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
God calls into our midst those who are beloved in all their diversity:

Out loud but muted
We welcome them.

God calls into our midst all those who are vulnerable,
In need of teaching, healing, shelter

Out loud but muted
We welcome them.

God calls into our midst all those with a word of challenge
That proclaims God’s kin-dom for all

Out loud but muted
We welcome them.

Let us worship God, who calls us to be
“prophets of welcome”:

Out loud but muted
Alleluia! Amen.
In observance of PC(USA) World AIDS Sunday this week, the anthem features Tocatta by American composer Kevin Oldham (1960-1993). Oldham did not begin to write music until he was diagnosed with AIDS. One year before his passing, he spoke with a New York Times reporter, “If I can make sure that my music will continue to have life, that seems to be the more important decision [as opposed to whether you stay alive or not].” As a form of music, a toccata is intended to highlight virtuosic elements of a performer’s touch on keyboard instruments. May this music touch our spirits as we remember those living with and lost to HIV/AIDS.

Summer worship services at Covenant traditionally bring opportunities to feature solo music. We take advantage of our remote worship setting to share a solo marimba performance of a gigue movement from J.S. Bach’s Suite in E minor BWV 996. You might remember hearing marimba at Covenant from our 2014 Christmas Eve service in which we shared carols and lullabies of the Southwestern US. The gigue is a musical dance form often used in Bach’s final instrumental and keyboard suites.
Call to Confession

Trustee Secretary, Jim Mate,
Lay Worship Leader

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Dear God, You made the worlds out of things which can not be seen. The stars stand at attention when You call to them, and You call them all by name. You hang the earth on nothing. How marvelous are Your works, O Lord. Hallowed be thy name. You know all things from beginning to end, and we are meant to wonder. Lord, we are beset by a plague. A virus is killing us. Like the wind or the waves of the sea, we can not control it. We stand in the path of the destroyer. Help us Lord. Stop it. Put it behind us, put it away. Let it be over, let it be gone. We want to come together again, as a congregation, as it was meant to be. Our Father who art in heaven, let us see Your hand in this. Holy Spirit of God, stand in the gap and protect us. Lord Jesus, we need You now. We ask your forgiveness as we silently confess our sins.

Silent Confession of Sins

Bach may have written this suite for the little-known *Lautenklavier*, or lute-harpsichord. The musical offering we share today features Luxembourg percussionist Christoph Sietzen (b. 1992).

**OUR LAY WORSHIP LEADER** is Jim Mate.

Jim joined the Covenant in 1984 and was married here in 1988. He has served on Session, and has moderated the Board of Deacons, and the Budget and Nominating committees. He serves now on the Board of Trustees as Secretary of the Society, and on the Presbytery Vitality committee.

**TODAY**

10:00 Carillon Concert
McGaffin Carillon

11:00 ZOOM Coffee Hour
Click HERE to join via Zoom

**CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED**

**COVENANT COMMUNITY IS ALWAYS OPEN**
Declaration of Forgiveness

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone, a new life has begun. God is faithful and just, forgiving our sins and transforming our lives. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Gloria Patri

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

Toccata

Karen Kushner, piano

Kevin Oldham

Time for Young Disciples

Kaori Hongo, Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministry

Parting Response

Ivy Goodman and Christopher Sho Moyer

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

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

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

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 10:40-42

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

Christ Welcomes All With Open Arms

Rev. Mark A. Medina

Time for Quiet Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

We believe
• that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;
• that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity. Amen.
Help Us Accept Each Other

Fred Kaan, 1975

1. Help us accept each other As Christ accepted us;
2. Teach us, O Lord, Your lessons, As in our daily life
3. Let Your acceptance change us, So that we may be moved
4. Lord, for today's encounters With all who are in need,

Teach us as sister, brother, Each person to embrace.
We struggle to be human And search for hope and faith.
In living situations To do the truth in love;
Who hunger for acceptance. For righteousness and bread,

Be present, Lord, among us And bring us to believe
Teach us to care for people, For all, not just for some,
To practice Your acceptance Until we know by heart
We need new eyes for seeing. New hands for holding on:
Welcoming and inclusive God, in Jesus you embraced the outcast and the downtrodden, the scorned and the shamed, showing us that all are worthy in your eyes. Help us, we pray, to open our hearts and our minds; to learn to love and welcome others as you do.

Guide us, Lord, to reach out with compassion to those who suffer in pain or poverty. Lead us to respond without preconditions or reservations, seeking only to serve in your name. Help us, we pray, to recognize the needs of others without judging. Inspire us to make a difference in our communities and the world.

Guide us, Lord, to reach out with forgiveness, to those where our relationships have broken down. Give us the humility and awareness to see our own role in disagreements and strife. Help us, we pray, to heal past hurts and build bridges. Bless us with patience and perspective.

Guide us, Lord, to reach out with curiosity to those whose views are different to our own. Encourage us to set aside division and prejudice, in favour of respect and reconciliation. Help us, we pray, to seek understanding. Awaken us to see new paths forward that leave behind entrenched beliefs.

Guide us, Lord, to reach out with acceptance to those we see as ‘other’: different race, different sexuality, different gender, different faith. Let our lives affirm that we are all your children and precious in your sight. Help us, we pray, to greet everyone we encounter with kindness. Support us as we try to live out your commandment to love our neighbour, and strengthen us to shine into the world as a beacon of your welcoming love.

