

# THE COVENANT CONNECTION

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I was hungry and you gave me  
food, I was thirsty and you gave  
me drink, I was a stranger and  
you welcomed me.  
Matthew 25:35



## Pastor's Note

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we welcome the month of March, we are grateful to be walking with our Lord through the season of Lent. Lent is traditionally a time in the church year devoted to prayer, fasting, and acts of service that draw us closer to God.

One meaningful way we are serving others this month is through our continued love and support for our Ukrainian and Haitian families. We will celebrate the completion of our two-year co-sponsorship of the Kukharchuk family—Yehven, Iryna, Dasha, Polina, and Tymur—with a special Treat Time following worship on Sunday, March 22.

The Kukharchuks are from a city near the northern border of Ukraine, where the war placed them in grave danger. Through the North America 4 Ukraine organization, our church, along with the Estrop family, had the blessing of sponsoring the Kukharchuks for two years so they could live safely in the United States, hoping the war would soon end and allow them to return home. As the conflict continues, the U.S. government has granted Ukrainians the opportunity to apply for a two-year visa extension. The Kukharchuks have applied and hope to remain here in Springfield.

This extension requires applicants to be fully self-sustaining—no longer sponsored. Our Mission Committee is working closely with the family to help them meet these requirements and prepare for this next chapter.

We are deeply thankful for the many ways you have supported the Kukharchuks as they have built their lives here in our community. Please note that after March 13, Covenant will no longer be able to accept financial donations on their behalf, as required by the terms of their visa extension. If you have any questions about the Kukharchuks or what lies ahead in their journey, I would be glad to speak with you.

In God's Love,

Pastor Jody

# Easter Flowers

Order Deadline  
March 29

## Easter Candy Collection

Sunday  
March 8 - March 29

Place your candy in the Easter collection bins in the hallway by the Welcome Desk.



### Sunday Chancel Flowers & Fellowship Hour

Please consider contributing your time, talent or treasure by signing the sheets on the bulletin board by the church office. We are in need of fellowship hour hosts and the weekly chancel flowers.

Thank you

## Eggstravaganza

Sunday  
March 29

Following worship, head to Fellowship Hall to help fill plastic Easter eggs with candy for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 5.

## SAINT PATRICK'S

### BREAKFAST

MARCH 22  
9:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP  
HALL

## Colony V

March 16, 2026  
1:00 pm  
Library Lounge

Host: Kathleen Lauri-Lewis  
Presenter: Ken Elder  
Stories of the Church

## Wine & Jesus

Mondays at 5:00 pm

For more information contact:  
Diane at [dvanauker@gmail.com](mailto:dvanauker@gmail.com)  
For a Zoom link contact:  
Anne at [aed@woh.rr.com](mailto:aed@woh.rr.com)

NEW PARTICIPANTS  
ARE WELCOME

## Books & More

Come connect with fellow book lovers and share your insights on bestselling novels and award-winning non-fiction

For more information, please contact  
Susan Hawkins  
at [suhawki@aol.com](mailto:suhawki@aol.com)

March 26  
The Girls in the Stilt House  
by Kelly Mustian

## Men's Meditation

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

We use "These Days", Daily Devotions for Living by Faith as our reference for discussion. All male church members and congregants are welcome.

# Scripture Readings for March

**March 1**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**Genesis 12:1-4**

**Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

**March 8**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

**John 4:1-42**

**March 15**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**1st Samuel 16:1-13**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

**March 22**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Psalms 130**

**Romans 8:6-11**

**March 29**

**Palm Sunday**

**Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29**

**Matthew 21:1-11**

## COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONCERT SERIES

# MARCH 29

## 3:00 PM

**Wright State University  
Trombone Studio**

## Looking Ahead

**March 29**

**Palm Sunday**

**Easter Flower Deadline**

**April 2**

**Maundy Thursday**

**5:30 pm Seder & Service**

**April 5**

**Easter**

*in  
loving  
memory*

**LINDA WEYMOUTH**

CAROLYN J. CROFT

**MARILYN KROHN**

DAVID & KATHY HENRY

Communion, one of our two sacraments in the Presbyterian Church/USA, is offered at Covenant the first Sunday of each month and at other special times throughout the year. On the first Sunday of every month, the sacrament is also provided to congregants and friends who worship with us at Oakwood Assisted Living at the 2:00 p.m. worship service. We also are blessed to offer the opportunity to have Pastor Jody and a Deacon/Elder to bring our homebound congregants Communion so they may partake of the sacrament.

