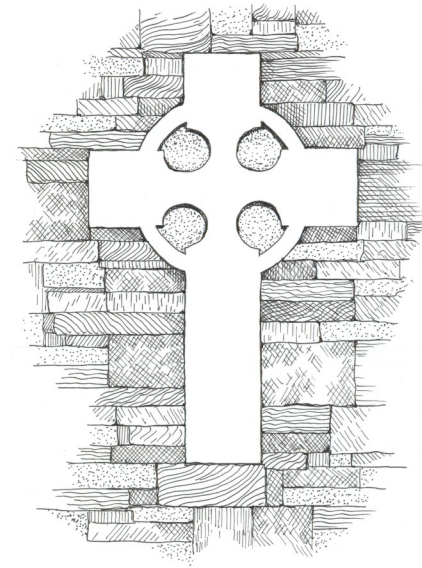


Contact Us



CHRIST COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 29, 2024 | **Worship 9:00 a.m.** | Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

The Lord's Day

PRELUDE & TIME OF MEDITATION

Life-giving God, quicken me to call upon Your Name, for my mind is ignorant, my thoughts vagrant, my affections earthly, my heart unbelieving and only Your Spirit can help my infirmities. I approach You as Father and Friend, my portion forever, my exceeding joy, my strength of heart. I believe in You as the God of nature, the ordainer of providence, the sender of Jesus my Savior. My guilty fears discourage an approach to You, but I praise You for the blessed news that Jesus reconciles me to You.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95:1, 2

Minister: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

SONGS OF PRAISE

Come, People Of The Risen King

TEXT & MUSIC: K & K Getty, Townend, 2008

Come, people of the Risen King, who delight to bring Him praise;
Come all and tune your hearts to sing to the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth we will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach to gather children in.

*Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

Come, those whose joy is morning sun, and those weeping through the night;
Come, those who tell of battles won, and those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change and His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days with the certain hope of peace.

Come, young and old from every land, Men and women of the faith;
Come, those with full or empty hands, Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing, Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age: "Our God is all in all!"

For All The Saints

MUSIC & TEXT: Indelible Grace

For all the saints,
who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith
before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus,
be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Allelu...

The Bereans

Randy Hays / Jonathan Haynes

Room 4

Our Lord delivered to the Apostle Paul a crucial message for us contained in Galatians 2:20. Here in this incredible verse is the foundational instruction for how we are to live this great calling of the Christian life. For 4 weeks this month we will explore "The Meaning of Being a Christian".

Women of all ages

Ashley Wilbanks

Room 10

Join us for a profound exploration of faith and resilience starting September 8th 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 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 our church secretary 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 - Scott/Becky Lewis—Room 14

PreK-4 Yrs Class - Whitney/Braden Cook & Joyah/Wyatt Pettus—Room 15

Kindergarten-1st Grade - Audrey/John Nyquist & Allison/Blake Bright—Room 6

2nd Grade - Justin/Jesse Robinson/ 2 teachers needed—Room 8

3rd Grade - Allison/Blake Bright & Patricia/David Branscomb—Room 9

4th -6th Grade Girls - Madison McCoy—Downstairs

4th-6th Grade Boys– Rick White/Stan Kennedy/Shawn Robb/Daniel Johnson/Phillip Mahler-Downstairs

Youth Sunday School

The youth will meet in two classes at The Hill.

7th- 9th Grade	Jonathan Knappenberger - Jesus' Parables	The Hill (Big Room)
10th - 12th Grade	Jason McCoy - 1 st and 2 nd Samuel	The Hill (Green 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.

Foundations

Andy / Derek

Gloria Edwards Room

This fall the Foundations Class will take a deep dive into the 1st Century Church. We will study how the movement started. Learn about how the early church operated in the community. Discuss the relevance that caused the message to spread. We will take a look at what made it different enough to have a lasting impact for the past 2,000 years and how can we apply those lessons at CCPC to impact our surrounding community? Come join Derek Rakestraw and Andy Starnes as we discuss these topics and much more.

Salt & Light

Steve/ Kent / Chris / Jason

Fellowship Hall

Topic - **The Bigger Story: Good, Bad, Redeemed, Restored**

Today: Exodus

October 6 - Leviticus

October 13 - Numbers

October 20 - Deuteronomy

Thou wast their rock,
their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain
in the well fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness
drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Allelu...

O may Thy soldiers,
faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the saints
who nobly fought of old,
And win with them
the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Allelu...

The golden evening
brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful
warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm
of paradise the blessed.
Alleluia, Allelu...

But lo! There breaks
a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant
rise in bright array;
The King of glory
passes on his way,
Alleluia, Allelu...

Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

INVOCATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 24

CONFESSION OF SIN

We confess our own lack of humility. Forgive us for the lack of gentleness in our lives. Our harsh words have stirred up strife and dissension. Our angry tempers have hurt those we love. Long ago the crowd with incessant hosannas greeted our Savior, but how quickly they mocked as he went lonely to the cross. Forgive us for the ways that we too have welcomed him only in words, but have resisted his kingship over us. May your Son not find in our hearts another place of crucifixion, but a place of love, loyalty, and devotion fit for such a gentle and humble King. Mold us into the gentle ways of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SONG OF ASSURANCE

I Need Thee Every Hour

WORDS: Annie S. Hawks, 1872 MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1872

I need Thee every hour, Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford.

*I need Thee, Oh, I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.*

I need Thee every hour, Stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their power When Thou art nigh.

I need Thee every hour, In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, Or life is in vain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING

James 4:7-12

SERMON

“Draw Near to God”

COMMUNION SONG

Jesus, Lover Of My Soul

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1740 MUSIC: Red Mountain Church

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide; receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, I helpless hang on Thee;
Leave, oh! leave me not alone, support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head in the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want, here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name, I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, Let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart; for all eternity,
For all eternity, for all eternity.

James 4:7-12
“Draw Near to God”

SERMON NOTES

“Love . . . Reaching”

Mark and Anastasia Petrou live in Athens, Greece. Mark serves with Child Evangelism Fellowship of Greece. The update is from their September 2024 Update.

We would like to thank all the short-term teams and individuals who visited us in Greece these past few months! Thanks to you we were able to have Vacation Bible School, ESL classes, and improve our facilities for our students at Petalouda throughout the whole summer! The children had a blast and always speak very fondly of their time with you. I would also like to thank anyone who brought different kinds of supplies for Petalouda center, that is always a big help for the team! Lastly, I want to thank you for your encouragement and prayers for Anastasia and me, everyone on the team, and our students. We are overwhelmed by your love and care for the ministry here in Athens.

Another reason we are thankful to the Lord is our summer intern, Lucas Rakestraw. He spent four months serving at Petalouda and other ministries in Athens. He helped with all of Petalouda's programs, especially with the group of teenage boys that I meet with weekly. Lucas was a huge help for me with the boy's meetings. These meetings have been very challenging for me and often make me feel like pushing a wall. But through Lucas I was reminded that I am not alone in this and with God's help I was able to keep pushing and meeting with the boys.

The team has been back at Petalouda Center since the beginning of September preparing for the new school year. We praise God for providing school supplies for the children yet another year! This past week around 120 kids received school bags full of supplies for this upcoming school year! One of our students, Tsabikos, is starting his second year of middle school this week. That is the furthest any of the Petalouda students has been in the public schools! Please pray for him and his family to continue prioritizing his education over marriage! Petalouda center is able to provide private lessons for him and our goal is for him to continue in High School in the next few years.

On a more personal note, Anastasia and I are overjoyed to announce that we are expecting baby Petrou at the end of January! And it's a boy! Please pray for a smooth pregnancy and that the Lord protects this child always. Unfortunately, because of her pregnancy Anastasia had to take a step back from the Petalouda ministry. After explaining to her doctor the environment of the Roma settlement that we work in, Anastasia was placed on medical leave. Her doctor doesn't consider this a safe place for her to be during her pregnancy. This was not an easy decision to make and has been very bittersweet for us both.

We would like to ask for your prayers for Petalouda's preschool program. We would like to hire someone new (to replace Anastasia) but it is difficult to find new staff members. Our hope is that we won't have to put a pause to the preschool program until we find the right person. We already have 10 new preschoolers enrolled and would hate to start and then have to pause in the middle of the school year. The rest of our programs are starting up as usual in September. Those include a literacy class for women and a different one for teenage girls. In the afternoon there is the after-school program and an English class. We are so excited to welcome our new students and welcome back our older ones! Please pray for a smooth beginning of the school year and pray for our teachers. Pray that this is our students' best academic year yet but, more importantly, that every day through our relationship, service, and love towards them they come one step closer to knowing and understanding Jesus better.

With God's love,
Mark and Anastasia Petrou

CONFESSION OF FAITH Westminster Confession of Faith Larger Catechism Qs. 102 & 122

Minister: What is the summary of the four commandments that contain our duty to God?

All: The summary of the four commandments containing our duty to God is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our strength, and with all our mind.

Minister: What is the summary of the six commandments which contain our duty to mankind?

All: The summary of the six commandments which contain our duty to mankind is “to love our neighbor as ourselves” and to “do to others what we would have them to do to us.”

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

By Faith

WORDS & MUSIC: K & K Getty, Stuart Townend, 2009

By faith we see the hand of God In the light of creation's grand design,
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness, Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth With the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand, A place where peace and justice reign.

*We will stand as children of the promise. We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done We'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

By faith the prophets saw a day When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and death And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news In every corner of the earth.

