

# THE COVENANT CONNECTION

The Official Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

## CONTENTS

- Children & Youth - 2
- Groups - 2
- Chancel Flowers - 2
- Crop Walk - 2
- Holy Week Services - 3
- Mission - 4
- Per Capita - 4
- Stewardship - 4
- Mission Continued - 5
- Session Highlights - 6
- Birthdays - 7
- Calendar - 8

Dear Friends,

Happy April! As all of nature is declaring God's power and glory in such beautiful ways each day, we praise God for the gift of eternal salvation given through his Son, Jesus.

Our amazing church leaders, staff, committees, and work teams have been hard at work praying, visioning, and planning for our Spring season months. Questions we are using to guide our efforts include: How do we offer hospitality to our congregants and community? Where/how is the Lord leading us to serve our congregants and community? And, what ideas do our congregants have for how we can offer hospitality and serve?

If the Holy Spirit has been nudging you to say something about an idea you have for growing in our hospitality and serving, please honor the nudge and share your ideas with me and/or one of our nine Elders. The Spirit, working in and through all of us as the body of Christ, provides us with the wisdom and insight to understand where God will have us journey together. We are excited to hear your ideas and add them to our praying, visioning, and planning time.

In God's Love,  
Pastor Jody

## ARE YOU TRAVELING?

It's that time of year when many of us are going on trips! If you have small hotel toiletries from your travels, we would appreciate receiving them to create our small hygiene kits. Last fall 41 Ziploc bags were packed by members of the Mission Committee: 10 to Christ Episcopal Food Pantry; 10 to Open Hands Free Pantry; 10 to Rainbow Table; and 11 to Central Christian Street Outreach.

We are hoping to receive small shampoo, conditioner, soap, shower gel, lotion and miscellaneous items that will fit in a sandwich size Ziploc bag. Larger items (for example, full size toothbrushes) will be given to Christ Episcopal Food Pantry or Open Hands Free Pantry. Both of these organizations are delighted to receive these larger items. So...have fun traveling and collect those hotel toiletries for us! Many thanks, Your Mission Committee





## Wine & Jesus

Mondays at 5:00 pm

For more information contact:  
Diane at dvanauker@gmail.com  
For a Zoom link contact:  
Anne at aed@woh.rr.com

**NEW PARTICIPANTS  
ARE WELCOME**

## Books & More

Last Thursday of every  
month at 4:00pm. Contact  
Susan Hawkins at  
suhawki@aol.com  
for more information

April  
The Frozen River  
by Ariel Lawhon

## Men's Meditation

Friday Morning Men's Group  
8:00 am Library Lounge  
We use "These Days", Daily  
Devotions for Living by Faith  
as our reference for discussion.

All male church members and  
congregants are welcome.

## Children & Youth

April 13

Palm Sunday & Eggstravaganza

April 20

Easter Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt  
after service

May 11

Mother's Day

June 2

Graduation Recognition Sunday

June 15

Father's Day Sundaes

June 22nd – 26th

Vacation Bible School

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



CHICKENS, BEANS AND BIG **Dreams**

## CROP Hunger Walk at Witt

Saturday, April 12  
9:00 am

Covenant Team Co - Captains  
Marty Fagans (937) 508-7377  
Bob Patton (937) 206-9114

Scan the QR code  
to give your tithe,  
per capita or offering.



## Sunday Chancel Flowers

If you would like to order an  
arrangement in memory or honor of a  
loved one, order forms are on the  
bulletin board next to the office.

Please place your completed form  
along with your payment of \$60.00 in  
the secretary's inbox located on her  
desk.

