

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!

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PRELUDE "More Love to Thee, O Christ" Giamanco

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are the community of faith  
that has been created by the love of God.  
**People: We are the people who have been set free  
by the word of forgiveness in Jesus Christ.**  
Leader: We have come not to parade our own goodness  
but to praise the holiness of God.  
**People: We have come not to boast of what we have done  
but to proclaim the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.**  
**All: With all our being, let us praise God,  
and tell of all God's kindness toward us. Amen.**

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\*OPENING PRAYER

\*HYMN OF PRAISE (see insert) "Gather Us In"

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God,  
as our ancestors exchanged the glory of the Lord  
for the image of a golden calf,  
so we sacrifice the blessings of covenant relationship  
and settle for temporal pleasures and seeming security.  
We trade the intimacy of prayer  
for the diversion of things and activities;  
lives of honor and righteousness  
for disobedience, faithlessness, and greed.

God of mercy, forgive us.  
Guide us to respond to you in faith  
and live as your chosen people.

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 576 "Gloria, Gloria"



HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leader: Open our eyes, O God:  
**People: that we may behold wondrous things out of your law.**  
Leader: Open our ears, O God:

**People: that we may hear what you will speak  
to those who turn to you in their hearts.**

Leader: Open our minds, O God:

**People: that we may understand what it means  
to revere you and to learn of your ways.**

Leader: Open our hearts, O God:

**People: that we may grasp the treasures of wisdom and knowledge  
hidden in Christ.**

Leader: Open our mouths, O God:

**People: that we may proclaim the mystery of the gospel  
and speak of it boldly.**

GOSPEL READING pg. 24 Matthew 22:1-14

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

\*\*Gateway to Worship

OLD TESTAMENT READING pg. 78 Exodus 32:1-14

SERMON A Peculiar Choice of Words Rev. Sharon Amstutz

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*MUSIC

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer and shield my soul from sin.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (pg. 14 – traditional version) The Apostles' Creed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER pg. 16 (Traditional version)

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Canon and Fughetta on "Ton-y-Botel" Gudger

\*Doxology # 244 (v. 1) "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind"

Let us with a gladsome mind, Praise the Lord who is so kind:  
For God's mercies shall endure. Ever faithful, ever sure.

\*Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN # 430 "Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE "Tell the News" The Youth Choir

\*POSTLUDE Intonation on the Seventh Tone Scherer

\*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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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. (Please let Tina know if she should print more of these!)

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.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of our pastor, Sharon, and the Amstutz family, by the PW Friendship Circle.

The Amstutz' years of service and dedication to Covenant have been productive and deeply appreciated. As they begin a new chapter in their lives, we wish them love and the continued blessings of our Lord.

After Church Lunch / Reception - Today!

Today is Sharon's last day in the pulpit. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship as we gather for a combined lunch and reception. We'll share a "south of the border" Mexican Fiesta lunch and have the opportunity to let Sharon know how much we've appreciated her spiritual guidance, her leadership, and her friendship.

Good Samaritan Offering

Food for Life: Neighbor Helping Neighbor - 2011

Instead of our regular monthly offering, our goal is collect 400 boxes of macaroni & cheese and 400 cans of sweet potatoes to help Good Samaritan provide meals for families for Thanksgiving. Just bring your donation to church by Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, so that Good Sam will have time to prepare the baskets and meals for those in need. They will appreciate it very much.

The count so far is: 354 Mac 'n Cheese (46 packages still needed)  
100 sweet potatoes (still need 300 cans)

Peacemaking Offering

Last Sunday the Peacemaking Offering was received. Covenant will retain 25 percent of the offering to be given to support Bob & Kristi Rice, missionaries to the Congo. The other 75 percent will help our partners in the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly as they work on behalf of God's peacemaking throughout the world. There is still time to contribute. Thank you for your generosity.

Presbyterian Women

Friendship (Afternoon) Circle:

Tuesday, October 11 at 1:30 p.m.

Hostess: Carlyn Sue Hoffman  
406 Green Valley Dr., J.C., 202-7281  
Lesson Two Leader: Sally Nagel

Joy (Evening) Circle:

Tuesday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Anne Smith (929-1604)  
Meeting will be at the church.  
Lesson Two Leader: Margie McGonagle

Young Adult Gathering

In celebration of the lovely month of October and all it has to offer, this month's young Adult Gathering is, appropriately enough, Oktoberfest! Eric Parker will be this month's host. We will meet at his place, 610 N. Barton St. in Johnson City (off of W. Market St.) at 6:30 on Friday, October 14. He will be grilling brats (what else?) so please bring a side dish and beverage to share. As always, bring a friend or two (or three) and please let Lynnea (828-266-1917) know you're coming so she can let Eric know how many brats to grill. See you there!

Third Thursday Dinner - October 20

The Congregational Life Committee invites you to join your fellow Covenant members for our monthly Third Thursday dinner. Our next dinner is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at Jack's City Grill. Kids are always welcome (and we can even arrange for them to have their own table if there's interest). Please contact Lauri Zembower (620-3625 or broncofan524@yahoo.com) if you think you'll be attending so we can get a count for the tables. Hope to see you there!

