

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.)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Jerry Nagel

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

SOUNDING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” arr.: Gail Ann Wasson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 91

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord,

People: **my refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.**

Leader: For God brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand
and an outstretched arm.

People: **Therefore we come before God
with our offerings, celebrating all God has done for us.**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***HYMN OF PRAISE** # 483

“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: **Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**

Leader: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Silent confession

Leader: We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Silent confession

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

Silent confession

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways
and our exploitation of other people,

Silent confession

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

Silent confession

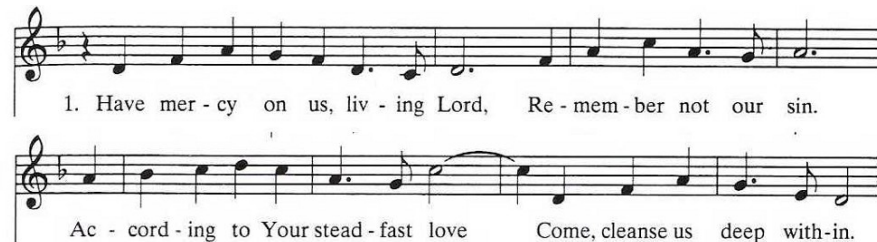
Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

Silent confession

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

Silent confession

Leader: Accept our repentance, O God,
for the wrongs we have done.
For our neglect of human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,



***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

based on Psalm 91

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** # 101, Stanza 4

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING pg. 180

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

GOSPEL READING pg. 61

Luke 4:1-13

ANTHEM

“O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee”

Gilbert M. Martin

Text can be found in Hymn #357

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

**Gateway to Worship

***HYMN OF PREPARATION** # 81

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

READING FROM THE PSALMS pg. 548

Psalm 91

SERMON

Living in the Shelter

The Rev. Sharon Amstutz

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from the Heidelberg Catechism

Leader: **What do you understand by the providence of God?**

People: Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God
by which he upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth
and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade,
rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink,
health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—
all things, in fact, come to us not by chance
but from his fatherly hand.

Leader: **How does the knowledge of God's creation
and providence help us?**

People: We can be patient when things go against us,
thankful when things go well, and for the future
we can have good confidence in our faithful God
and Father that nothing will separate us from his love.
All creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will
they can neither move nor be moved.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” arr.: Gail Ann Wasson

***Doxology** # 592

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

***Prayer of Dedication**

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN OF CONSECRATION** # 260

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING RESPONSE** # 396 (Stanza 1)

“O for a Closer Walk with God”

*POSTLUDE

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

arr.: Teresa Wilhelmi

*(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.

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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 flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
and in memory of Myma Slawson by Jerry & Sally Nagel.*

~ ~ ~ ~

SPUDFEST NEXT SUNDAY, February 28 immediately following worship.

Skype is all set up for us to have an electronic visit with Covenant's Missionary,
Lynnea Hunter, serving in Belfast, Northern Ireland. (What's Skype? It's a phone
call where you can see each other on the big screen in Fellowship Hall. You don't
want to miss this!) Enjoy a meal of baked potatoes and salad. All donations
benefit the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) mission.

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

Steve Bader, Pat Adams, Jean Freeman (Bill's mother), Helen Davis, Rod Irvin (Andy's father), Elva McCartt, Roger Hecht, Peter Block, Marvin Parker (Evelyn Kemp's cousin), Bob Hunter (Hal's brother), Ed & Marie Britt, 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 Gateway: Chris Adler Hillhouse
Liturgist: Jerry Nagel Nursery: Bobbie Carroll
Acolytes: Blake Jones Coffee Hostesses: Donna Bridwell & Cheryl Rice
Sean Madden
Chimer: Linden Hillhouse

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, February 21 Wednesday, February 24
9:00a Chime Rehearsal 4:45p WNL!
Monday, February 22 7:30p Choir Practice
6:30p Lenten Study Group Thursday, February 25
(Amstutz) 8:00a Men's Bible Study
Tuesday, February 23 9:30a Women in the Bible
Noon Lenten Study Group Noon Al-Anon Meeting
(Powell) Saturday, February 27
6:00p Lenten Study Group 5:00p Progressive Dinner
(Rice)
6:30p Lenten Study Group
(Zembower)
7:30p Al-Anon Meeting

CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Sharon H. Amstutz Pianist: Jennifer Palmer
Director of Youth Ministry: Andy Irvin Secretary: Tina Simon
Choir Director: Randy Adams Custodian: Marie Britt

This morning we welcome **Covenant's new Pianist, Jennifer Palmer.** Jennifer is a graduate of ETSU with a Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance and, most recently, the State University of New York at Stony Brook with a Master of Arts degree in Music History and Theory. She holds numerous prizes and awards in piano performance, but her real passion is found in teaching. While in New York, she was a member of the faculty of the Pre-College Division of the Department of Music, where she served as the vocal coach and accompanist, and worked with chamber pianists. Jennifer is an adjunct faculty member of the Department of Music at ETSU.

