

(As we enter the sanctuary, let us quietly 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

GREETING

This is the day the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on "Veni Emmanuel" Schaffner

***HYMN OF PRAISE # 8** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Frank, Betsy, Ellen, Julia & Philip Hagelberg

***Hymn** "Lighting the Flame of Hope" (Choir)

Lighting the flame of hope today, eagerly we watch and pray.
Savior, Redeemer, come to earth! We await Your humble birth.

***Opening Prayer**

Leader: Advent is a time to watch.

People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

Leader: During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.

People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

Leader: During Advent we watch for forgiveness
in the midst of rebellion.

People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

Leader: During Advent we watch for peace in the midst of conflict.

People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

Leader: During Advent we watch for the presence of God
in the midst of a fallen world.

People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

***Closing Prayer**

***Hymn** "Lighting the Flame of Hope" (Congregation & Choir)

Lighting the flame of hope today, eagerly we watch and pray.
Savior, Redeemer, come to earth! We await Your humble birth.

Traditional French Carol, arr. Ruth E. Schram, © 2008 by Alfred Publ. Co.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of glory,
we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst
nor listened for your voice.
Our faith is fragile,
and our iniquity goes unrecognized amid our massive self-concern.
We have lived as if we have no need
to account for the life we have been given.
Our church is focused more on our own survival
than on its mission in the world.**

**We come to you today with sincere repentance for our neglect.
We have failed to prepare the way
for Christ's entry into our everyday environment.**

Pardon and change us, we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 23**, refrain "Angels We Have Heard on High"
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING pg. 667 Isaiah 40:1-11

ANTHEM "Advent Joy" arr. Young

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
The King of glory waits, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.
Redeemer come, in me abide. My heart is open wide.
Let me Thy holy presence feel; Thy grace and love reveal.
Fling wide the portals of your heart; a temple set apart,
From earthly use for heav'ns employ, adorned with love and joy.

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GOSPEL READING pg. 34 Mark 1:1-8

SERMON The Work of Waiting Rev. Barbara Edema

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN # 27** "Gently Mary Laid Her Child"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** pg. 15 (Ecumenical version) The Nicene Creed

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "At the Coming of Christmas" Lachenauer

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN # 49** "Once in Royal David's City"

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: Announce the good news of Jesus Christ;
Prepare the way for Christ's witness to be heard.

**People: Christ brings hope for true peace to all people.
God is patiently waiting for us to claim this gift.**

Leader: Lead lives of holiness and godliness;
Enjoy treasures of heaven and earth that God offers.

**People: God's Word brings us both comfort and challenge.
We are accepted by God and commissioned for duty.**

Leader: You will be fed and blessed on life's way.
The baptism of the Holy Spirit will empower you.

**People: We turn our hearts and minds toward God.
We rejoice that we can be servants in Christ's name.**

Leader: Amen.
People: Amen.

***POSTLUDE** "At the Coming of Christmas" Lachenauer

*For those who are able, please stand.

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Hearing devices and large-print Hymnals are available in the back of the sanctuary; and a limited number of large-print bulletins are on the table in the Narthex.

There will be **no Gateway to Worship** for the children during the Advent season. We hope they enjoy the beauty of the sanctuary, Christmas carols, and the anticipation of Christmas!

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 following worship
for a time of fellowship and summer refreshments.*

5 Cents a Meal Offering

The 5-Cents-a-Meal Offering will be received during the final hymn. You are asked to consider giving 5 cents for each meal you have eaten last month (or any amount you wish) to help feed those who are hungry. This offering supports both local and global hunger programs.

This morning we again welcome the Rev. Dr. Barbara Edema to the pulpit. Barb is an ordained minister in the Reformed Church in America (RCA). She has served churches in Pella, Iowa, and Grand Rapids & Chelsea in Michigan. She received her Doctor of Ministry degree from Western Theological Seminary in 2005. She is married to Dr. Doug Edema, is the mother of Elise, Lauren, Alana and Wes, and stepmother to Becky and Todd. Barb, Doug and Wes moved to Johnson City in November 2010. (Wes has since moved back to Chelsea to finish high school.)