Loving God, we now come to you saying the prayer your Son taught us. 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

Click here to visit the church's online giving page

Offertory

Gigue from Suite in E minor, BWV 996

Christoph Sietzen, marimba

J.S. Bach

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

**or Creator

Prayer of Dedication
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Attr. John Fawcett, 1773
Stanza 1, line 6, alt. 1774, Conyer’s Collection of Psalms
Stanza 3 alt. Godfrey Thring (1823–1903)

Sicilian melody

1. Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace; Let us each, Thy love possessing,
joyful sound; May the fruits of Thy salvation Triumphant in redeeming grace. O refresh us,
world away, Let no fear of death appall us.

2. Thanks we give and adoration For Thy gospel’s
Triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us,
In our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful,
Glad Thy summons to obey. May we ever,

3. So that when Thy love shall call us, Savior, from the
Triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us,
In our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful,
Glad Thy summons to obey. May we ever,

O refresh us, Traveling through this wilderness.
Ever faithful To the truth may we be found;
May we ever Reign with Thee in endless day.

Sicilian Mariners
Responsive Benediction

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me,
Quench our thirst for love,
Satisfy our need to be known,
Assure us that we are indeed prophets of welcome.
Let us go to proclaim this peace in God's name.

Prelude
Sonata No. 1 in D minor, IV. Fuga

Carillon Postlude
Impromptu - Hommage à Chopin

An Update From Session
With heavy hearts, the Session of our church agreed unanimously to continue the closure of our building for Sunday worship indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our building remains open only to mask-wearing essential staff, officers, and service persons.
Session will reevaluate this at each monthly meeting.

A Reopening task force has begun exploring possibilities to gather again, in person, at some point in the future. Task force participants include: Erin Tomko, Fred Braun, Barb Clint, Sybil Marsh, and Matthew Garrett.

We Keep in our Prayers: Venerine Branham, Thelma Everhart, Theodis Fipps, Fritz Haiss, Kitty Jarjisian, David Keltner, Pat Owen-Keltner, Greg Madison, Reathel McWhorter, Susan Moyer (Jonathan’s mother), Gene Papp, Carolyn Perry, George Peters (Michael’s father), Erin & Nick Tomko, Kim Voss, 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.

Our Prayers are with the family and friends of Mary Tinker who died on June 24th. She was close to many Covenant members and a true servant to those in need. She ran the food pantry (a program of ESIM and mission of Covenant) for over 40 years.
Resources for The Belhar Confession, PC(USA)

The Belhar Confession (Afrikaans: Belydenis van Belhar) is a Christian statement of belief written in Afrikaans in 1982. It was adopted (after a slight adjustment) as a confession of faith by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church (DRMC) in South Africa in 1986. According to this confession, God is the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged, and for this reason the church should stand by people in any form of suffering. It claims that individual, racial and social segregation is sin, and that all forms of segregation always lead to enmity and hatred. A study guide provided by PC(USA) can be located HERE.

Covenant After-Worship Coffee Hour, by ZOOM

The Ministry of Faith Formation hosts a virtual coffee hour and fellowship time each week, at 11:00 a.m. CLICK HERE to join our Coffee Hour this week, hosted by our own Barb Clint.

MoFF is looking for coffee hour hosts through the summer months. If you feel comfortable with Zoom and you like to talk with people, this could be a great opportunity for you! Don’t be bashful if the technology piece is a challenge, MoFF can help charge those batteries with a couple of short training sessions. Please email Elder Matthew Garrett for additional information: faithformation@covenantweb.org.

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.

Ways to Help Feed The Hungry.

The Ministry of Service and Hunger Action Network have put together a document outlining ways you can help feed the hungry in our community.
It’s located on the Giving page of our website, so you can access it any time, or refer others to it.

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/

This Week at Covenant (June 28–July 4)

Sunday: Carillon Concert, McGaffin Carillon, 10 am; After-worship ZOOM Coffee Hour, 11 am.
Church Building is Closed.

Monday: No scheduled activities. Church Building is Closed.

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

Wednesday: 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. Fourth of July.
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!

View the Film Just Mercy for FREE This Month.
Presbyterian pastor and film critic Edward McNulty provides discussion questions for the acclaimed film Just Mercy. Click on the link below for more information.
https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/the-film-just-mercy-can-be-viewed-free-this-month/

Summer Hymn: Share Your Favorites With Us!
Do you have a favorite hymn that you have not heard in a while? This summer, our music staff invite you to suggest a favorite hymn or two and why they are special to you. We will feature a “Congregational Favorite” each week. Organist Jonathan Moyer is also offering to create an organ or piano improvisation of a favorite hymn as well. Likewise, if you have an organ favorite for Jonathan, please let us know. You can submit your request in one of two ways:
1. Click HERE to share your ideas in a Google Form.
2. Send us an email at music@covenantweb.org

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.

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.

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.
Anti-Racism Resources
Please find below a link to PCUSA's selected resources for anti-racism education.
"As part of an ongoing campaign to address racial injustice, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is sharing a wealth of antiracism resources — including studies, books and training — to equip the greater church to work against racism."
PCUSA Anti-Racism Resources

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.