

The Bereans

Randy Hays / Jonathan Haynes

Room 4

Some 2000 years ago Jesus preached one of His most famous sermons. His Sermon on the Mount as told by the Apostle Matthew details how we Christians are to live in this fallen world. Join us as we study this important message about our Lord's present and future Kingdom.

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

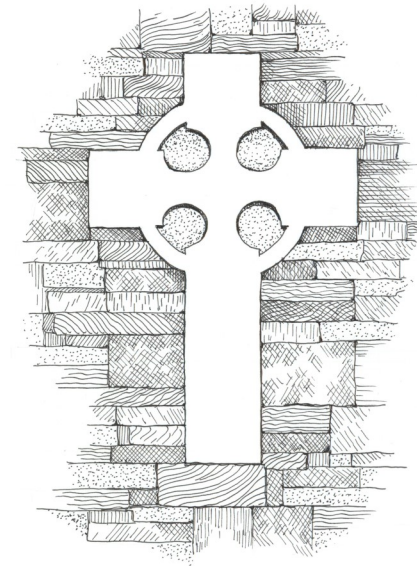
Covenant Groups are cross-generational groups intended to allow participation of all Christ Covenant members plus regularly participating non-members for the purposes of belonging, serving, encouraging, and nurturing. You may contact any of the elders on the back of the bulletin to get connected with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



CHRIST COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 1, 2024 | **Worship 9:00 a.m.** | Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

The Lord's Day

PRELUDE & TIME OF MEDITATION

As the prophets of old cried out among Your people who were weary and downcast, yearning for the coming Promised Messiah, so today Your call rings out through the proclamation of Your Word, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" Oh Lord, speak to my heart during this season of grace as You spoke to Your prophets and saints. Allow me to fix my gaze upon Christ, Redeemer and Savior of His people, and to relive the joy of His blessed Advent

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 31:2,7,8,21

Minister: Rejoice and be glad in God's steadfast love, because He has seen your affliction; He has known the distress of your soul, and He has not delivered you into the hand of the enemy; He has set your feet in a broad place

All: Blessed be the Lord, for He has wondrously shown His steadfast love to us, we trust in Him, for He is our rock of refuge, He is our strong fortress.

SONGS OF PRAISE

"O come, O come, Emmanuel"

by John M. Neale (1851). Music, VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

O come, Thou, Dayspring from on high
And cause Thy light on us to rise
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, true prophet of the Lord
And turn the key to heaven's door
Be Thou our comforter and guide
And lead us to the Father's side
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall by His word our darkness dispel

O come, our great High Priest, and intercede
Thy sacrifice, our only plea
The judgment we no longer fear
Thy precious blood has brought us near
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Has banished every fear of hell

O Come, Thou King of nations bring
An end to all our suffering

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/Stam 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: 2 Samuel

December 8—1 Chronicles

December 15 - 2 Kings

December 22 - 2 Chronicles

Isaiah 9:1-7
“Advent - A Season of Faith”

SERMON NOTES

Bid every pain and sorrow cease
And reign now as our Prince of Peace

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again with us to dwell

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744 (Verses 1 & 4), Mark Hunt, 1978 (Verses 2 & 3), Music: “Hyfrydol” by R.H. Prichard

Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of ev’ry nation,
Joy of every longing heart.
Joy to those who long to see Thee

Day-spring from on high, appear.
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse,
Of Thy birth, we long to hear!
O’er the hills the angels singing
News, glad tidings of a birth;
“Go to Him your praises bringing
Christ the Lord has come to earth!”

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end.
By His life He brings us gladness,
Our redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

INVOCATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:5-17

CONFESSION OF SIN - Adapted from the “The Valley of Vision”

My God, I bless You that You have given me the eye of faith, to see You as Father, to know You as a covenant God, to experience Your love planted in me. For faith is the grace of union by which I spell out my entitlement to You. Faith casts my anchor upwards where I trust in You and engage You to be my Lord. Be pleased to live and move within me, breathing in my prayers, inhabiting my praises, speaking in my words, moving in my actions, living in my life, causing me to grow in grace. Your abundant goodness has helped me believe, but my faith is weak and wavering, its light dim, its steps tottering, its increase slow, its backslidings frequent; it should scale the heavens but lies groveling in the dust. Lord, fan this divine spark into glowing flame. When faith sleeps, my heart becomes an unclean thing, the fount of every loathsome desire, the cage of unclean lusts all fluttering to escape, the noxious tree of deadly fruit, the open wayside of earthly tares. Lord, awake faith to put forth its strength until all heaven fills my soul and all impurity is cast out. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SONG OF ASSURANCE

“Away in A Manger”

By Martin Luther

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the heavens looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

OFFERING

SERMON TEXT

Isaiah 9:1-7

SERMON

“Advent - A Season of Faith”

COMMUNION SONG

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868 TUNE: Fernando Ortega, 2006

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

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 – Tuesday mornings at 6:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall - Proverbs
3M Men’s Fellowship– No Men’s Fellowship in December.

