

# Contact Us

## Church Staff

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Staff members may be reached by email or cell phone

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256-531-5504

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**Tracie Rakestraw**, Children's Director  
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## Session

The elders are elected by the congregation to be servant leaders and shepherds of God's people. They guide the direction and outreach of the church, oversee its teaching and worship, and care for the spiritual needs of the members. Please contact them if you need counsel or prayer.

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## Diaconate

The deacons are elected by the congregation to assist the elders, primarily by caring for the physical and material needs of church members and upkeep of the church facility. They also extend the love and generosity of Christ to those outside the church. Please contact them if you or someone you are concerned about has a physical or material need.

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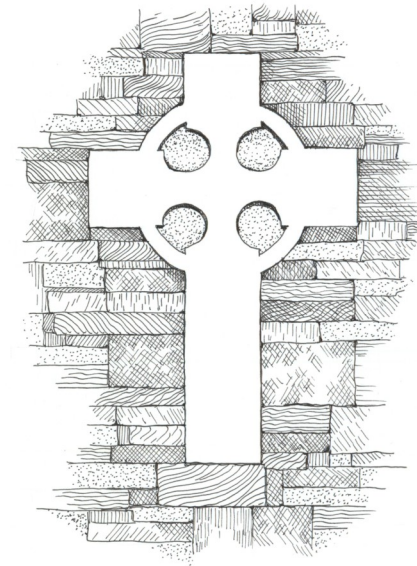
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# CHRIST COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 11, 2017 | **Worship 9:00 a.m.** | Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

# *The Lord's Day*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### Isaiah 55

Leader: Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;  
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.  
Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.  
Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## SONGS OF PRAISE

### *Come And Welcome*

WORDS: Thomas Haweis, 1792 MUSIC: Matthew Perryman Jones, 2004

From the cross uplifted high, Where the Savior deigns to die,  
What melodious sounds I hear, Bursting on my ravished ear!  
Love's redeeming work is done—Come and welcome! sinner, come!

Sprinkled now with blood the throne; Why beneath thy burdens groan?  
On My piercèd body laid, Justice owns the ransom paid;  
Bow the knee, and kiss the Son, Come and welcome! sinner, come!

Spread for thee, the festal board, See with richest dainties stored;  
To thy Father's bosom pressed, Yet again a child confessed,  
Never from His house to roam; Come and welcome! sinner, come!

Soon the days of life shall end. Lo, I come—your Savior, Friend!  
Safe your spirit to convey To the realms of endless day,  
Up to My eternal home—Come and welcome! sinner, come!  
Come and welcome! sinner, come!

### *Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed*

WORDS & MUSIC: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ed Cash, 2012

How can it be, the One who died, Has born our sin through sacrifice  
To conquer every sting of death? Sing, sing hallelujah.  
For joy awakes as dawning light When Christ's disciples lift their eyes.  
Alive He stands, their Friend and King; Christ, Christ He is risen.

## *Adult Sunday School Classes*

We invite you to find a book or subject you want to study or a teacher you love and join us at 10:30 as we study God's Word together. Classes meet after the worship service.

### *Biblical Perspectives on the Ministry of the Holy Spirit: Old Testament and New Testament*

The series will include the Holy Spirit's role among God's people in the Old Testament; Jesus' teaching on the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit in Acts; and St. Paul's understanding of the filling and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Meets in the Fellowship Hall  
Taught by **Dr. John Nyquist**  
June 4 through July 30  
Open to everyone

### *Four Missionaries You'll Be Glad to Know: Their Loves, Sorrows, & Triumphs*

\*\*William Carey.....Father of Modern Missions  
\*\*John Nevius.....“The Nevius Plan”  
\*\*Mary Slessor.....White Queen of Okoyong  
\*\*Amy Carmichael.....Nobody

Meets in the Fellowship Hall  
Taught by **Andrew Siegenthaler**  
August 6 through 27  
Open to everyone

### *A View From The Top: Studies in the Life of Joseph by Wallace Tinsley, Jr.*

Meets in the Bell Tower Room  
Taught by **Diane Burton**  
Open to women going through loss from death or divorce

# Classes & Other Information

## Church Membership

During the Sunday school hour we have a class for those interested in church membership called the *Inquirers Class*. Please speak to Pastor Andrew after the service if you would like to attend.

## Nursery & Cry Room

A nursery is available for infants through age four. There is also a cry room in the back of the sanctuary for mothers with young children.

## Counseling

- \*Are you in a shameful or fearful situation and feel you have no one to talk to?
  - \*Are you battling an addiction to drugs, alcohol, sex, pornography, or gambling?
  - \*Are you in a violent or abusive relationship—verbally, physically, or sexually?
- You are not alone. Go to [www.christcovenantcullman.org](http://www.christcovenantcullman.org) and click on: Counseling

## Children's Sunday School

Sunday school classes for all ages are held after the worship service. The children's classes use graded material that covers the big stories and themes of the Bible. Coordinator Steve Turner and Jonathan Haynes.