## Colony V

April 21, 2025  
1:00 pm  
Library Lounge





# Easter BONNETS & BOW TIES

*Sunday, April 20*

*You're invited to wear your Easter best as we  
celebrate our risen Savior.*

*Prizes will given to everyone who wears their bonnet or bow tie.*

*Easter Egg Hunt after worship  
on the playground.*



## Palm Sunday & EGGSTRAVAGANZA

*Sunday, April 13*

*Join us for the Procession of the Palms  
and Communion during worship.*



*Following worship, head to Fellowship Hall  
to help fill the plastic Easter Eggs  
with candy for  
next Sunday's hunt.*



## Maundy Thursday

*Thursday, April 17*

*7:00 pm*

*Northminster Presbyterian Church  
400 Villa Road*

*Our Lenten journey continues as we  
worship with our brothers and sisters  
in Christ at Northminster.*



## One Great Hour of Sharing

*March 5-April 20, 2025*

*Ending hunger, repairing after disasters,  
and promoting the self-development of all people.*

*One Great Hour of Sharing supports programs  
in over 100 countries.*



Hunger Disaster Development

## Church Closed

*Monday, April 21*



## Good Friday

*Friday, April 18*

*6:30 pm*

*St. John Baptist Church  
34 W. Pleasant St.  
(on Mulberry St. side)*

*The Covenant Choir will be singing*





# Covenant Cares Grants

FAQ?

## What are Covenant Cares Grants?

The Covenant Cares Grants program was created in 2023 by the Covenant Presbyterian Church Mission Committee as a way of partnering financially with local Clark County non-profits to fund their services to residents. We also make it known to the recipient organizations that we will partner with them through volunteer opportunities as they arise.

## How does the program work?

The program gives recipient organizations \$1,500 a year for up to three years. The organization must not be participating in any other Covenant fundraising efforts (e.g. Alternative Christmas Market/Gifts of Hope) during their grant period. After the three years, the organization must remain out of the program for the next three years and then they will be eligible to reapply. Each year, a subcommittee of the Mission Committee meets to review the reports given by current recipients and pray over the next group of two recipient organizations for the next class. These proposed organizations are presented at the next Mission Committee meeting for approval.

## What are the reporting requirements?

Each recipient organization must provide a report consisting of two paragraphs and a minimum of two pictures describing how they spent the grant money. It is asked that this report be submitted by September 30th of the grant year.

This years recipients are on the next page.

## 2025 Per Capita

Within the Presbyterian Church (USA) all churches are apportioned a share of the expenses of the governing bodies of our denomination. The Presbytery collects this apportionment keeping its portion and forwarding a portion to both the Synod and the General Assembly. The amount each church is assessed is based on its active membership. Our membership figure is 257 based on the December 31, 2023 Annual Statistical Report.

The Miami Presbytery has set a figure of \$54.24 per active member. Based on the above membership figure the total Per Capita assessment for Covenant this year is \$ 13,939.68.

Each of us can do something really BIG for Covenant by paying our Per Capita of \$54.24. Please pick up a blue Per Capita envelope at the entrance to the Sanctuary and enclose your check and drop it in the offering box. If sending your check by mail, please note on the memo line "Per Capita". By paying your share, it will avoid diverting money from our church programs and community outreach efforts.



## 2025 Stewardship and Pledging Update

The results of this year's Stewardship Campaign for 2025 are encouraging. Of our 182 viable giving units, we have received responses from 84 or 46%. As of 3/9/2025, those pledges total \$345,518.92. However, we still have a ways to go to meet our 2025 budget of \$355,000.00.

If you have not yet sent in your 2025 pledge, we would encourage you to consider doing so soon. Your pledge, added to those of other faithful givers, will allow us to look forward with confidence and to continue supporting our many needed missions.

To those who have already pledged for 2025, we are grateful for your generosity, your positive attitude and your vision for what Covenant Church can be. Thank you.





### **Autumn Trails**

We launched a new program in 2024 called Stable Moments. This is a one-on-one mentoring program for foster and adopted youth with complex childhood trauma. We pair one child with one mentor and one horse one time a week for 10 months with the goal of building life skills for eventually a healthy transition into adulthood. As we started this program, we had a lot of different needs that we didn't already have for our adaptive riding program such as a grooming set and water bottle for each child to help teach ownership and responsibility. These are the types of things we used the generous grant from Covenant Presbyterian Church.



### **On the Rise**

Due to your generous donation, On-The-Rise was able to provide many experiences to our youth. In the summer, youth participated in the garden, growing vegetables to promote self sufficiency and healthy eating. As part of their hard work all summer in the garden, they were rewarded with a trip to the Columbus Zoo. We also took them camping at the 4-H Camp Clifton Campgrounds in the fall where we did activities such as fishing, hiking, and team bonding activities.



