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 *Toccata from Partita No. 6 in E Minor* J.S. Bach

CHORAL INTROIT *"God Our Maker, Give Us Peace"* Children's Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP** from Psalm 71

Leader: In you, O Lord, we take refuge.
People: Let us never be put to shame.
Leader: In your righteousness deliver us.
People: For you are our rock and our fortress.
Leader: Bless the Lord!
People: The Lord's name be praised!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***HYMN OF PRAISE** # 423 *"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God,
in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The profit and pleasures we pursue
lay waste the land and pollute the seas.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor
set neighbor against neighbor
and nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason,
and turn them into bonds of oppression.
Lord, have mercy upon us;
heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** # 603 (Stanza 2) *"Song of Simeon"*

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING pg. 698 Jeremiah 1:4-10

ANTHEM *"Therefore, Give Us Love"* Daniel Moe

Gracious Spirit Holy Ghost, taught by thee we covet most,
of thy gifts at Pentecost holy heavenly love.
Love is kind and suffers long, love is meek, and thinks no wrong,
love than death itself more strong; therefore, give us love.
Prophecy will fade away, melting in the light of day;
love will ever with us stay; therefore, give us love.
Faith and hope and love we see, joining hand in hand, agree,
but the greatest of the three, is love.

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS
**Gateway to Worship

***HYMN OF PREPARATION** # 335 *"Though I May Speak"*

GOSPEL READING pg. 61 Luke 4:21-30

SERMON When Good News Sounds Like Anything But The Rev. Sharon Amstutz

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (pg. 14 – Traditional Version) The Apostles' Creed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"* Helen H. Lemmel

***Doxology** # 309 (Stanza 3) *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

***Prayer of Dedication**

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN OF CONSECRATION** # 298 *"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"*

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING RESPONSE** # 507 (Stanza 5) *"I Come with Joy"*

***POSTLUDE** *"Sheep May Safely Graze"* J.S. Bach
from Cantata no. BWV 208 (transcribed by Egon Petri)

(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.)

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*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.

This morning we welcome **James Silvers** at the piano. James was born in Johnson City and grew up in Greeneville. After completing high school at Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan, James earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Keyboard Performance at Indiana University, Bloomington. He then completed a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance & Pedagogy (the art of teaching) from the New England Conservatory in Boston, MA. James currently resides in Johnson City, maintaining a private piano teaching studio, accompanying musicians at various colleges in the area, and directing musical theater productions. He also currently holds a church position at the V.A. in Johnson City.

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

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

TODAY AT COVENANT

Morning Greeter:	Jim Starr	Acolytes:	Philip Hagelberg
Liturgist:	Ellen Hagelberg		Mark Jones
Pianist:	James Silvers	Chimer:	Julia Hagelberg
Children's Choir Directors:	Anne Smith	Gateway:	Matt Cary
	Sue Sheffield	Nursery:	Sharon Benner
		Coffee Hosts:	Tony & Eileen Madden

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Today, January 31		Wednesday, February 3	
9:00a	Chime Rehearsal	4:45p	WNL!
Monday, February 1		7:30p	Choir Practice
10:30a	Melting Pot	Thursday, February 4	
Tuesday, February 2		8:00a	Men's Bible Study
7:00p	Cong. Life Comm. Mtg.	9:30a	Women in the Bible
7:00p	Outreach Comm. Mtg.	Noon	Al-Anon Meeting
7:00p	Worship Comm. Mtg.		
7:30p	Al-Anon Meeting		

CHURCH STAFF:

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

YOU HAVE MAIL:

Karen Mabe

Phyllis Thompson

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

Steve Bader, Jean Freeman (Bill's mother), Rod Irvin (Andy's father), Elva McCartt, Roger Hecht, Peter Block, Pat Adams, Marvin Parker (Evelyn Kemp's cousin), Bob Hunter (Hal's brother), Ed & Marie Britt, 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.

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SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, February 28 for a visit to Belfast, Northern Ireland! We'll chat with Covenant's Missionary, Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Lynnea Hunter. She'll join us electronically for a SpudFest in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. (Spudfest is a Covenant tradition. Enjoy a meal of baked potatoes and salad. All donations will benefit the YAV mission.)

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Young Adult Volunteer Update!

Blake Jones has posted a bulletin board with information on **Lynnea Hunter's** activities in **Belfast.** It is in the hallway leading to Fellowship Hall. Take a few moments and look at the books and pictures.

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PLEASE NOTE that we are no longer collecting clothing for Good Samaritan. If you have clothing you would like to donate, please take it directly to them. Good Samaritan is located downtown at 100 N. Roan Street.

Friendship Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 9th at 7:30 p.m. Hostess: Gloria Lewis, Co-Hostess: Helen Davis. 377 Villa View Point, J.C., 282-2220. To carpool, meet at the church at 7:10 p.m.

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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.

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Lent:
Something Old, Something New
(Not just for weddings anymore)

This year the season of Lent will begin and end with our traditional observances, but we will be doing something new midweek.

Lent starts this year with Ash Wednesday on February 17th, and we will begin our season of penitence and preparation for Easter with a worship service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The imposition of ashes will be offered. We will come together again during Holy Week for a Maundy Thursday service at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, and again at 6:00 p.m. on Good Friday (in the sanctuary) for a Tenebrae service.

For the remaining five weeks of Lent we will be offering a new opportunity to grow closer to both God and your neighbor with small group Bible or topical studies. These groups will meet in homes, and are designed to be a time for you to grow spiritually, share your lives with a few Covenant friends, pray, and enjoy a meal together. Here are the groups we have so far:

Celebrate the Risen Christ, a lectionary-based Bible study. Meets in the home of Harry & Janet Powell on Tuesdays at noon. Study the scripture that will be preached on Sunday. A light lunch will be served.

Bread in the Wilderness; Spiritual Famine or Gospel Feast. Find food for your journey through the wilderness in the stories of God's faithfulness. Meets in the home of Cheryl Rice at 6:00 Tuesday nights. Supper will be pot luck or chef's choice! Group size is limited to 5.

Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity – a video-based study about finding contentment and blessing through simple living. Meets in the home of Jim & Sharon Amstutz Mondays at 6:30. Supper will be a 'simple' meal of soup or stew and some good bread.

Prayer; Does it Make any Difference? Based on the book by Phillip Yancy, this study will look at why we pray and how to pray, and what happens when it looks like our prayers aren't being answered. Meets in the home of Christian & Lauri Zembower at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays.

Look for sign ups in the Narthex at the church, or call the church office. Group size is limited to 8 (except for Cheryl Rice's). If the groups fill up and there is still interest, we will try to put together another group or two. If you might be willing to lead and or host a group, please call Sharon.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 31, 2010
Sunday, eleven o'clock

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Fill our worship with grace,
Lord Jesus Christ,
that every thought, word, and deed
may be acceptable to you,
our Rock and our Redeemer.
Amen.

—based on Psalm 19:14