Christmas Eve Music

Christmas Eve is a special time in the life of our Church. It is also a time that many welcome home children, grandchildren, and other family members. Perhaps one of your family members sings solos or plays a musical instrument. **Prior to the 5:30 service on Christmas Eve**, there will be a 30-minute time of Christmas music. **If you or one of your family members would like to share music during this time, please call me. I would like to hear from you by December 11th.** Call Melodye at (843) 655-2557.

Advent at Covenant

The theme of Advent this year is "The Wonder of Waiting." Covenant is blessed to be led by the Advent Planning Team of Bill Hyers, Melodye Sparks, and Barb Edema with help from Earle Barron. As we wonder what will be different this year, it is known who will be leading worship services. Join with your Covenant family, as together we experience "The Wonder of Waiting" this Advent.

<u>Dec. 11:</u>	Rev. Bill Hyers
<u>Dec. 18:</u>	Rev. Barbara Edema
<u>Dec. 24:</u>	Christmas Eve: Rev. Barbara Edema
<u>Dec. 25:</u>	Christmas Day: Rev. Barbara Edema

Young Adult Christmas Party - December 9th!

This month's Young Adult get-together will be **this Friday, December 9** at 6.30 p.m. at Lynnea Hunter's, 512 W. Maple St. Johnson City. It will be a potluck dinner, so bring your favorite Christmas munchie dish. And bust out the Christmas sweaters! (The one with the most fake glitter-snow wins!) We'll enjoy food, fun, friendship, and possibly even an *A Christmas Story* quote contest. You'll just have to show up to find out. Contact Lynnea to let her know you're coming and, as always, bring yourselves and your friends! Feliz Navidad!

2012 Pledges

We are working with your pledges for 2012 to develop the budget. It is very important that we receive your information soon to be able to complete the process. Please remember that as year end approaches, your tithes and offerings will be credited to your 2011 Statement of Giving if made before December 31st. If you have questions, please contact Hal Hunter or Gary Smith.

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Ministry

By Sunday, December 4th (today)

Bring your gifts to the church, wrapped and labeled.

On Sunday, December 11th: Angel Tree delivery!

After Church Lunch - December 11, 2011

After Church Lunch for December will be (the very popular) “**Breakfast for Lunch**”. Do you have a wonderful egg casserole that is to die for? How about a fabulous coffee cake that makes your mouth water just to think about it? Please bring your favorite breakfast food to share with your church family. If your dish needs to be kept warm or even heated at the last minute, someone will be in the kitchen by 9:30 a.m. to receive your dish and your instructions. We look forward to sharing this fellowship opportunity with you! If you have any questions, please contact Andrea (773-5602) or Lauri (620-3625).

Alternative Gift Fair

Is it too late?! Not for **Alternative Gift** giving. Each mission could still use and appreciate your help, this year more than ever. If you missed the Alternative Gift Fair and would like to give a gift in a friend or family member’s name, there is still time. Missions are: Missionaries Kristi and Bob Rice, The River, Interfaith Hospitality Network and Living Waters for the World. You may use the **enclosed Alternative Gift form** to indicate your support. Brochures describing these missions are on the table in the Narthex. (Cards and envelopes for your use are available in the church office.) These forms may be turned in any time during Advent. Thank you.

Christmas Caroling - Sunday, December 18

Meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. to carol at various members’ houses and nursing homes. After caroling we will bring snacks to share at the Sutter home. (Snacks can be brought to the church and given to Andrea after morning services that day.)

Annual Christmas Reception

You and your family and friends are invited for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall before the Christmas Eve Service on **Saturday, December 24th from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm**. It will be a great time to visit with folks that you don’t get to see very often who are in town for the holidays! *Please bring a plate of your favorite cookies or snacks to share and enjoy this time of fellowship with us! Punch and lemonade will be provided.*

Friendship (Afternoon) Circle

Hostess: Janet Powell. Co-Hostesses: Helen Davis and Sally Nagel.

Lesson Four Leader: Jan Paveglio.