### **Sheltered, Inc**

With this funding we initiated workshops designed to equip our customers with the necessary tools to obtain and maintain housing, sobriety and self-determination as each client so defined. The workshop reflected crisis intervention strategies, empathy and active listening techniques using role playing. Clients that participated were rewarded with incentives to increase the consistency of attendance and also as a reward for accomplishing something they set out to complete. These incentives were pizza parties and welcome home bags for the successful participants.



### **Jefferson Street Oasis**

Your gift has been a part of the dedicated funds we used for the following projects: Expansion of our allotment plot garden to include twelve additional plots (now up to 100 total) by extending our chain link fence and adding another entry gate. Adding an additional tool barn (10' x 12') to use as tool storage for our additional plot participants. Installing more accessible water and electric lines. Completion of wheelchair accessible raised beds with concrete walkway. Electrical upgrades within our existing shelter house.



### **Freedom School**

Thanks to your donation we were able to fund our fun, educational field trips to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, and Young's Dairy. Scholars were able to learn about African American History and see historical artifacts, as well as learning about agriculture, and science as they did firsthand activities at Boonshoft. Our scholars have enhanced their abilities and skills through the integrated reading curriculum and cultural books acquired from the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) as part of our partnership.



### **Open Hands Free Pantry**

The Covenant Cares Grant of \$1,500 was used to help purchase the over \$26,000 of Food, Hygiene Products and Goodwill Voucher Redemptions occurring in 2024. Likewise, members of Covenant Presbyterian have donated significant quantities of in-kind donations of food, clothing and hygiene items and the Covenant Volunteers, according to our Pantry Manager, Jerome Adams, are the best of the best!

**2025 Recipients include:** Bringing Awareness to Students (BATS) and Rainbow Table



## MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Stated Meeting of Session was held on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. on zoom. Present were Session members Jay Abbey, Cindy Baird, Phil Calland, Casey Craven, Brent Dunlap, Lisa Miller, Candy Rinehart, Margaret Roark, Barb Yontz; Moderator Pastor Jody Noble; Clerk of Session, Carol Miracle; guest John Shanley, Treasurer. Devotions were provided by Phil Calland.

The Statistical Report showed that as of January 31, 2025, Covenant had 247 Active, 263 Inactive, and 2 Associate members. Average attendance for Sunday morning February services (including online) was 239.17 The Treasurer's Report showed as of 1/31/25, 8.59% of the budgeted income has been received and 1.65% of the budgeted expenses have been incurred, leaving a surplus of \$37,461.70, a total inflated by carry over balance from 2024. \$360,969.22 remain available in the Building Improvement Fund for future projects. The church continues to do well financially.

John Shanley gave the Trustees' report. The 98 year old church windows are in need of repair/replace. Although the windows are in good shape for their age, there are some significant issues that must be addressed. The Trustees recommended that Session approve a bid of \$63,590 from Franklin Art Glass Studios, Inc. from Columbus. They will remove the loose/failing glazing compound from specified leaded glass panels and tool in and smooth new glazing compound. Priming/painting existing steel sash and ventilators and new glazing plus light exterior cleaning of existing leaded glass panels as needed is included. 50% of the cost will come from the Building Improvement Fund and 50% from Unrestricted Funds. Session approved unanimously. Trustees also recommended approval of a bid of \$11,970.00 from Traditions, a Painting and Restoration Company from Springfield for restoration work on the west stairs from Fellowship Hall to the 2nd floor. This work will be done on the floors, handrails, doors, and walls. Session approved. The Children's Academy has hung the banner provided by Young Woman's Mission on the playground fence. Registration for next year began in February.

The Church Leaders' Breakfast (Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Committee Chairs) will be held 9 – 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 29. The process for Strategic Planning was discussed and will be further developed at the Leadership Breakfast. Jay Abbey, Barb Yontz, and Pastor Jody will be Covenant's Commissioners to the March 11 Presbytery meeting. The Archive Room and Document Project is about 60% completed. Susan Headley and Mike Noble have been added to the workforce.