Note from Gwen Hunter: It's with great joy I share the prayer request update for my young cousin (5 yrs old) **Shelly Thornton.** She's in remission from cancer and registering for pre-school with anticipation of Kindergarten next fall! Continued prayers are requested for her and all cancer patients. Thanks for keeping her in your prayers all these months. God is good!

LADIES OF THE CHURCH: If you would like to be in a Circle beginning in September of 2010, even if you have not been in the **Friendship Circle** in the past, please indicate on the sign-up sheet in the narthex whether a daytime or evening meeting time would suit you. In the meantime, you are welcome to attend the current Friendship Circle group which meets on the second Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30; the place is announced in the bulletin and in the Courier.

"Come , let us worship..." the Worship Committee would love for anyone who is interested to visit our meeting on any 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., and to think about joining our committee in the joyful work of making each worship service as meaningful as it can be. Sue Sheffield, Chair.

Throughout Lent **cutwork banners** depicting the themes or biblical stories of Lent and the Passion of Christ will be hung in the windows of the sanctuary, leaving the sanctuary in increasing darkness. Our thanks to Sue Sheffield for designing and creating these beautiful pieces.

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We need pictures! We are in need of **CURRENT** pictures for the church's **website.** If you have, or would be willing to take pictures (digital) of groups, activities, classes, etc...around the church, we would love to have them. Just email them to Tina. cpcjctn@mounet.com

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Help Wanted

Position: Director of Covenant's Wednesday night children's program.

Hours: Wednesday evenings 4:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Responsibilities: Recruit leaders of children's activities, develop schedule for the year, recruit meal teams and or meal team leader, monitor Wednesday night activities.

Experience: No experience necessary. On-the-job training will be provided if position is filled by April 10th.

Compensation: Fulfillment of knowing you help to provide Christian education to the children of our church. Fellowship with church leaders and members of all ages. Lots of smiles and occasional hugs.

Please call the church office if you are interested in this important volunteer opportunity!

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Lent

Don't forget the exciting new opportunity you have this Lent to deepen your relationships with God and each other.

Several small community groups will be meeting **weekly during the five weeks between the first Sunday in Lent (February 22nd) and Holy Week,** which begins with Palm Sunday on March 28th. Each group will begin with a light lunch or supper together and be centered around a different theme or Bible study.

Here is a brief description of the groups:

Celebrate the Risen Christ- Would you like to be able to study the scripture that is read each Sunday in greater depth? Then this is the study for you. Dig deeper with Harry and Janet Powell and get even more out of worship on Sunday. Meets Tuesdays at noon at their home. (Beginning Tuesday, February 23rd)

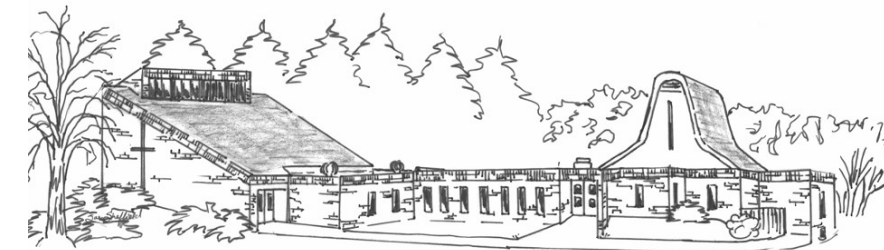
Prayer - Are you satisfied with your prayer life? If not, or if you would just like it to be richer, sign up for Christian and Lauri Zembower's group which meets in their home Tuesday evenings at 6:30. (Beginning Tuesday, February 23rd)

Bread in the Wilderness is the name of the study that Cheryl Rice will be leading. God sometimes (often?) takes us out into the wilderness, but never leaves us there to starve to death! This study looks at some of the stories in the Bible about God's always-faithful care, even in the midst of struggles and the 'dry' times and places of life. It meets in her home on Tuesday evenings at 6:00. (Beginning Tuesday, February 23rd)

Simplicity - This is the group for you if having a lot of stuff hasn't made you happy, and you're thinking about not trying to keep up with the Jones' anymore. Jim and Sharon Amstutz will lead this group on Monday nights at 6:30. An appropriately simple meal of soup or stew will be served. (Beginning Monday, February 22nd)

Groups begin this week, so sign up today!

**COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**



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

1st Sunday in Lent
February 21, 2010
Sunday, eleven o'clock

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Gracious God,
out of your love and mercy
you breathed into dust the breath of life,
creating us to serve you and our neighbors.

Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness
and strengthen us to face our mortality,
that we may reach with confidence for your mercy
in Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.