

THE COVENANT CONNECTION

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DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.



Pentecost Humor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Betty Jones recently shared this story with me and I am passing it along, with her permission, because it spoke to my heart about all of the different ways God answers our prayers:

“When my daughter was 18, she and some friends decided to buy tickets and go to the Cincinnati Reds game. There was some confusion and my daughter and her best friend’s ride fell through. So, she approached my husband and me about using our car to drive to the game. She was an excellent driver and very trustworthy, so we temporarily lost control of our senses and agreed.

Anyone who has driven from a Cincinnati Reds game on I-75 knows what fears a Mother can conjure up in her mind. The crazy drivers dodging in and out of lanes at breakneck speed, the congestion, the late night hours and darkness. The dangers are endless. And we lived two hours away.

My husband was watching the game on TV, thinking he might catch a glimpse of our daughter and her friends. I went to the bedroom, sat in lotus position in the center of the bed and prayed! In my many requests, I asked God to ‘Envelope her in a bubble of safety’ and bring her home.

The game ended, my husband went to bed, but I waited up until she was back safely in my arms, watching the clock and counting the minutes until her estimated time of arrival.

She arrived right on time and began exuberantly telling me about the game, conversations with the other friends who met them there, etc. Finally, I interrupted and asked ‘What was the traffic like? Any crazies?’ She stopped, curiously looked at me and said, ‘Mom, it was the strangest thing. You know how traffic is after a Reds game? Well, when we got on I-75, we could see lots of red taillights ahead of us and lots of headlights behind us, but there were NO cars around us at all.’”

Hebrews 4:16 “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

In God’s Love,
Pastor Jody

Mother's Day Flowers

Memorial flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary on Mother's Day, May 10. Please complete your order form and return it to the church by May 3, 2026.

Wine & Jesus

Mondays at 5:00 pm

For more information contact:
Diane at dvanauker@gmail.com

For a Zoom link contact:
Anne at aed@woh.rr.com

**NEW PARTICIPANTS
ARE WELCOME**

Men's Meditation

Friday Morning Men's Group
8:00 am Library Lounge

"These Days"
Daily Devotions for
Living by Faith
is our reference for discussion.

All male church members and
congregants are welcome.

CHOIR & BELL RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 31

Come celebrate our singers and ringers with us!
Join us for worship at 10:30 am as we share our appreciation for the choir and bells during the announcements, and stay afterward for a special fellowship time in the library lounge.

COVENANT CONCERT SERIES

MAY 31
3:00 PM

**COVENANT SINGERS & RINGERS
SACRED MUSIC CONCERT**

*Programs are admission-free
(a free will offering will be received).*

Books & More

Connect with fellow book
lovers and share your
insights on novels and
award-winning non-fiction

For more information,
please contact
Susan Hawkins
at suhawki@aol.com

May 28
Theo of Golden
by Allen Levi

Remembering Our Past

Looking Forward To The Future

Please join us for a special all church luncheon as we honor our 50 year members and recognize our new members.

Date: May 17

Time: 12:00 pm

Location: Fellowship Hall

Please R.S.V.P. on the sign up sheet located on the Welcome Desk.

Graduate Sunday

On Sunday, June 7, the Christian Education Committee will recognize and honor our college graduates, Emma Shaffer and Kylee Cowman, along with other students who have reached important milestones.

If you have a graduate in your family, please submit their school, completed grade, and future plans to the church office by Wednesday, May 27 so their information can be included in the June 7 worship bulletin.

Join us in celebrating these young people during worship, and stay after for cake in the Library Lounge.



Sunday Chancel Flowers

The Flower Sign-Up chart is on the first-floor hallway bulletin board, just left of the Church Office. To provide flowers for a Sunday service (\$60), write your name on your chosen date and indicate if you'd like one or both arrangements delivered to shut-ins. Then complete the information sheet below the chart.

Place the form on Executive Secretary Amiee Riley's desk and pay by check (made out to Covenant) or via the online giving QR code.

Flowers are arranged by Schneider's Florist, and the church will handle the details. Thank you for helping beautify our worship services and honor or remember loved ones.

Mother's Day Jazz Sunday

**SUNDAY, MAY 10 2026
10:30 AM**

The Trombone Band will play a central role in the regular church service on Sunday, May 10, beginning at 10:30 am, the band is the sermon.

The ensemble features Tom Billing, Vaughn Wiester, Bill Heater, John Hall, and Denver Seifried on trombones, with Beth Helwagen on piano, Chuck Young on guitar, Pete Rauch on bass, and Bradley Cordonnier on drums.

