



CHRIST COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 23, 2024 | **Worship 9:00 a.m.** | Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

The Lord's Day

PRELUDE & TIME OF MEDITATION

“Almighty God, as I cross the threshold of this day I commit myself, soul, body, affairs, friends, to Your care; watch over, keep, guide, direct, sanctify, bless me. Incline my heart to Your ways; mold me wholly into the image of Jesus, as a potter forms clay; let those around see me living by Your Spirit, trampling the world underfoot, unconformed to lying vanities, transformed by a renewed mind, clad in the entire armor of God, shining as a never-dimmed light, showing holiness in all my doings.” – Adapted from *The Valley of Vision*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP **Isaiah 61:10 & Psalm 62:7**

Minister: Rejoice greatly in the Lord; let your soul exult in your God, for He has clothed you with the garments of salvation; He has covered you with the robe of righteousness.

All: On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God

SONGS OF PRAISE

Mighty Fortress Is Our God

TEXT & MUSIC: Martin Luther, 1529

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood, of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate—
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same—
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure—
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still—
His kingdom is forever.

Your Name

WORDS & MUSIC: Paul Baloche, Glenn Packiam, 2006

As morning dawns and evening fades,
You inspire songs of praise
That rise from earth to touch Your heart and glorify Your Name.

Women of all ages

Ashley Wilbanks

Room 10

Join us for a profound exploration of faith and resilience starting the first week of May in our Sunday School class. Inspired by Romans 12:2 and James 1:2, we'll embark on a journey of understanding the transformative power of embracing pain to grasp the depth of Jesus' nature. Together, we'll dive into the timeless wisdom of not conforming to the world's patterns but being renewed in mind and spirit, Through interactive discussions and heartfelt reflection, we'll learn to count it all joy when facing trials, recognizing them as opportunities for growth and spiritual maturity. As we navigate life's challenges, we'll uncover the profound joy and strength that come from a deepened understanding of Jesus' character. All are invited to join us on this journey of discovery and transformation. See you there!

Church Membership—Pastor's Inquirers Class

We will have a Pastor's Inquirers Class for those who are considering church membership or who simply want to know more about Christ Covenant. This 4-week class is currently meeting in the Sanctuary during the Sunday School hour. If you are interested in attending, please come join us!

Covenant Groups

Covenant Groups are cross-generational groups intended to allow participation of all Christ Covenant members plus regularly participating non-members for the purposes of belonging, serving, encouraging, and nurturing. You may contact any of the elders on the back of the bulletin to get connected with a Covenant Group.

Women for Christ

The CCPC Women's Committee was developed to serve the women in our church body based on Romans 12:2. We are committed to teaching women to be transformed by the renewing of their minds through Scripture so that the women of our church will be able to test and approve God's good, pleasing, and perfect will. Our desire is that every woman at CCPC has an opportunity to serve and connect. We are focused on outreach, prayer, mercy ministry, and spiritual growth. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas of service to our church family, please contact Tina (256) 347-3593 or Diane (256) 709-2642.

Church Directory Updates

Our church directory is available to view on your mobile device. Instant Church Directory - the program we use to build our church directory - has a free app for church members to download on their Apple and Android devices. Download the Instant Church Directory app from the App Store on your device. You will be asked to enter your email address as it's listed in our directory. If your email address isn't listed in the directory, let Jonathan Haynes know so it can be added. Once you enter your email address, follow the directions on screen to complete the login process. After you login, the directory will be downloaded to your device. Anytime updates are made, they will update on your device too. In the app you will be able to search for families and members and call, email, and text right from the app. More information can be found at www.InstantChurchDirectory.com/app.

Classes & Other Information

Children's Sunday School

Sunday school classes for all ages are held after the worship service. All children 3rd grade and younger go directly to Room 3 (the "chandelier room") following the service. Children 3rd grade or younger should be picked up from their class once Sunday school is over. All 4th-6th grade students should go directly to their class downstairs and will be dismissed following Sunday School. Below you will find a class list and room numbers.

