

Ritual of Friendship and Congregational Opportunities

(Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Please sign the attendance pads at the end of the pew and turn off cell phones.)

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE “Still, Still, Still”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: He came as a baby in a manger.

People: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: He came in a lowly stable.

People: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: Shepherds brought their worship.

People: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: Angels sang his praise.

People: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: Magi brought their gifts.

People: O come, let us adore him.

Leader: What shall we do?

People: O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord! Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 41** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: O God, we need Christ to renew our commitment.

People: We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful.

Leader: May your angels sing again to us of peace for body and soul.

People: We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us astray.

Leader: May your star once more set our course firmly in your direction.

People: We have turned our faith into a lifeless ritual.

Leader: May your manger call us again to expressions of love and devotion.

People: We have carefully kept our gifts and have not freely given our goods and our hearts to you.

Leader: May the Magi show us the spirit of giving.

People: Lord, may your Spirit linger in our hearts and bring renewal in our lives. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 31 (v. 3)** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,

Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

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HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE PSALMS pg. 582 Psalm 148

ANTHEM “Infant Holy” Arr.: Mary Goetze

(Text can be found in Hymn #37)

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

**Gateway to Worship

***HYMN OF PREPARATION # 49** “Once in Royal David’s City”

GOSPEL READING pg. 59 Luke 2:41-52

SERMON Treasure The Rev. Sharon Amstutz

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** based on Philippians 2:6-11

I believe the Word was in the form of God and did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

He emptied himself, took the form of a servant, and was born in our own likeness.

I believe he humbled himself and became obedient unto death.

I believe God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

I believe that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

I believe that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory “Gloria In Altissimis Deo” Camille Saint-Saëns

Translation: Gloria be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, peace and good will unto all men. Praise the Lord, O Lord our God. And on earth peace, peace and good will to all men.

***Doxology # 68 (v. 4)** “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in one, May every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise.

***Prayer of Dedication**

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN OF CONSECRATION # 302** “I Danced in the Morning”

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING RESPONSE # 29 (refrain)** “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born!

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***POSTLUDE** “Go Tell It On The Mountain”

(For some, the Postlude serves as festive music to accompany their going back out into the world. Others prefer to remain seated and listen. Those departing can help those who listen by holding their joyful greeting of others until they reach the narthex.)

*For those who are able, please stand.

****Gateway to Worship** is our worship program for 4-year olds through first graders. The Gateway leader will take the children to their classroom in the Fellowship Hall after the Children’s Moments.

WELCOME VISITORS! We are glad you are here. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join with us in service to Christ.

Please join us in the library immediately after worship for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

The congregation expresses its deepest sympathy to Enni Fomumbod in the death of her father.

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated next Sunday. Take time this week to prepare yourself in prayer and meditation.

This morning we welcome Lisa Cowart at the piano.

The **January Courier** can be found on the table in the narthex. **Help us save postage!** Be sure to pick up your copy!

The church office will be closed on **Monday, December 28th** for the Christmas holiday, and **Tuesday through Thursday** (Dec. 29, 30 & 31) for regular business as we close the financial records for 2009. Telephone and e-mail messages will be checked frequently, so please do not hesitate to call if you have an emergency.

The pastor will be out of the office the week of December 28th. If you have an emergency, please call the church office at 282-5324.

Last Sunday the **Christmas Joy Offering** was received. Our offering supports the education of students at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges and helps families of active and retired church workers in need. There is still time to contribute. Thank you for your generosity.

The Mitten Tree is in the hallway across from the church office! Please bring hats, scarves and mittens for children in our area who need a little warmth.

Reminder for Pledges: Next year is almost around the corner. Here are just a few reminders as you consider your year-end contributions to the church. If possible, please consider fulfilling your “2009” Pledge. To those who have made your 2010 Pledge, thank you for supporting the church and its mission. If you are planning on giving a contribution of stock, please have a broker statement in the Church Office no later than Thursday, December 31, 2009, for the gift to be included as a “2009” contribution. . All donations must be delivered or mailed (and postmarked) on or before December 31, 2009 in order to receive a charitable tax donation for “2009”. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2010 will not qualify for a charitable tax contribution deduction in 2009. However, checks that are written, mailed and postmarked in “2009” will be deductible in 2009 even if not received by the church until 2010. Thank you for your generous gifts to the church, the Stewardship Committee.