**BAND SELECTIONS WILL INCLUDE:
When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder
In The Garden**

**Let Us Break Bread Together On Our Knees
What A Friend We Have In Jesus
I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me**

Colony V

Celebration Lunch

**May 18, 2026
12:00 pm**

Location: Viva La Fiesta

May Scripture Readings

**May 3
OT Psalm 31:1-5, 21-24
NT 1st Peter 2:1-10**

**May 10
OT Ezekiel 37:1-14
NT 1st Peter 4:12-19**

**May 17
OT Psalm 47
NT Acts 1:1-11**

**May 24
OT Numbers 11:24-30
NT Acts 2:1-21**

**May 31
OT Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a
NT Matthew 28:16-20**

VBS Old Testament *Heroes of the Bible*

Register By: June 15
with Tyra
tlynjackson@gmail.com

June 14-18
6 - 8 pm

APRIL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Stated Meeting of Session was held on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Session Room. Present were Session members Jay Abbey, Ginny Angus-Hall, Cindy Baird, Brent Dunlap, Katrine Lancaster, Margaret Roark, Jack Spencer, Barb Yontz; Moderator, Pastor Jody Noble; Clerk of Session, Carol Miracle; guests John Shanley, Treasurer and Marty Fagans, Chair of Trustees. Elder Lisa Miller was excused. Devotions were provided by Barb Yontz. Part 2 of Boundary Training was accomplished.

The Statistical Report showed that as of March 31, 2026, Covenant had 242 Active, 273 Inactive, and 3 Associate members. Average attendance for Sunday morning services was 204, including online. The Clerk's Report was approved by the Presbytery with no exceptions. The Deacons had a training on March 15 at which they reviewed the Instant Church Directory, organizational structure of Covenant, and duties of Deacons and Ruling Elders.

The Treasurer's Report showed as of 02/28/26, 21.30% of the budgeted income has been received and 11.77% of the budgeted expenses have been incurred, leaving a surplus of \$52,825.92. We are in a good cash flow situation. \$307,603.06 remains available in the Building Improvement Fund for future projects. The total market value of investments is \$2,922,034.00. Trustees met on April 6. The 2025 Stewardship Campaign produced \$363,197. Our investment funds showed an 18.2% growth and only 3.6% withdrawal this year. Four bids have been received for repairing the retaining wall on the north end. Any action was tabled until the May meeting so there can be further investigation into concrete block vs. poured concrete. Session unanimously approved a motion to re-leather the 3 remaining organ chests and to have the work done at one time. The bids will come to the Trustees. The sink hole has not changed significantly. The Trustees will be watching it and exploring options. It has become more difficult to find members to help with landscaping the church exterior. A reasonable bid was received from Countryside Landscaping. The committee knows the high quality of their work and voted to accept the bid. The Trustees accepted with regret the resignation of Rick Yontz, class of 2027. Nominating will be proposing a name to the congregation to fill his unexpired term.

The Covenant Children's Academy reported that the 4 new trikes supplied by members of the congregation are loved and well-used by the children. Trips to the Springfield Art Museum are continuing. Plans are to move ahead for hiring a new director for 2026-27. Surveys were taken during Lunch Bunch following parent conferences and results will be analyzed and shared.

Carol Miracle and Jay Abbey will be Covenant's representatives to the May 12 Presbytery meeting where Pastor Jody will be co-preaching with Pastor Steve from Northminster.

The Committees of Session gave their reports. Personnel Committee reported that the Search Committee for Music Director has been selected. Members are Tom Billing (Congregation), Kelly Williams (Bells), Sue Bates (choir), Margaret Roark (Session), and Joan Elder (Personnel), Jody Noble (Moderator). Session approved the revised job descriptions for Music Director, Organist, and Pianist recommended by Personnel. Employment of Emma Schaeffer as a Summer Intern for 2026 was also approved. This position will be 5-8 hours per week at \$20 per hour. Vacation Bible School will be June 14 – 18, 6 to 8 p.m. Tyra wrote the curriculum and will be leading the teaching sessions and snack times, and Pastor Jody will be recruiting volunteers. We hope to again be able to offer two tracks for children based on their age groupings using a rotation model that includes story time will be used. The Mission Committee reported that the next Lesotho Packing Day will be September 26 from 8-12 and we hope to pack 16,000 meals. The Session approved a Blessing Box to be placed on the boulevard separating the parking lot. Materials are provided by an anonymous donor, and the box will be built by a scout. Food will be collected; extreme couponing will also be used. The children will fill the box on Sundays. Rainbow Table is feeding at least 100 people a hot meal on Fridays. Open Hands Free Pantry is helping at least 50 customers each time they are open and they are very happy in their new location. The sendoff treat time for our Ukrainian family was very successful. Membership Committee hosted a New Member Class on April 12. Membership will be honoring 50 year members, who will be interviewed by our young people. We have 34 people who have been members of Covenant for 50 years or more. They are invited to a dessert at the church on Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. At that event they will share memories and favorite times at Covenant. Those who are unable to attend will be visited by one of our church youth accompanied by an adult so that they can share their stories. On Sunday, May 17 immediately following worship, there will be an all-church luncheon honoring the long-time members and introducing new members to the congregation. We are calling this recognition "Honoring our past; Looking to our future." Worship Committee met April 2. The remaining Covenant Concert Series performances are: April 26 Lia Ferrell, Organ/Springfield Wind Symphony Brass Quintet and May 31 Covenant Singers and Ringers.

