concert
McGaffin Carillon

11:00 Covenant Coffee Hour
Click HERE for Zoom Link

2:00 pm Youth Meeting by Zoom

CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED.
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.

Hymn of Praise

Lutheran Book of Worship (ELCA), Communion Setting 2

All are invited to sing at the “c”.

Music Michael Peters, cantor

CONTACT

LEADERSHIP
Faithformation@covemantweb.org
Finance@covemantweb.org
Service@covemantweb.org
Personnel@covemantweb.org
Deacons@covemantweb.org
Trustees@covemantweb.org
Building@covemantweb.org
Music@covemantweb.org

MINISTERS

All the members of the church
Rev. Mark A. Medina,
Transitional Interim Pastor,
Head of Staff
Kevin Lowry,
Campus Chaplain & Dir. of Student Ministries
Matthew Garrett, PhD,
Music Director
Jonathan Moyer, DMA
Organist, Assoc. Music Dir.
Michael Peters, PhD,
Assoc. Music Director
Kaori Hongo, DMA
Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministry, Handbell & Children’s Choir Director
Ken Wendt, DMA,
Audio Visual Services Mgr.
Jennifer Conner, DMA,
Music Librarian
George Leggiero, MA
Carillonneur
Time for Young Disciples

Jonathan W. Moyer

Parting Response

Hymn 535
Christopher Moyer, soloist

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 for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson
Psalm 23
This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Sermon
Messing Easter
Rev. Shelley Nelson-Bridger

Time for Quiet Reflection

Invitation to Offering
Trustee Dennis Matz

Friends, we bring our offerings to God this morning. Our giving is in response to the blessings we have received from our Creator. You can make a donation through the link to the online giving page to the right. Let us now give to the Lord. Thank you.

Click here to be taken to the church's online giving page.

Offertory
The Beckwith Handbell Choir
Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Hymn Arrangement
Recorded in 2013

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Virtual Communion will take place today. As part of the service, communion will be celebrated and we invite you to participate. Preparing for communion means for you to place bread of your choice on a plate and have a partially filled cup of unfermented or fermented juice for each of you. A short liturgy includes the words of institution at which time Rev. Nelson-Bridger will invite you to partake of the bread followed by drinking of the cup. A short musical interlude is played to give you time to partake of the elements and to reflect on the Lord’s Supper.
Invitation to the Table

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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**Sanctus**  
*All are invited to sing*

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\( \text{Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'\text{r} and might:} \)
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
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**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.
Words of Institution

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Partaking of the Bread and Drinking of the Cup

Prayer After Communion.

Gracious God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this meal you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us. Now send us forth from this place by the power of your Spirit to tell this good news to the world. Amen.
Hymn 210

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.
Attr. William Croft, 1708

1. Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
2. Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received its frame,
3. A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone;
4. Time, like an ever rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
5. Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,

Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.
We fly forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.

Friends, join me in the Benediction.
We rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters,
and gives us refreshment of soul.
Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go,
so that the name of God will be glorified.
Though all manner of evil befall us, we will not be afraid,
for the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us.
We are never away from the love and mercy of the Lord,
and we shall be with the Lord for ever and ever. Amen

Postlude

Fugue in E-flat, BWV 552
Johann Sebastian Bach
Recorded, October 2018 in Warner Concert Hall, Oberlin College

Carillon Postlude

Toccata and Fugue in d minor
J. S. Bach
Boudewijn Zwart performs on the carillon at the Grotekerk, Gouda

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, Nicole Murray, Gene Papp, George Peters (Michael’s father), 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 Box.

Rev. Medina has laryngitis, and is under doctor’s order to rest his voice this week.

Annual Meeting Rescheduled:
Session has voted to postpone the congregational annual meeting from its normal date of the first Sunday in May to May 17th, and to conduct the meeting via Zoom. Please check future bulletins and e-news for more information on how to participate.

Need Help? Zoom Meeting Practice Sessions
As you may know, our upcoming congregation annual meeting will be conducted via Zoom. If you’ve never used Zoom before, we encourage you to email Michael Peters at: mpeters@covenantweb.org who has offered to hold practice sessions.

Covenant After-Worship Coffee Hour, by ZOOM, May 3, 10, and 17
The Ministry of Faith Formation will host an “after worship” virtual coffee hour at 11:00 am. CLICK HERE for the Zoom meeting link or email Elder Matthew Garrett for additional information: mgarrett@covenantweb.org.
We will host a similar opportunity for fellowship on May 10 at 11:00 am and on May 17, immediately following the congregational meeting. Links will be provided each week. MoFF hopes you will take this opportunity to get familiar with the Zoom App!