**GENTLE REMINDER:** The Deadline for all November Courier articles/calendar dates/etc., is **Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>!!** Thank you!

Campus House Lunch & Colloquium  
Wednesdays from 11:45-12:45

The topic for October 12<sup>th</sup> will be **Solar Panels – Green Epiphany or Smart Business**, presented by Dick Nelson, Owner & Operator of Nelson Fine Art Center. Dick Nelson has been an active participant in the Johnson City arts community and a successful small business man for many years. Recently he became interested in the renewable energy movement and installed solar panels on his business to generate electricity. He will discuss with us both the ethical journey and the hard core business factors that led to his decision to “go solar”. Come and enjoy our fellowship and a good lunch while Dick shares with us his journey into the future.

Middler Retreat - November 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>

**What to expect?** Expect a fun and fast paced weekend full of energetic games, exciting music, and relevant messages. Expect to make new friends and reconnect with old friends. Expect God to meet us at the camp once again, and challenge us to live differently. See Lynnea Hunter or visit [www.holstonyouth.org](http://www.holstonyouth.org) for more details!

Follow our World Mission Workers

We have recently added a link on our church website that improves access to the activities of the World Mission Workers we support both financially and with prayer. Visit the church’s website, [www.covenantpresjc.org](http://www.covenantpresjc.org), and open the "Mission & Outreach" page to find links to the two teams we currently support. The Christiansens’s, unfortunately, do not have a regular blog but there is a link to their supporting organization. The Rices maintain an active and inspiring blog that is well worth checking regularly.

Holston YAV Again!

Holston Presbytery once again has a YAV (Young Adult Volunteer) in Northern Ireland! Patrick Harley from First Pres. Greeneville will be living and working in Belfast at Dundonald Methodist Church for the next year until August 2012. You can follow along with his adventures at [patrickinbelfast.wordpress.com](http://patrickinbelfast.wordpress.com), or you can read the updates on the Mission Map in the hallway off the Narthex. You can also find updates from Doug Baker, the PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker in Northern Ireland and the PC(USA) Regional Liaison for Ireland and the United Kingdom. He and his wife Elaine have served as mentors, friends and parents-away-from-home for many a YAV, including our own Lynnea Hunter. Enjoy their adventures and please continue to support the YAV program with your thoughts and prayers!

Mission Statement

Covenant Presbyterian Church exists to glorify and enjoy God. We live knowing that God calls us to be a place of love, support, hope and acceptance regardless of earthly labels; Jesus Christ commissions us to make disciples and passionately share our gifts with the world through prayer, teaching, and service; the Holy Spirit allows us to determine and carry out Christ’s will for our lives and the life of our church, and empowers us to seek out and respond to the needs of our local and global community.

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

Pat Wiley, Betty Maletich, Sue Sheffield, Hugh Underwood, Bob Rice (missionary), Peggy Underwood, Eric Smith (son of former members Keith & Pam Smith), Barbara & Jerry Ladich, Jack Fletcher, Bob Maletich, Chris Adler Hillhouse, Arlene Wilkinson, Corrine Broyles, Elva McCartt, Marie Britt, Hazel Hinkle (John Merriss’ sister-in-law), Patsy Young (Butch Carr’s cousin), Arthur “Bud” & Eileen Kelsey; Tim Jones (friends of Butch & Harriette Carr)

*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  
Liturgist: Josh Parsons  
Quartet: Jim Amstutz, Zach Marshall,  
Gary Sparks & Christian Zembower  
Youth Choir Director: Anne Smith  
Gateway: Cornelia Shelnett  
Nursery: Janice Irvin

The Youth Choir

This Week at Covenant:

<u>Today, October 9</u>	Sunday School
9:45a	Worship Service
11:00a	
<b>12:30p</b>	<b>After Church Lunch &amp; Reception for Sharon</b>
7:00p	Session Meeting
<u>Monday, October 10</u>	
7:00a	AA Meeting
<u>Tuesday, October 11</u>	
1:30p	Friendship Circle
5:00p	Human Resources Committee Meeting
7:00p	Al-Anon Meeting
<u>Wednesday, October 12</u>	
7:00a	AA Meeting
<b>NO WNL! (Fall break)</b>	
7:30p	Choir Practice
<u>Thursday, October 13</u>	
PW Day at Sunset Gap Community Center	
8:00a	Men’s Bible Study
9:30a	Women in the Bible
Noon	Al-Anon Meeting
<u>Friday, October 14</u>	
7:00a	AA Meeting
6:30p	Young Adult Gathering

Church Staff:

Pastor:	Rev. Sharon H. Amstutz
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

You Have Mail:  
Victory Cooper

# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – October 9, 2011

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PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Give me, O my Lord,  
that purity of conscience  
which alone can receive your inspirations.  
My ears are dull,  
so that I cannot hear your voice.  
My eyes are dim,  
so that I cannot see the signs of your presence.  
You alone can quicken my hearing  
and purge my sight,  
and cleanse and renew my heart.  
Teach me to sit at your feet  
and to hear your word. Amen.

*John Henry Newman (1801-1890)*