\*\*\*. These classes are based on the grades they just completed, NOT grades they will be in this fall.\*\*\*

<b>CLASS 1</b> - PRESCHOOL—KINDERGARTEN	Room 14
Teachers change weekly.	
<b>CLASS 2</b> - 1ST Grade—2ND Grade	Room 8
Teachers change weekly.	
<b>CLASS 3</b> - 3RD Grade - 5TH Grade	Room 6
Teachers change weekly.	

## Youth Sunday School

The youth classes cover various biblical and theological topics.

7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Jonathan & Amanda Knappenberger	Youth House
9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	John Knappenberger	Youth House
11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Brandon & Laura Reeder	Youth House

*Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Oh, sing hallelujah.  
Join the chorus, sing with the redeemed; Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.*

Where doubt and darkness once had been, They saw Him and their hearts believed.  
But blessed are those who have not seen, Yet, sing hallelujah.  
Once bound by fear now bold in faith, They preached the truth and power of grace.  
And pouring out their lives they gained Life, life everlasting.

The power that raised Him from the grave Now works in us to powerfully save.  
He frees our hearts to live His grace; Go tell of His goodness.  
He's alive, He's alive! Heaven's gates are opened wide.  
He's alive, He's alive! Now in heaven glorified.

## INVOCATION

## SCRIPTURE READING

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

O Christ Jesus, You know the agony of my temptations,  
and You can sympathize with my weaknesses;  
to You alone belongs the thanks for my victories over sin.  
O Lord, I am still tempted.  
So many ungodly things lure me with the promises of good,  
of security, of pleasure, and of life.  
But all that is against Your commandments will not bring life;  
they are paths of death that draw me away from You.  
In the wilderness, O Lord, You fought the Enemy and resisted.  
But I, not even in the wilderness, often do not resist.  
I have all the Gospel armor, but sometimes I do not even fight.  
O Lord, hear me and forgive me for Your own Name's sake,  
so that what You have begun in me, might be finished. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

# *Sermon Notes*

## **SONG OF ASSURANCE**     *Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy*

WORDS & MUSIC: Shane Barnard and Shane Everett, 2015

The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want, in green pastures He makes me lie down;  
He restores my soul and leads me on for His Name, for His great Name.

*Surely goodness, surely mercy right beside me all my days,  
And I will dwell in Your house forever and bless Your Holy Name.*

You prepare a table right before me in the presence of my enemies;  
Though the arrow flies and the terror of night is at my door I'll trust you, Lord.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, You are on my side.

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

## **OFFERING**

*Please place visitor cards in the offering plate*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Esther 2:19-3:15**

## **SERMON**

**“The Unseen Sovereign: Evil Days”**

## **COMMUNION SONG**

*Holy Spirit, Living Breath*

WORDS & MUSIC: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, 2005

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, Breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord To renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause Your Word to come alive in me; Give me faith for what I cannot see;  
Give me passion for Your purity. Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within; May Your joy be seen in all I do—  
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin In each thought and deed and attitude,  
Kindness to the greatest and the least, Gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my striving into works of grace. Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, Giving life to all that God has made,  
Show your power once again on earth; Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise. Lead us on the road of sacrifice  
That in unity the face of Christ Will be clear for all the world to see.

# *Pray for our Missionaries*

Gregg and Julie Nicholson live in Bangkok, Thailand where Gregg does church planting and leadership training. Julie teaches special education at a prominent international school. They have four children, Joy, David, Sarah, and Grace. This is a portion of their recent newsletter.

**Hello from Bangkok,**

- \*Coming to the US!
- \*A new church facility!
- \*Julie completes 5 years teaching at ICS!
- \*Pakistani Persecuted Christians
- \*Church planters trained in the Northeast of Thailand

These are just a few of the highlights of things that have happened over the past few months. We are all excited about our summer trip to the U.S. We will be traveling a lot during the seven weeks we are there, and can't wait to see family. We hope to see many if you too. One of the main reasons for coming is to visit possible universities for Joy to consider as she enters her senior year this fall. Here in Thailand, the entire nation is still mourning at the passing of their King last October. For an entire year, everyone in the nation is wearing black and white to commemorate his life and death. Read on and see how God is at work here in Bangkok.

## **Bangna Christian Fellowship**

As I mentioned in our last prayer letter, we were in the process of building our new facility that is a partnership between our church and a Thai Christian businessman's sports complex. After renting for almost 10 years, God opened the door for us to partner with this businessman who has a heart for church planting.

## **Bombing, Beating, and Burning Christians**

Raffia came to our door tonight crying and carrying her one year old son. She's in her early thirties and she and her family have lived in our neighborhood for the past year. She said they had no money to buy even drinking water, and she asked for help. Raffia is in a foreign country; she's also three months pregnant and her husband was recently arrested and is now in the immigration prison for overstaying his visa. Raffia with her husband and about ten others from her extended family, fled Pakistan two years ago after their family experienced multiple threats and several family members were beaten by radical Muslims. Her husband's family owned a successful department store and after the community realized it was owned by Christians, they were persecuted. They left Pakistan because they feared for their lives. On one hand, just like America, Thailand can't just allow refugees to come into their country illegally. However, these Christians feel if they return to their home country they will be killed. This is a global issue so we ask for your prayers for the Pakistani Christians and for the persecuted Christians worldwide.