Toddler Class - John/Audrey Nyquist—Room 14

PreK-Kindergarten - Elizabeth Ellerbee—Room 15

1st Grade - Jessie/Justin Robinson—Room 6

2nd Grade - David/Patricia Branscomb—Room 8

3rd Grade - Siusan Peek—Room 9

4th - 5th Grade - Denise Peek—Downstairs

6th Grade— Youth House

Youth Sunday School

The youth will meet on The Hill and will all be studying Eschatology.

7th - 12th Grades Jonathan & Amanda Knappenberger The Hill (Big Room)

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday school classes are divided roughly along the lines of age and stage of life. Each Sunday provides an opportunity for fellowship, Bible study, and prayer with others experiencing similar circumstances according to the particular age and stage of life. These classes are for both men and women unless indicated otherwise. During the Summer Months we combine our Adult Classes for a time of fellowship and teaching for all ages and stages.

Combined Adult Summer Sunday School

Fellowship Hall

This Summer, we will have a variety of teachers leading us through a journey of Biblical Characters. Titled, "Heroes of the Faith – The Saints of Scripture," this 15 week series will run from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Learning from the lives of this "great cloud of witnesses," will prayerfully inspire us to walk in a manner worthy of the Gospel and teach us to live our lives looking to Jesus who is the author and perfecter of our faith. We hope you will stick around after corporate worship and join us as we continue to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Your Name is a strong and mighty tower,
Your Name is a shelter like no other,
Your Name—let the nations sing it louder!
'Cause nothing has the power to save
But Your Name.*

Jesus, in Your Name we pray,
Come and fill our hearts today.
Lord, give us strength to live for You and glorify Your Name!

INVOCATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy and merciful God, in Your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against You. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease You. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in Your light, and walk in Your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SONG OF ASSURANCE

He Calls Me Friend

WORDS & MUSIC: Harrison Druery, Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson

I have a friend, a faithful friend, And Jesus is His name
I have a friend, a Savior friend, And Jesus is His name
He will not leave, He stands by me
My Shepherd He remains

I have a friend, a mighty friend, And Jesus is His name
I shall not fear, He holds me near
His strength will keep me safe

*His name is True King Lord of creation
Ruler without end*

*I call Him Hope, Peace, Wonderful Savior
And what joy that Jesus calls me friend!*

I have a friend, the kindest friend, And Jesus is His name
He hears my cry, by day or night, And wipes my tears away

Chorus

I have a friend, a Savior friend
And Jesus is His name
He fought for me on Calvary
And trampled on the grave!

Chorus x2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

James 1:2-11

SERMON

“The Financial Furnace”

COMMUNION SONG

Abide With Me

WORDS: Henry Lyte, 1847 alt. Justin Smith MUSIC: Justin Smith, 2007

Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile; And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee, On to the close, Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour. What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless. Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness.
Where is thy sting, death? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee. In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles Creed

Minister: Christians, what do you believe?

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from where He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

*The Apostles Creed in its present form comes from the eighth century but older forms were used in the very early church. It is called the Apostles Creed, not because the Apostles wrote it, but because it summarizes their teaching. “Catholic” means one, only, true, and universal.

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

James 1:2-11
“The Financial Furnace”

SERMON NOTES

“Love . . . Reaching”

Argyris and Dina Petrou are natives of Athens, Greece. Argyris is a pastor and professor at the Greek Bible College. Dina is the director of Community House Damaris (CHD), a Christian ministry for victims of sex trafficking. The excerpts below are from CHD newsletters over the past several months.

April 1st newsletter: One of our beneficiaries from Cameroon gave birth to her son a few months after joining our program. When she first arrived, she was deeply hurt and in need of care and love. Over time, she began to open up about her life back home and her trafficking experience. She had reached a point where she wanted to end her life, but God was with her, protecting her every step of the way. Surely, her arrival at House Damaris was not by chance. During our weekly program of spiritual growth and empowerment, she shared: “At Damaris House, I found a chance to live... I learned about the Christian life... I feel Damaris House is my family, even more than my family in Cameroon... I was given courage and taught how to do things by myself... Now I feel safe and cared for.”