The Session Committees gave their reports. Most of the committees will be meeting later in March. Mission Committee requested approval for 2025 special offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, Christmas Joy, Church World Services Blanket Project, Souper Bowl of Caring, Apple offering (for congregants to pick for distribution to various non-profit agencies), and CROP Walk. Session approved. Covenant will continue with toilet paper and hotel toiletries collection to benefit Open Hands and Christ Episcopal Food Pantries. Aluminum pull tabs will be collected and delivered to Dayton Ronald McDonald House. Chenoa Stock update: PC/USA announced the decision to let 30 of our mission co-workers go with 6 months severance. Chenoa is one of these missionaries. The Mission Committee is encouraging congregants to send Chenoa a word of encouragement during this challenging time for her and her family. Her address is 4022 Schiller Avenue DN, Cleveland, OH 44109. The current balance in the Haitian Support account is \$9,523.36. There was a very generous donation of over \$2,000 from Stone Church of Willow Glen to be used for the Haitian community members at our discretion. One way we will be using the money is by purchasing a translation device. Springfield Promise Neighborhood Association was disbanded at the end of January 2025, but the neighborhood is still going strong. Covenant will still collect toys for the SPN Christmas Store but will not be providing desserts or workers for the dinner. Church Membership Committee reminded Session of the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast on Sunday, March 16. New members welcomed into the congregation in 2024 will be recognized. We thank the Slaughters and Friends for providing this event. Safety Committee reported that all 16 cameras have been installed, and 15 are functioning. One camera in the parking lot needs further work. The committee is working on Safety cards to go in the pews. The SWAT team training using our church facility has been set. Personnel Committee asked for approval of funds for legal review of the definition of a "minor" for our Christian Education programming and Children and Youth Protection Policy. Session approved unanimously.

The next Stated Session meeting is Monday, April 14 at 6:30 in the Session room. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.



# April Birthdays

Don Jones	1936 Wedgewood Circle Springfield, OH 45503	1-Apr
Thomas Slaughter	703 Oneida Drive Springfield, OH 45502	1-Apr
Kathryn Steele	110 S Broadmoor Boulevard Springfield, OH 45504	1-Apr
Ed Pullins	41 Bexley Drive Springfield, OH 45503	2-Apr
Marlies Hemmann	3035 Clarion Drive Springfield, OH 45503	3-Apr
Jason Hill	3460 Kenerly St. Springfield, OH 45502	6-Apr
Melissa Hawley	2102 Olympic Street Springfield, OH 45503	7-Apr
Mary Alice Neely	735 Edenwood Dr. Springfield, OH 45504	7-Apr
Daragh Porter-Wobbe	515 N Broadmoor Springfield, OH 45504	7-Apr
Cindy Baird	2849 Old Mill Road Springfield, OH 45502	10-Apr
Susan Hawkins	616 N Tanglewood Drive Springfield, OH 45504	10-Apr
Cole Vasileff	3168 Mingo Lane Springfield, OH 45502	10-Apr
Barbara Yontz	2643 Prestwick Village Circle Springfield, OH 45503	13-Apr
Geoff Steele	110 S Broadmoor Boulevard Springfield, OH 45504	14-Apr
Janet Heater	1316 Quinlan Ct. Springfield, OH 45503	15-Apr
Laura Baird	2849 Old Mill Road Springfield, OH 45502	16-Apr
Susan Bates	3321 Eastham Street Springfield, OH 45503	18-Apr
J Arthur Faber	550 W. Harding Rd. Rm 20 Springfield, OH 45504	19-Apr
Ryan Jones	542 Geron Dr. Springfield, OH 45505	19-Apr
Donna Dolbeer	1050 Borghese Lane Unit #802 Naples, FL 34114	22-Apr
Sharon Doyle	P.O. Box 508 South Vienna, OH 45369	24-Apr
Nancy Hines	1470 Irby Street Apt D2 Greenville, MS 38701	27-Apr
Jennifer Ater	121 E. Home Rd. Springfield, OH 45504	28-Apr
Emily Neely	4157 Mechanicsburg Rd. Springfield, OH 45502	29-Apr
Andrew Elder	912 S Fountain Ave. Springfield, OH 45506	30-Apr
Julie Slagel	860 Cottonwood Creek Drive Tipp City, OH 45371	30-Apr
Margaret Roark	313 W Home Road Springfield, OH 45504	2-May
Joan Elder	912 S Fountain Ave. Springfield, OH 45506	4-May
Nancy Garrett	2011 Broadway Street Springfield, OH 45504	5-May