During the season of Lent (Feb 18 - April 5), Communion will be offered on Ash Wednesday at Northminster Presbyterian for our combined 7:00 p.m. worship service, each Sunday at Covenant during the 10:30 a.m. worship service, each first Sunday at Oakwood, at the Maundy Thursday combined Seder and worship service beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and concluding in the Sanctuary, and on Easter Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. worship service and later than afternoon at the 2:00 p.m. worship service at Oakwood.

We praise God for the blessing of the sacrament of Communion and pray that you will be filled with his presence as you partake of his holy meal.

## FEBRUARY 2026 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Stated Meeting of Session was held on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. Present were Session members Jay Abbey, Ginny Angus-Hall, Cindy Baird, Brent Dunlap, Katrine Lancaster, Lisa Miller, Margaret Roark, Barb Yontz; Moderator, Pastor Jody Noble; Clerk of Session, Carol Miracle; guests John Shanley, Treasurer and Marty Fagans, Chair of Trustees. Jack Spencer was excused. Devotions were provided by Jay Abbey.

The Statistical Report showed that as of January 30, 2026, Covenant had 242 Active, 273 Inactive, and 3 Associate members. Average attendance for Sunday morning services was 156, including online. A new Church Register has been purchased using funds from the Membership Committee. The Clerk of Session will begin using this register in 2027 for the second hundred years of Covenant in the current building.

The Treasurer's Report showed as of 12/31/25, 93.63% of the budgeted income has been received and 93.51% of the budgeted expenses have been incurred, leaving a deficit of \$24,800.76. Less than 1% of pledges for 2025 were not received. \$297,991.27 remain available in the Building Improvement Fund for future projects. The total market value of investments is \$2,847,676.38. The performance on the endowment funds was 12.35%. Trustees met the first week of February. Projects completed include professional cleaning of the hood in the kitchen, brighter lighting for the parking lot, and installation of the air conditioning unit in the Session Room (with a heat pump). The misalignment in the front sign will be corrected soon at a minimal cost. At their next meeting the Trustees will discuss with organist Lia Ferrell the results of her research on companies to perform organ maintenance. There are three more phases of organ repair needed; the second stage is 10 years overdue. Another major project discussed was the retaining wall at the north end of the parking lot. There is significant work that needs to be done to ensure its stability. Adding railing to the chancel was tabled until further investigation. Covenant Children's Academy is planning its events for this coming summer including a possible extension of the summer camp program. The evacuation of the school on February 9 went very well, and the staff was commended. Miami Valley Presbytery meeting is Saturday, February 14 on Zoom at 9:00 a.m. Pastor Jody will be our representative since the time conflicts with Lesotho food packing.

Deacons met on January 18. The following Deacons Leadership Team was elected: Moderator, Mary Ann Steiner; Vice Moderator, Sandy Ehrman; Secretary, Rachel Stephenson; Treasurer, Brad Steiner and Assistant Treasurer, Brian Bader. The Deacons signed up for Member Care List, Flower Delivery, Oakwood/Assisted Living Worship, Communion Help/Clean-up. The Deacon projects for the year include Easter activities, Worship at the Farm, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Decorations for the Church, and the De-greening of the Church.

Session committee placements were determined:

Christian Education - Katrine Lancaster, Ginny Angus-Hall  
Marketing/Communications - Brent Dunlap  
Nominating - Margaret Roark  
Safety - Lisa Miller

Church Membership - Margaret Roark  
Mission Outreach - Barb Yontz  
Personnel - Jay Abbey, Brent Dunlap  
Worship - Cindy Baird, Jack Spencer

There will be an Officer Training Session on Saturday, March 7, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Committee chairs will attend.