Giving Opportunity: Each month, all of our beneficiaries undergo medical examinations for themselves and their children, receive medication, and some even require hospitalization. These medical expenses cost about \$290 per month.

May 1st newsletter: On April 18, 2024, we celebrated 8 years since Damaris House opened its doors to welcome young mothers who have been sexually exploited and/or trafficked. It was a joyous occasion filled with past and present program beneficiaries, along with friends and partners! These years have brought us countless blessings and challenges, all of which we’ve overcome with wisdom and guidance. When we first began, our hosting capacity accommodated up to 3 women with their children. Within a year, we expanded by adding 2 more bedrooms to the Safe House, and over time, our capacity grew to house up to 14 women with their children. We are deeply grateful to God for His provision and protection throughout these years. Young women have found freedom and heard the Gospel, and our mission continues.

Giving Opportunity: The Recovery Day Program and housing for the girls has unmet funding of \$5,000 each month. For donations to CHD, visit <https://orangewood.org/mission/>, go to the Give page, and select the Damaris House/Athens fund.

June 6th newsletter: This year, May has been for us the month of Orthodox Easter, providing us with the opportunity to gather together and celebrate with the presence of past participants who came with their children to join us in celebration. [A sponsor provided] our festive meals and allowed us to experience some cherished family moments once again. Additionally, we had the chance to remind our beneficiaries of the significance of Easter and share with them its message. Another piece of wonderful news is that three of our girls have begun job training after successfully completing phase I of the Recovery Program. This transitional phase prepares them for future employment and brings them closer to independence. It is also a time for them to save the money needed for the next phase of transitional housing. Meanwhile, the rest of our girls continue their training in the skill development program, and all of them have progressed to the level of worker, no longer being trainees. This training enables them to earn an income and make plans for their future as well.

Giving Opportunity: The cost of the job training program amounts to \$1,000 per month.

Prayer Requests: 1) Progress in the spiritual lives and relationship with God for Damaris House participants; 2) The success of the job training program for our girls; 3) Continued provision for the construction of the safe house; 4) Overall protection and safety for the ministry.

CLOSING SONG

Run To The Father

WORDS & MUSIC: Matt Maher, 2019

I’ve carried a burden For too long on my own,
I wasn’t created To bear it alone.
I hear your invitation To let it all go;
I see it now, I’m laying it down,
I know that I need you.

*I run to the Father, Fall into grace,
I’m done with the hiding, No reason to wait.*

*My heart needs a surgeon, My soul needs a friend;
So, I’ll run to the Father Again and again—
And again and again.*

You saw my condition, Had a plan from the start.
Your Son for redemption, The price for my heart.
I don’t have a context For that kind of love,
I don’t understand, I can’t comprehend,
All I know is I need you.

My heart has been in your sights Long before my first breath,
Running into your arms Is running to life from death.
And I feel this rush deep in my chest,
Your mercy is calling out, Just as I am you pull me in,
I know I need you now.

Greetings From Our Pastor

Welcome to Christ Covenant! We are honored and delighted to have you worshiping with us this Lord’s Day. The entire CCPC family is eager to meet you, answer any questions you may have, and serve you best we can. After the service my wife and I will be in the lobby where we would love to personally greet and welcome you. I pray that our time together has been a source of encouragement to your soul, and that you have been refreshed by the Lord’s Word and His people. Please let us know how we can serve you! Grace and peace, Jason Ellerbee, Sr. Pastor

Christ Covenant News

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www.christcovenantcullman.org · (256) 739-0505
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

This Week's Activities

<u>Monday</u> 12:00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting in the Sanctuary
<u>Wednesday</u> 2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Youth Game Night Women's Bible Study
<u>Thursday</u> 6:30 p.m.	Grad Bible Study
<u>Friday</u> 7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Group
<u>Sunday</u> 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Worship Service & Communion Sunday School/New Members Class

Nursery Volunteers Schedule

June 23
Church Service— Holly Powell, Tamara Sheffield
Sunday School— Katie Shirey

June 30
Church Service— Jessie Robinson, Dana Starnes
Sunday School— Juanita Tidwell

Prayer Meeting

Every Monday, the Sanctuary will be open throughout the lunch hour (12:00-1:00) for a time of prayer. Please consider coming to join us as we lift up our families, our church, our city, our country, and our world to the throne room of God. All are welcome!