This Week at Covenant (May 3– May 9)
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: Church Building is Closed.
Tuesday: Staff Meeting, by Zoom, 9:30 am. Church Building is Closed.
Wednesday: Women Bible Study, by Zoom, 10 am; Deacons Meeting, by Zoom, 6:30 pm. Church Building is Closed.
Thursday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.
Friday: Lunchtime Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 12:15 pm. Church Building is Closed.
Saturday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.
Update on Jean Sacatsh
Jean Sacatsh will turn 91 on May 18th. Judson Park, where Jean lives, has been closed to visitors since March 11th, so I thought it would be nice if any church members who know Jean could send her a card or note to wish her a Happy Birthday! Jean is doing OK. When I last asked Judson about Jean, they said she was sitting by the window enjoying the sunshine. Her address is: Jean Sacatsh, Judson Park, Reinberger, Room 22, 2181 Ambleside Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. Jean’s friend and former neighbor, Jeanette Throne.

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](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.

Do You Know An Upcoming Graduate?
Send us a photo of any upcoming High School or College graduate you know and we’ll honor them next month. Email photos to: dmatz@covenantweb.org
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.

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: covenantweb.org/giving

Saturday Tutoring Offering Online Help.
As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic forced an early closure for The Saturday Tutoring Program’s 2019-2020 school year. Deciding to close was not an easy decision but a necessary one.
Although we were originally scheduled to end the school year on April 4, we have remained committed to our students and their families. Many school districts have designed distance learning plans for students, but this new way of learning is presenting new challenges for students and their families.

That is why we have made the decision to offer free online tutoring to students. However, this new endeavor will not be a success without you.

If you are interested in providing online tutoring, we ask that you complete a registration form that can be found using the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdi8Lt8P0XcmWEpoXtwnHECjtBKUJ4kDD9TzOPA8wyXuLasg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Online tutoring will begin on Monday, April 20, 2020. Similar to Saturday mornings, once you complete a registration form, we will pair you with a student based on your preferences. Once you are paired, you will receive an email which will include the date and time of your session (no more than 1 hour), the student’s name/needed subject area and a link to the meeting room. All you have to do is show up at your scheduled time! Sessions will accessible by smartphone but a computer/tablet is recommended.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to email us at saturdaytutoring@gmail.com. Thank you for helping our students reach their fullest potential!

Covenant Student Ministries has moved online.
Due to the COVID19 pandemic CSM has moved online with Virtual Gatherings on Sundays and Thursdays at 5:30 pm. (contact Kevin for login information). In addition Kevin is available for individual conversations and spiritual care in-person or virtually. You can connect with Kevin by texting or calling 330-988-0490 or by email klowry@Covenantweb.org.

Students Welcome Here
Church of the Covenant is a welcoming and inclusive spiritual home as you navigate your educational journey. We are here to help you flourish during your time in University Circle. We would love to get to know you better! To connect with our student ministries opportunities contact us at studentministries@CovenantWeb.org.

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.
**Bread For The World Letters To Congress**

This year’s focus is on helping children escape malnutrition and get the nutrition they need. Congress should increase funding for the Summer EBT program so more children have access to food during the summer months—the hungriest time of the year for children. Realizing that most congregations are not gathering for worship on Sundays, BFW has set up a way that you can stay at home and write a letter to Congress On Line. The link (shown below) is for use for all Ohio OL writing. This link allows BFW to track how many people write letters and is a verified system that Congress views as valid. The link will send an email directly to someone’s member of Congress and both Senators.  


Thank you to Laura VanDale the Hunger Action Advocate for Presbytery for the on line information.

**Ministry of Faith Formation Shares Remote Worship and Fellowship Resources**

**AND Extends a Helping Hand to Access Technology for our Covenant Community**

MoFF has three ideas for our Covenant Community as we worship and engage in fellowship remotely:

1. Consider lighting a candle as you begin worshipping with our Interactive Bulletins. The light is another way we can remind ourselves that we are united together through faith.
2. Visit THIS LINK to learn about resources from the PCUSA for remote and online devotional materials, bible study materials, and ideas for faith fellowship gatherings.
3. Consider gathering remotely through group telephone calls or videoconferencing applications as a way to stay-in-touch. Covenant 8 groups could easily gather using a little bit of technology, and enjoy hearing or seeing other members of our Covenant Community!

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.