The Committees of Session gave their reports. Christian Education reported the Souper Bowl of Caring has raised \$330 so far and is still accepting donations. The proceeds go to Enon Emergency Food Pantry. The soup and chili cook-off and bingo will be held Sunday, February 15 following worship. Lenten Bible study will begin February 18 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Marketing Committee is getting estimates for Covenant t-shirts, sweatshirts, and Polo shirts. They will be in Presbyterian blue, and members will be encouraged to wear them out in the community, especially when we are doing events such as passing out water at the fair or passing the hat at the Summer Arts Festival. The committee hopes to have orders completed by late March. Mission Committee reported Gifts of Hope raised \$17,000+ for 10 non-profits. Organizations for Gifts of Hope 2026 have already been selected: CCA, On the Rise, Open Hands Free Pantry, Jefferson Street Oasis, Project Woman, Andrew Blais Orphanage in Lesotho, Habitat for Humanity, Clark County CASA/GAL, Health Center at Springfield High School, H.O.P.E. Ministries. Membership Committee will host a New Member Class on April 12. So far we have 5 people who expressed interest in attending. On March 22 there will be a congregational breakfast provided by Phil/Linda Stephens, Tom/Julee Slaughter, Rick/Barb Yontz, and Jim/Diane Gibfried. Membership will be honoring 50 year members, who will be interviewed by our young people. An all-church luncheon following the worship service on May 17 will recognize the 50 year members and also new members. Worship Committee is asking those who come forward to take communion to take their cups back to their seats or place them in wastebaskets that will be placed nearby rather than returning them to the trays. The remaining Covenant Concert Series performances are March 29 Wright State Trombone Studio, April 26 Lia Ferrell, Organ/Springfield Wind Symphony Brass Quintet, May 31 Covenant Singers and Ringers. The Dayton Harp Ensemble has been rescheduled to September 26, 2026. The shared Ash Wednesday service will be at Northminster Presbyterian on February 18 and will include hand washing and communion. Personnel Committee reported that we are currently at 100% staffing with all budgeted and approved staff positions filled. Annual policy review forms will be completed by Session and Personnel Committee members.

The next Stated Session meeting is Monday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Session room. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

# March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship Service 1:30PM Book Club Discussion 2:00PM Oakwood Communion Service 4:00PM B.A.T.S. Meeting	2 5:00PM Wine & Jesus	3 10:00AM Open Hands Free Pantry 4:00PM Trustees 7:00PM Boy Scouts 8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous	4 8:30AM Christ Episcopal Food Pantry Delivery 10:00AM Lenten Bible Study 7:00PM Worship Committee	5 1:30PM Open Hands Free Pantry 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:30PM Bell Practice	6 8:00AM Men's Meditation 11:30AM Rainbow Table 8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous	7 9:00AM NEW OFFICER TRAINING
8 Easter Candy Collection Daylight Saving Time 9:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship Service	9 10:00AM Staff Meeting 5:00PM Wine & Jesus 6:30PM Session	10 10:00AM Open Hands Free Pantry 7:00PM Boy Scouts 8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous	11 10:00AM Lenten Bible Study 4:00PM Mission Committee	12 1:30PM Open Hands Free Pantry 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:30PM Bell Practice	13 8:00AM Men's Meditation 11:30AM Rainbow Table 8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous	14
15 Easter Candy Collection Newsletter Deadline 9:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship Service	16 1:00PM Colony V 5:00PM Wine & Jesus	17 St. Patrick's Day 10:00AM Open Hands Free Pantry 12:00PM CCA Board 7:00PM Boy Scouts 8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous	18 10:00AM Lenten Bible Study	19 1:30PM Open Hands Free Pantry 5:00PM Church Membership 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:30PM Bell Practice	20 Eid al-Fitr 8:00AM Men's Meditation 11:30AM Rainbow Table 8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous	21
22 Easter Candy Collection KUKHARCHUCK'S LUNCHEON 9:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship Service	23 10:00AM Staff Meeting 5:00PM Wine & Jesus	24 10:00AM Open Hands Free Pantry 7:00PM Boy Scouts 8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous	25 10:00AM Lenten Bible Study 7:00PM Safety Committee	26 1:30PM Open Hands Free Pantry 4:00PM Books & More 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:30PM Bell Practice	27	28
29 Easter Candy Collection Palm Sunday 9:00AM Adult Sunday School 9:00AM ST. PADDY'S BREAKFAST 9:30AM Troop 1 Can Col 10:30AM Worship Service 11:30AM EGGSTRAVAGANZA 3:00PM Covenant Concert	30 5:00PM Wine & Jesus 7:00PM Personnel Meeting	31 10:00AM Open Hands Free Pantry 7:00PM Boy Scouts 8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous	1 April Fools' Day Passover 8:30AM Christ Episcopal Food Pantry Delivery 10:00AM Lenten Bible Study 7:00PM Worship Committee	2 1:30PM Open Hands Free Pantry 6:00PM Choir Practice 7:00PM Maundy Thursday for Covenant 7:30PM Bell Practice	3 Good Friday 8:00AM Men's Meditation 11:30AM Rainbow Table 8:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous	4