The December meeting of the Friendship Circle will be a Holiday Luncheon on **Tuesday, December 13th at 11:30 a.m.** We will meet at the home of Janet Powell (417 Shade Tree Way, J.C.), and we welcome all of our regular members as well as any others who would like to join us for lunch! Please call Janet at 610-0445 to let her know that you are coming and to find out what to bring. We will study Lesson Four after lunch.

Joy (Evening) Circle

The Joy Circle will meet on **Tuesday, December 27th at 7:00 p.m. at the church**. Lesson 4. Contact: Anne Smith (929-1604).

From the Property Committee and Stewardship Committee

In attempting to be good stewards of our resources, we have reprogrammed the thermostats throughout the church for the winter months. On recommendation of the Johnson City Power Board, the heating temperature is set at 68 degrees. We realize that we cannot achieve a setting that is ideal for everyone so we are asking that you keep this in mind when dressing for events this winter. There are also blankets under the table in the Narthex which may be used if needed.

The electric bill is the single largest expense for our church after payroll and we use about 40 % of our electric budget in January – March each year. We appreciate your help in keeping these coats as low as possible.

From the Human Resources Committee

Each year we are given the opportunity to provide monetary gifts to the Elder’s Fund, the majority of which is used for Christmas honoraria for our fine staff. Our congregation has always been very generous in providing donations to the fund. Our members are appreciative of the dedication of our staff members, and this is a wonderful opportunity to show that appreciation. We ask that each member consider making their donations as generous as possible and, since it would be helpful for the staff to have their gifts well before Christmas, to make their donations as soon as they can. Just mark “Elder’s Fund” on your checks and place in the offering plate or send to the church office. We know we can count on our membership, as we always have. Thanks so much, Max Wilson, Chair.

Youth Montreat Fundraiser Trivia Night - December 15th

There will be no Third Thursday Dinner in December, but there will be a brand-new, one-time only, absolutely not-to-be-missed **Third Thursday Montreat Fundraiser Trivia Night!** Look for details in the December Courier and in future bulletins. As many of you know, several youth from our church (and some adults) had a great time at last summer’s Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat, NC. This summer’s conference will be June 10-16, 2012, and the theme is “Perfectly Imperfect.” Covenant has a whopping 18 eligible youth (“eligible” is anyone currently in grades 8-12) and we’re hoping that most of them can go. With food, housing, transportation and conference fees, the total cost \$476 per person.

Now, you may be asking yourself what this has to do with you. Maybe you don’t have any youth that can go, or maybe you’ve never had a chance to do anything with the youth group before. Fear not! There’s a first time for everything. As a community and family in Christ, we—the members of Covenant Presbyterian Church—have a great opportunity to help our children.

The total per person cost of \$476 has been divided into thirds; the participating youth will be expected to raise a third of the cost, the families of the participating youth will raise a third, and we, as the church family, will help raise a third. Ergo, our “Third” Thursday Montreat Fundraiser Trivia Night! Mark your calendars for December 15, 6.30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Donations will be accepted at the door, and all the proceeds will go to support the church’s third of the Montreat cost! So come join the fun!

For more information on Montreat Youth Conferences, go to www.montreat.org. For more on Covenant’s participation or financial questions, contact Lynnea Hunter (828-266-1917).

Correction to the December Courier:

RE: The birthday list on the Refrigerator Page: If you received a printed newsletter, please add Allura Sutter’s name on December 29th!

TODAY AT COVENANT:

Morning Greeter:	Jim Starr
Liturgist:	Jan Paveglio
Nursery:	Sharon & David Miller
Coffee Fellowship Hosts:	Alan & Deborah Lewis

CHURCH STAFF:

Director of Youth Ministry:	Lynnea Hunter
Music Director:	Melodye Sparks
Accompanist:	Jennifer Marshall
Secretary:	Tina Simon
Financial Secretary:	Anne Webb
Custodian:	Marie Britt
Nursery Worker:	Jeanne Gamble

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2nd Sunday of Advent – December 4, 2011

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

E-Mail: office@covenantpresjc.org,
Website: www.covenantpresjc.org



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.