The next Stated Session meeting is Monday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Session room.

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Adult Bible Study 9:30AM Troop 1 Can Col-lection 10:30AM Worship Service 3:00PM Covenant Concert Series 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Staff Meeting 3:00PM C.A. Board 5:00PM Wine & Jesus 7:00PM Personnel Meeting 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Open Hands Free Pantry 4:00PM Boy Scouts 8:00PM Alcoholics Anony-mous 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30PM 50 Yr. Member Dessert 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00PM Open Hands Free Pantry 4:00PM Books & More 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:30PM Bell Practice 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Men's Meditation 11:30AM Rainbow Table 8:00PM Alcoholics Anony-mous 	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Adult Bible Study 10:30AM Worship Service 12:00PM CE Meeting 2:00PM Oakwood Commu-nion Service 4:00PM B.A.T.S. Meeting 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Staff Meeting 5:00PM Wine & Jesus 5:30PM Communications Meeting 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cinco de Mayo 10:00AM Open Hands Free Pantry 4:00PM Trustees 7:00PM Boy Scouts 8:00PM Alcoholics Anony-mous 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM Worship Commit-tee 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00PM Open Hands Free Pantry 5:00PM Church Member-ship 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:30PM Bell Practice 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Men's Meditation 11:30AM Rainbow Table 8:00PM Alcoholics Anony-mous 	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother's Day 9:00AM Adult Bible Study 10:30AM Mother's Day/Jazz Sunday 11:30AM Congregational Meeting 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00PM Wine & Jesus 6:30PM Session 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Open Hands Free Pantry 2:00PM Presbytery Meeting Bellbrook PC 7:00PM Boy Scouts 8:00PM Alcoholics Anony-mous 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00PM Mission Committee 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00PM Open Hands Free Pantry 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:30PM Bell Practice 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter Deadline 8:00AM Men's Meditation 11:30AM Rainbow Table 8:00PM Alcoholics Anony-mous 	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 Yr. Members 9:00AM Adult Bible Study 10:30AM Worship Service 12:00PM ALL CHURCH LUNCHEON 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Staff Meeting 12:00PM Colony V Viva La Fiesta 5:00PM Wine & Jesus 7:00PM Personnel Meeting 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Open Hands Free Pantry 7:00PM Boy Scouts 8:00PM Alcoholics Anony-mous 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00PM Open Hands Free Pantry 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:30PM Bell Practice 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Men's Meditation 11:30AM Rainbow Table 8:00PM Alcoholics Anony-mous 	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Adult Bible Study 10:30AM Worship Service 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE CLOSED Memorial Day 5:00PM Wine & Jesus 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Open Hands Free Pantry 7:00PM Boy Scouts 8:00PM Alcoholics Anony-mous 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eid al-Adha 7:00PM Safety Commit-tee 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00PM Open Hands Free Pantry 4:00PM Books & More 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:30PM Bell Practice 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Men's Meditation 11:30AM Rainbow Table 8:00PM Alcoholics Anony-mous 	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bell & Choir Recog 9:00AM Adult Bible Study 9:30AM Troop 1 Can Col-lection 10:30AM Worship Service 12:00PM Youth Ministry 3:00PM Covenant Concert 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Staff Meeting 5:00PM Wine & Jesus 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM Open Hands Free Pantry 4:00PM Trustees 7:00PM Boy Scouts 8:00PM Alcoholics Anony-mous 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30AM Christ Episcopal Food Pantry Delivery 7:00PM Worship Commit-tee 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00PM Open Hands Free Pantry 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Men's Meditation 11:30AM Rainbow Table 8:00PM Alcoholics Anony-mous 	<p>6</p>