Gregg & Julie

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

## **Heidelberg Catechism**

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: **That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of His own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that He protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit His purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.**

## **COMMUNION**

## **CLOSING SONG**

### *Glory Be To God The Father*

WORDS: Horatius Bonar, 1866 MUSIC: Blake Mundell, 2012

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit, Great Jehovah three in One.  
Singing glory, singing glory, Glory while eternal ages run.

Glory be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each spot and stain.  
Glory be to Him who bought us, Made us kings with Him to reign.  
Singing glory, singing glory, Glory to the Lamb who once was slain.

Glory to the King of Angels, Glory to the Church's King.  
Glory to the King of nations, Heaven and earth your praises bring.  
Singing glory, singing glory, Glory to the King of nations bring.

“Glory, blessing, praise eternal,” Thus the choir of angels sings;  
“Honor, riches, power, dominion,” Thus its praise creation brings.  
Singing glory, Singing glory, Glory, glory to the King of kings.

## **BENEDICTION**

The Heidelberg Catechism was written in Germany in 1563. It is the doctrinal confession of many Reformed churches.

# *Christ Covenant News*

1310 St. Joseph Dr. NW · Cullman, Alabama 35055  
www.christcovenantcullman.org

## **This Week's Activities**

### **Wednesday**

5:30-6:30 p.m. Communicants Class  
6:30-8:00 p.m. Youth Group

### **Friday**

7:00 a.m. John DuBose Men's Prayer Group

### **Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service & Communion

## **Nursery Volunteers' Schedule**

### **June 11**

9-10:15– Sonja Sewell, Laurie Ewing

10:30-11:15– Cathy Tew

### **June 18**

9-10:15– Camille Christenberry, Cindy Bales

10:30-11:15– Judie Hubbard

## **June Birthdays**

11 - Matt Munger

11 - Dick Groff

12 - Mike Burton

12 - Randall Quinn

12 - Rebecca Clark

16 - Diane Burton

16 - Declan Cornett

17 - Glynice Crow

17 - Janice Newlin

17 - Jim Loyd

## **Summer Opportunity**

Once again you will have the opportunity to 'live out' the commitment you make when a covenant child is baptized at Christ Covenant. This summer we will again give our current Children's Sunday School teachers a well-deserved break. This also gives you a great opportunity to get to know some of the Covenant children. It won't take much of your time and if everyone participates, it will just be one or two Sundays during the SS hour. You will have two youth helpers to assist you with your class. There needs to be two adults in each class each Sunday. Sign up sheets for each class will be in the Narthex starting today, Sunday May 14th. Please take the time to look over your Summer schedule and see how you can serve.

Summer Sunday School begins June 4th. If you have any questions, please see Tracie or Steve.

## **25th Anniversary Photograph**

8 x 10 copies of the group photo will be made available for \$25 with \$20 from the sale of each photo going to the mission team. Details will be forthcoming."

## **Easy Online Giving**

Giving online is more convenient than ever. Some of the best features are mobile and text giving, automatic recurring donations, and customizable giving options. Creating an account is easy; just visit the church's website and click "Give". For more information, pick up a copy of the printed instructions from the narthex.

## **Children's Sunday School**

There are two very important announcements you need to know starting today June 4. 1) ALL 6th graders (not upcoming, but those that just completed 6th grade) will go straight to the youth house for Sunday school following the worship service. 2) Children's Sunday school will be divided into three classes. These classes are based on the grades they just completed, NOT the grades they will be in this fall.

**CLASS 1** - PRESCHOOL—KINDERGARTEN- This class will meet in Room 14 (previous Preschool classroom). Parents, please go to this class to pick up your child following Sunday school.

**CLASS 2** - 1ST—2ND- This class will meet in Room 8. This is a DIFFERENT room for the 1st graders but not the 2nd graders. Parents, please go to this class to pick up your child following Sunday school.

**CLASS 3** - 3RD - 5TH - This class will meet in Room 6. This class will be dismissed from their classroom following Sunday school.

If you have any questions about these changes please feel free to call or see Tracie or Steve Turner.

## **Radio Program**

Listen to *A Different Perspective*, hosted by Pastor Tom Fillingner. Broadcast Monday through Friday on WKUL 92.1 FM at 11:30 am. Our goal is the reformation and renewal of the church in Cullman County and North Alabama. Tune in each day. Pray with us. Ask God to transform his church as only he can.

## **Keep Bringing Plastic Bags for Kenya Relief Ministry**

Over 200 plastic mats have been made from plastic bags by members and supporters at St. John's church for the Kenya Relief Ministry to give to African families. Several other church members in North Alabama are also making mats. Rather than adding more plastic bags to landfills, bring your plastic bags to our church and deposit them in the container in the hallway. Everyone is welcome to help make mats on Tuesdays, 9 to 12 noon at St. John's

## **Shorter Catechism**

**Q. 6.** How many persons are there in the Godhead?  
**A.** There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.