Birthdays This Week

June 25.....	Elijah Ellerbee
26.....	Charles F. (Rick) White CJ LaGanke
27.....	Hannah Jacobs Rees Sheffield
28.....	Cate Haynes Scott Lewis
29.....	Elijah Holmes <i>Did we miss a birthday? Email Madison.</i>

Art Fellowship

The Art Fellowship will be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 2-4 p.m. Contact Marion Frey if you have any questions. 256-347-4201

Nursery Help Needed

Moms and grandmoms of Christ Covenant, if you would enjoy playing with and caring for our youngest covenant children for a couple of hours on a Sunday morning, the church nursery may be the place for you! We are in need of two adults who would be willing to work one Sunday morning per month in the nursery. Contact Karena Haynes (256) 636-0999 for more information.

Men's Ministry Events

*"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."
1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

Men's Breakfast Bible Study – We have finished 2 Timothy and will start a new study at a later date.
3M Men's Fellowship– Monday, July 15th @ 6 p.m. location– TBD.
Men's Prayer Time – Friday mornings, 7:00 am in the church session room.

CCPC Youth Summer Fellowship

June 26th: Game Night 2-8 pm (Youth House)
June 27th: Recent Grad Bible Study 6:30-8 pm (Lunsfords)
July 8th: Tennis Golf 9-11 am (Eastside Park)
July 11th: Recent Grad Bible Study 6:30-8 pm (Lunsfords)
July 14th: Trash Panda Game 4 pm (HSV)
July 24th: Pool Party 6-8 pm (Wild Water Cullman)
July 25th: Recent Grad Bible Study 6:30-8 pm (Lunsfords)

Graduate Bible Study

When: June 27th July 11th, 25th at 6:30- 8pm
Where: The Lunsford's Back Porch
Attention all recent graduates! You are invited to join our Summer Graduate Small Group on the cozy back porch of the Lunsford's residence. This is a great opportunity to enjoy food, fellowship, and Bible study with like-minded peers. Join us as we dive deeper into the Word, and discover how it can help us grow in faith and community.

Women's Ministry Events

Women's Bible Studies: Our night-time Bible study started June 12th, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. We will meet for a five-week study on how to love God above everything else the world has to offer. Each week we will look at Scripture that addresses the things that pull us away from God. Jeremiah 17:9 tells us the heart is deceitful above all things. We will learn together how to reorient our heart back towards God and worshipping Him. Nursery will be provided first two weeks and then the remainder three weeks by request. Contact Karena Haynes.

Ladies Night: July Ladies' Night, Monday July 8th. We will meet at the church from 6:7:30 p.m. where Vanessa Rakestraw (justmudpottery) will be working with us on making a piece of pottery. Cost will be \$50 per person and there will be limited slots. We will have a sign up sheet in the Narthex after church on June 23rd. Nursery will be provided upon request. Hope you can join us to eat, make pottery and fellowship.

Ladies Lunch: July Ladies' Lunch will be Wednesday, July 10th at 12:00 p.m. at Rumors.

Made For More: The PCA Women's Ministry is having one of their 2024 conferences at Covenant Presbyterian in Birmingham on Friday & Saturday, September 13th & 14th. We plan to take a group from CCPC. Here is a link where you can find out more information and register -<https://women.pcacdm.org/events/> Please let Tina know if you register or have questions. We can reimburse you the \$75 early registration cost! Registration starts March 15th!

Ladies Prayer Time: Ladies' Prayer Time will be meeting Monday, July 8th, at 10:00 am in the Bride's Room at the church. Women of all ages are invited. No one will be expected or pressured to pray aloud. This is a great way to serve the Lord through intercession for our church. Ephesians 6:18: *"Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints."*

For more announcements and information, please refer to our weekly email and website.