Please note: Your **2010 offering envelopes** are on the table in the Narthex.

We’re about to begin a new year and with that comes the need for **ushers** and for **elders to volunteer to serve communion.** New calendars for the coming year are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please use them to let us know when you will be available to help out. Many thanks.

Good Samaritan—We will continue to collect good, used men's pants and winter coats through the end of the year, so you still have time to go through your closets and storage bins!

The **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** will be held as a **Church Night Potluck Supper at 6:00p on Sunday, January 24th**. Highlights of 2009 will be reviewed, the 2010 budget will be presented, and we will elect members of the church Nominating Committee as well as officers of the corporation. Please plan to attend! It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about what's happening at Covenant.

Join the Senior Travelers for the **2010 Annual Senior Brunch** in the Fellowship Hall on **Friday, January 15th at 9:00 a.m.** Only \$3/each. Great breakfast, Christian fellowship, fun time. Be there, please!

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

Steve Bader, John Merriss, Rod Irvin (Andy's father), the Dulin family, Elva McCartt, Roger Hecht, Peter Block, Pat Adams, Will Favre (friend of David Wood & Phyllis Thompson) and family in the death of Will's dad, Marvin Parker (Evelyn Kemp's cousin), Bob Hunter (Hal's brother), Christian James Ward (baby of friend of Sue Crandall), George Gardner (the Willis' brother-in-law), Lane Johnson (CB Willis' cousin), Harriette Carr, Ed & Marie Britt, Bill Bader (Steve's brother), Stephanie Muncie (friend of Hines family), Shelly Thornton (Gwen Hunter's cousin's 4-year old granddaughter), Corrine Broyles, Julia Trifiletti, Aneita Carr, Agnes Plank, Helene Herbert

If you know of other reasons for rejoicing or concerns you would like to share with others please complete a prayer card with your requests.

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Jim Starr	Duet:	Pat Adams & Sandy Holland
Liturgist:	Cheryl Rice	Chimer:	Blake Jones
Pianist:	Lisa Cowart	Gateway:	Valerie Robertson
Acolytes:	Kalli Dulin	Nursery:	Nancy Hart
	Julia Hagelberg	Coffee Hosts	Congregational Life

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<u>Monday, December 28</u>	<u>Thursday, December 31</u>
Church Office Closed	New Year's Eve
<u>Tuesday, December 29</u>	8:00a Men's Bible Study
7:30p Al-Anon Meeting	9:30a Women in the Bible
<u>Wednesday, December 30</u>	Noon Al-Anon Meeting
NO WNL!	<u>Friday, January 1</u>
7:30p Choir Practice	New Year's Day

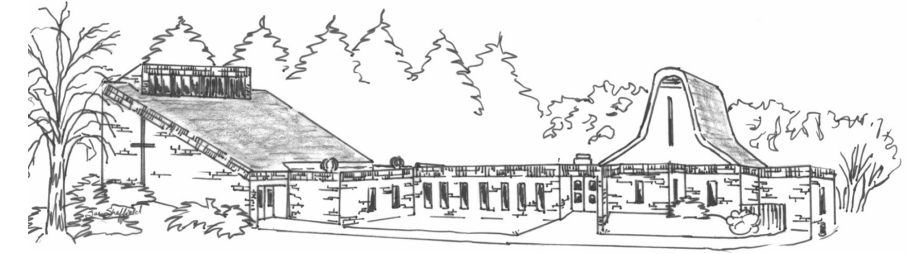
CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor:	Rev. Sharon H. Amstutz	Secretary:	Tina Simon
Director of Youth Ministry:	Andy Irvin	Nursery:	Jeanne Gamble
Choir Director:	Randy Adams	Custodian:	Marie Britt

YOU HAVE MAIL:

Cornelia Shelnut

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



603 Sunset Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604
Phone: (423) 282-5324

First Sunday After Christmas
December 27, 2009
Sunday, eleven o'clock

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O God,
light of the minds that know you,
life of the souls that love you,
strength of the thoughts that seek you:
Help us so to know you
that we may truly love you,
so to love you
that we may fully serve you,
whose service is perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.