# April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Eid al-Fitr</p> <p>9:00AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9:30AM Troop 1 Can Collection</p> <p>10:30AM Worship Service</p> <p>12:00PM Middle/HS Youth Group</p> <p>3:00PM OSU Women's Glee</p>	<p>Eid al-Fitr (observed)</p> <p>5:00PM Wine &amp; Jesus</p> <p>7:00PM Personnel Meeting</p>	<p>April Fools' Day</p> <p>10:00AM Open Hands Free</p> <p>Pantry</p> <p>4:00PM Trustees</p> <p>7:00PM Boy Scouts</p> <p>8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>8:30AM Christ Episcopal Food Pantry Delivery</p> <p>10:00AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00PM Worship Committee</p>	<p>1:30PM Open Hands Free</p> <p>Pantry</p> <p>6:00PM Bell Practice</p> <p>7:30PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>8:00AM Men's Meditation</p> <p>12:00PM Rainbow Table</p> <p>8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:00AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30AM Worship Service</p> <p>12:00PM Middle/HS Youth Group</p> <p>2:00PM Oakwood Community Service</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:00PM Wine &amp; Jesus</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00AM Open Hands Free</p> <p>Pantry</p> <p>7:00PM Boy Scouts</p> <p>8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00AM CCA Board</p> <p>4:00PM Mission Committee</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1:30PM Open Hands Free</p> <p>Pantry</p> <p>6:00PM Bell Practice</p> <p>7:30PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:00AM Men's Meditation</p> <p>12:00PM Rainbow Table</p> <p>8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Passover</p> <p>9:00AM Crop Walk Wittenberg</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>9:00AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30AM Worship Service</p> <p>12:00PM Middle/HS Youth Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:00PM Wine &amp; Jesus</p> <p>6:30PM Session</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>Tax Day</p> <p>10:00AM Open Hands Free</p> <p>Pantry</p> <p>7:00PM Boy Scouts</p> <p>8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30AM Christ Episcopal Food Pantry Delivery</p> <p>10:00AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Maundy Thursday @ NM</p> <p>8:00AM SWAT</p> <p>1:30PM Open Hands Free</p> <p>Pantry</p> <p>5:00PM Church Membership</p> <p>6:00PM Bell Practice</p> <p>7:30PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Good Friday</p> <p>8:00AM Men's Meditation</p> <p>12:00PM Rainbow Table</p> <p>8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Easter</p> <p>Orthodox Easter</p> <p>9:00AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30AM Bonnets &amp; Bow Ties</p> <p>12:00PM Middle/HS Youth Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>1:00PM Colony V</p> <p>5:00PM Wine &amp; Jesus</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Earth Day</p> <p>10:00AM Open Hands Free</p> <p>Pantry</p> <p>7:00PM Boy Scouts</p> <p>8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00PM Safety Committee</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1:30PM Open Hands Free</p> <p>Pantry</p> <p>4:00PM Books &amp; More</p> <p>6:00PM Bell Practice</p> <p>7:30PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00AM Men's Meditation</p> <p>12:00PM Rainbow Table</p> <p>8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:00AM Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9:30AM Troop 1 Can Collection</p> <p>10:30AM Brunch on the Beach</p> <p>12:00PM Middle/HS Youth Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:00PM Wine &amp; Jesus</p> <p>7:00PM Personnel Meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00AM Open Hands Free</p> <p>Pantry</p> <p>7:00PM Boy Scouts</p> <p>8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1:30PM Open Hands Free</p> <p>Pantry</p> <p>6:00PM Bell Practice</p> <p>7:30PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:00AM Men's Meditation</p> <p>12:00PM Rainbow Table</p> <p>8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>3</p>