

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

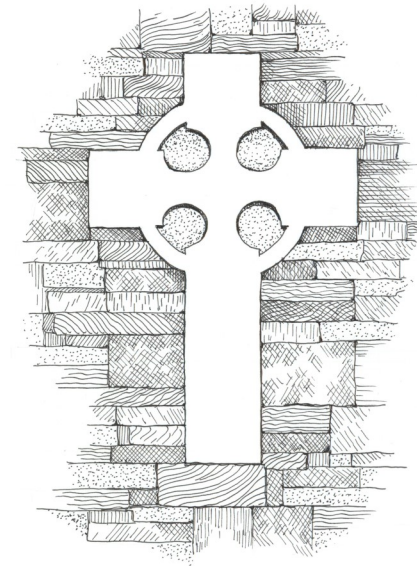
Covenant Groups are cross-generational groups intended to allow participation of all Christ Covenant members plus regularly participating non-members for the purposes of belonging, serving, encouraging, and nurturing. You may contact any of the elders on the back of the bulletin to get connected with 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 8, 2024 | **Worship 9:00 a.m.** | Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

The Lord's Day

PRELUDE & TIME OF MEDITATION - Taken from "The Christian in Complete Armour"

Speaking of the relationship between faith and hope, Puritan William Gurnall writes: "True hope is a jewel that no one wears but Christ's bride, a grace with which no one is graced but the believer's soul. Faith closes with the promise as a true and faithful word, then hope lifts up the soul to wait for the performance of it. Who goes out to meet him whom he believes will not come? The promise is, as it were, God's love letter to His church and spouse in which He opens His very heart and tells all He means to do for her. Faith reads and embraces it with joy, whereupon the believing soul, by hope, looks out at this window with a longing expectation to see her husband's chariot come in the accomplishment thereof.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 34:8, 1 & 2

Minister: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

All: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth

Minister: Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together!

SONGS OF PRAISE

How Great Our Joy!

TEXT & MUSIC: Traditional German carol

While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

There shall be born, so He did say,
In Bethlehem a Child today.

There shall the Child lie in a stall,
This Child who shall redeem us all.

This gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.

Midnight Clear (Love Song)

TEXT: Edmund Sears, 1850, alt. Chris Tomlin, 2015 TUNE: Richard Willis, 1842, alt. Chris Tomlin, 2015

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

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: 2 Samuel

December 15 - 2 Kings

December 22 - 2 Chronicles

December 29 - Ezra

Romans 15:8-13
“Advent - A Season of Hope”

SERMON NOTES

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Glory to God in the highest
Glory to God evermore
Good news, great joy for all
Melody breaks through the silence
Christ, the Savior is born!
Jesus, the love song of God!

O ye beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heaven and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

INVOCATION

ADVENT READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

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, Your hope, Your peace, and Your joy. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and confess 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

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

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering 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 to 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 given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still
The dear Christ enters in

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

OFFERING

SERMON TEXT

SERMON

COMMUNION SONG

Romans 15:8-13

“Advent – A Season of Hope”

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

By Martin Luther

God rest ye merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain Shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by Name.

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!

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>

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.

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."*

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)

Fear not then, said the angel,
Let nothing you affright,
This day is born a Savior
Of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's pow'r and might.

This Week's Activities

- Monday**
10:00 a.m. Ladies Prayer Time
- Tuesday**
6:15 a.m. 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

CCPC Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, December 18th at, 6:00 p.m. at CCPC.
We will bring joy to those who need a little extra this time of year! After caroling gather at CCPC Youth house.

Christmas Eve Service

Our Candlelight service will be December, 24, at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Christmas carols, reading the story of Christ's birth, Communion, and candlelight singing of *Silent Night*. Nothing could be better for this special night of the year! No nursery provided, but babies are welcome.

Birthdays This Week

- Dec.8.....Adelaide Reeder
Alex Rakestraw
Will Shirley
- 10.....Abby Adams
Rachel Skeen
- 12.....Sue Groff
- 13.....Daniel Johnson
Patty Hutchens
- 14.....Judith Taunton
Laura Marie Kornegay
Ryland Lee Quinn

Did we miss a birthday? Email Angie

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

CONFESSION OF FAITH - The Heidelberg Catechism Q. 28

Minister: What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by His providence?

All: We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature shall separate us from His love; for all creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they cannot so much as move.

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

Joy To The World

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719 TUNE: George Fredrick Handel, 1742

Joy to the World , the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Nursery Volunteers Schedule

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

December 15
Church Service— Dana Starnes
Sunday School— Cathy Oroz

Covenant Kids Corner

12/11 Menu— Pizza
This Week— Special Activities Night-Foundry Farm
Packing Party

Women's Christmas Social

You are invited to a Women's Christmas Social, TODAY, 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.