Men’s Prayer Time – Friday mornings, 7:00 am in the church session room.

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 December, they will be receiving wipes, formula, and baby hygiene items like soap and shampoo for First Source for Women. Please drop off some of the items listed above in the “Mercy Bin” located in the Narthex before December 8th . Thanks so much!

Christmas Decorations

Ladies gather at the church on 12/2/2024 and merrily work together singing Christmas carols and sipping hot chocolate (ha). We are asking any of the ladies that will be available at 9:00 a.m. on Monday 12/2 to come and help. For questions, please feel free to call Julie Kennedy or Judie Hubbard. You DO NOT have to have any special skills, just a love for the church and Christmas.

Rummage Sale 2025

Our storage unit is ready to receive your boxed items. Please bring your items in sturdy boxes with lids so they can be stacked. If you need tubs, please let Judie Hubbard know and she can get you some to use. Also, DO NOT bring any clothes which also includes shoes, hats, scarves, belts, socks and gloves. Those items will be collected in the Spring. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to call Judie, 256-708-7877.

2025 VBS Planning Committee

If you would like to join the planning committee for the 2025 Vacation Bible School, please reach out to Merrill. We meet one to two times a month now through June. Merrill Dotson– 334-524-7274

Women’s Ministry Events

Women’s Bible Studies: Our Tuesday morning Bible Study will resume January 14, 2025.

Our Thursday night Bible Study will resume January 9th 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Ladies Night: We will not be meeting the month of December. We will resume in January.

Ladies Lunch: We will not be meeting the month of December. We will resume in January.

Ladies Prayer Time: Ladies' Prayer Time will be meeting every Monday at 10:00 am in the bell tower 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."*

Family Advent Celebration

Join us at the Reeder’s home at 3:30 TODAY, December 1st, to make a live advent wreath to celebrate the Christmas season! Please bring greenery, clippers, and a tray to set your finished wreath on, to travel home. Limited spots. Wreath kits available for \$20 or you can bring your own supplies. Kit includes: clear dish, soaked oasis, candle holders, and advent candles. Contact Emily Haynes for more information.



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

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

Monday
10:00 a.m. Ladies Prayer Time

Tuesday
6:15 a.m. No Men's Bible Study

Wednesday
6:15 p.m. Youth Group and Covenant Kids

Friday
7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

Sunday
9:00 a.m. Worship Service & Communion
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Nursery Volunteers Schedule

December 1
Church Service— Susan Peek, Luke Satterfield
Sunday School— Katie Shirley

December 8
Church Service— Jennifer Flores
Sunday School— Sherry Davis

Covenant Kids Corner

12/4 Menu— Hotdogs
This Week— "Solomon's Sin Divided the Kingdom" (1 Ki. 10-12)

Roots 10th Annual Retreat

Providence Presbytery Youth Retreat. January 24th-26th. The cost is \$145. To register and any additional info will be in the Narthex or you can visit <https://www.providencepresbytery.com/roots>

Women's Christmas Social

You are invited to a Women's Christmas Social on December 8th, at 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. This will be at Dawn Bentley's - the address is 1512 Cumberland Ridge NW Cullman AL, 35055. Please bring your favorite holiday goodie, along with recipe, to swap and share.

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

Birthdays This Week

Dec.4.....Holden Atchison
5.....Judie Hubbard
7.....Chris LaGanke

Did we miss a birthday? Email Angie

CCPC Work Day

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, December 7th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as we serve together caring for our church.

Greetings From Our Pastor

Welcome to Christ Covenant! We are honored and delighted to have you worshipping 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

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.

CONFESSION OF FAITH - Heidelberg Catechism Q. 61

Minister: Why do you say that you are righteous only by faith

All: Not that I am acceptable to God on account of the worthiness of my faith, for only the satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ is my righteousness before God. I can receive this righteousness and make it my own by faith only.

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

"Go, tell it on the Mountain"
Published by John Wesley Work Jr.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.
While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.
The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth.
Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.