By faith this mountain shall be moved And the power of the gospel shall prevail,
For we know in Christ all things are possible For all who call upon His name.

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

1310 St. Joseph Dr. NW · Cullman, Alabama 35055
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 (Sanctuary)
<u>Tuesday</u> 9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
<u>Wednesday</u> 6:15 p.m.	Covenant Kids, Covenant Groups Youth Groups
<u>Thursday</u> 6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
<u>Friday</u> 7:00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Group
<u>Sunday</u> 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Worship Service & Communion Sunday School Art Fellowship

Nursery Volunteers Schedule

September 29
Church Service— Mary Ellen K. (Nursery Mom),
Amanda Satt. (Nursery Mom), Anthony Taylor
Sunday School— Caroline Lunsford, Tara Quinn

October 6
Church Service— Shonda Price, Braden Cook
Sunday School— Amanda Knapp (Nursery Mom)

Covenant Kid's Corner

10/2 Menu— Pizza
This Week—“God Made a Covenant with David” (2
Sam. 6-7)

Birthdays This Week

Sept. 29	Kyndell Grace Hays
30.....	Don Hubbard Kent Howze
Oct 1.....	Nadine Kornegay
2.....	John Lunsford
4.....	Jessi Eidson
5.....	Pam Porter

Did we miss a birthday? Email Madison

CCPC Covenant Groups

Each Fall, Christ Covenant launches a new season of Covenant Groups. Covenant Groups are a time of connecting with one another with a focus on living lives together, in community, exposed to each other's strengths and weaknesses, dealing with our ups and downs as the years move by. Our intent for these groups is spiritual growth and nurture in community. Designed to foster spiritually relevant relationships, Covenant Groups meet in our homes, are not permanent, and are organized and shepherded by our elders. If you are a Christ Covenant member, you should be receiving information from an elder concerning your Covenant Group (if you do not hear from an elder, please let us know). If you are a visitor and would like to be a part of a Covenant Group, please let one of our elders or our pastor know, as we would love to have you join us!

Pastor's Inquirer's Class

If you have been visiting Christ Covenant for a while, please know that we are SO GLAD to have you here, and we'd love to invite you to our next Pastor's Inquirer's Class starting Sunday, October 6th during the Sunday School hour. This four-week class will meet in the Sanctuary and cover topics such as our doctrinal beliefs, our church life, and our membership vows. Learn more about the PCA, the history of Christ Covenant, and what Church membership looks like. Please plan on joining us!

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 – October 7th, 6:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall - Proverbs
3M Men's Fellowship– Sunday, October 20th 6:00 p.m. Annual Men's Cookout at Bo and Julie Kennedy's.
Men's Prayer Time – Friday mornings, 7:00 am in the church session room.

Crates For Ukraine 4.0

At the request of the Ukrainian Church and national partners, Crates for Ukraine provides personal and humanitarian aid from the hands of churches in the U.S. to the hands of churches and displaced communities in Ukraine. MTW Ukraine asks that we remember the following prayer requests - 1) Pray for God to end the war in Ukraine, grow His Church and give great faith to His people during this time of suffering; 2) Pray for God to provide at least 400 crates of aid by the end of 2024 (CFU 4.0); 3) Pray for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ukraine as they receive aid, distribute aid and minister to those in need. May the Lord use CFU to create pathways for the Gospel and the formation of new Gospel communities. Please consider giving to CFU 4.0. You may write a check designated for "CFU 4.0" or you may select "Crates for Ukraine" on the give page of our church website - <https://app.easytithethe.com/App/Giving/chripo159> For more information, go to - <https://www.cratesforukraine.com/>

Opportunity to Show Christ's

Compassion

*“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
– Micah 6:8*

Each month, our deacons will be gathering items to assist in serving the needs of our community. In October, they will be receiving canned vegetables (green beans, corn, carrots or mixed vegetables) these items will help fill a supplemental holiday box. They also are needing grocery bags for The Link. They are looking for a goal of 400 items. Please drop off some of the items listed above in the “Mercy Bin” located in the Narthex before October 13th . Thanks so much!

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

Women's Ministry Events

Women's Bible Studies: Tuesday Morning Bible study will be held on Tuesday's at 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. On Tuesday, September 24th we will begin a new study on the book of Acts using Nancy Guthrie's book “*Saved*”

Thursday night Bible Study will be at 6:30-8:00 pm at the church. We will be studying *Behold & Believe: Encountering Jesus As The Great I Am*. Childcare is available the first two weeks, no reservation needed. It will be available by request after the first two weeks of the night study.

Ladies Night: October Ladies' Night will be Monday, October 14th at Grumpy's back deck.

Ladies Lunch: October Ladies' Lunch will be Wednesday, October 16th at Urban Cookhouse.

Ladies Prayer Time: Ladies' Prayer Time will be meeting Monday, October 21st, at 12:00 pm in the Sanctuary 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.