



COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 28, 2025

To our guests,

Welcome! We are delighted to have you with us this morning. Our goal each Sunday is to glorify and enjoy the God Who made us and saved us by His grace. If you have any questions about our church, please do not hesitate to ask.

In Christ,
Pastor Noah Wiersema

Thank you for visiting with us!

Get Connected!

Want to plug into the life of Covenant? Scan the QR code to fill out our **Connection Card**, and our team will be in touch to help you get connected!



 **Hearing Assist:** Sanitized devices are available from our ushers.

Large Print version of the bulletin is available in the narthex.



Why a pelican?

Carved into the front of our pulpit is one of the most ancient symbols of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross. Often referred to as "the pelican in her piety," this symbol offers a vivid picture of how Christ's death brings us life: according to legend, a mother pelican will pluck her breast to feed her young with her blood during a time of famine. As a church, Christ's stunning grace is not only front-and-center in our sanctuary but, more importantly, in our lives. The image of the pelican serves as a frequent reminder that we are deeply rooted in Christ so that we might reach out with Christ.

For Children:

Junior Bulletin: We love having our children participate with us in worship! Each week, we provide a children's version of our bulletin that can be found in the narthex.

Nursery: The nursery (for children birth to 4 years old) is located on the Lower Level at the north end of the building. If you need help locating it, please feel free to ask an usher for assistance.

Wiggle Room: If you need to step out of the Sanctuary with your child, the Mare Room offers a closed circuit feed of the worship service along with a few toys. Our ushers would be happy to direct you.

Children's Worship (available only at the 8:30 service): A worship training time for children ages four through first grade is offered during the sermon. Children begin worship in the sanctuary and will be dismissed at the appropriate time. Parents should pick up their children in Room 13 on the Lower Level after the service.

MORNING WORSHIP

Reflection

In every story of righteous waiting, God has hidden the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. Your waiting is meant to be a witness not only to yourself, but to the watching world.

✠ Betsy Childs Howard

Greeting

As we enter into worship, please silence your cell phones.

Prelude

Call to Worship • from Psalm 98

PASTOR: *Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.*


PEOPLE: The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness
in the sight of the nations.

PASTOR: *He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God.*

PEOPLE: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

God, through his Word,
calls us to worship Him.


In response to God calling
us into worship, we sing
praises to Him.



1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
 2. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;
 3. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



earth and heav'n be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He hath o - pened heav - en's door, and man is bless - ed ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

We pray to God to bless
and guide our worship.

We join ourselves to
Christians across time and
space by confessing what
we believe.

Invocation

Profession of Faith • The Nicene Creed

ALL: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of
the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the
living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* universal

Gloria Patri

#735

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly
Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er
shall be, world with-out end... A - men, a - men.

2nd Cent.; tr.

GLORIA PATRI (GREATOREX)
Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

Corporate Confession of Sin • from Psalm 98 and Luke 2

PASTOR: *The LORD will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.*

ALL: **You know the thoughts of our hearts, O Lord.
We confess that we have sinned against you
in what we have done
and what we have left undone.
Instead of waiting on you, we have gone our own way.
Instead of blessing you for your good gifts,
we are selfish and prideful.
Instead of worshipping you throughout our lives,
we worship ourselves.
Have mercy on us, O Lord.**

We boldly confess our disobedience to God because he is faithful and just.

Silent Confession

We hear of the forgiveness
we have in Jesus and
respond with grateful
hearts.

Assurance of Pardon • from Isaiah 52-53

PASTOR: *Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. For Christ was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

ALL: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Unison

(Ref.) Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery- where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

1. While shep- herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
 2. The shep- herds feared and trem- bled when, lo! a - bove the earth rang
 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger our hum - ble Christ was born, and

hold, through- out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

We hear and read from
God's word throughout
our service.

Scripture Reading • Isaiah 42:1-9

p.602
Faithe Bennett

PASTOR: *This is the word of the Lord.*

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

We pray for God's church
and the world and then
together pray the prayer
Jesus taught us to pray.

Prayer of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

Please take a moment to sign the brown attendance pad.

Offertory • Simeon's Song

SOLOIST: *Hush your crying now blessed One
I've been waiting for oh so long
Just to hold You in my arms
Makes my heart rejoice*


*Perfect beautiful holy Babe
How I've longed to see Your face
Promised hope of Israel
You will be the light*

CHORUS: *My eyes have seen the Messiah
For Christ has finally come
As the prophets foretold
The kingdom of God has come*

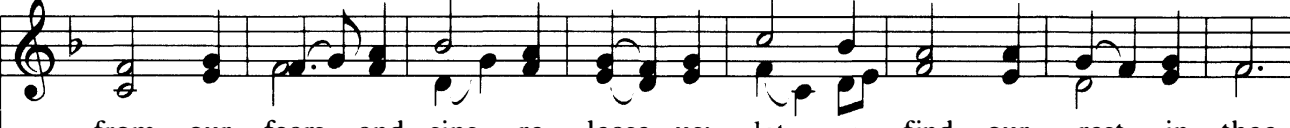
*From the line of David's seed
All creation will be redeemed
Now Your servant can go in peace
I have seen the Lord*

*My eyes have seen
My eyes have seen
Joy beyond belief
I've seen the Messiah*


We cheerfully give back to
God because of all he has
given us.



1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
 4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
 by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
 Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Scripture Reading • Luke 2:21-38

21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

*29 “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;*

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation

31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

*32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”*

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

God's word is held out to
us so that we might better
know, love, and serve God.

Sermon • The Songs of Advent -
Simeon and Anna

Luke 2:21-38; p.857
Rev. Noah Wiersema

December 28, 2025

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Gluten-free bread is located on the communion table at the front of the sanctuary.

Grape juice is in the clear cups and wine is in the tinted cups.

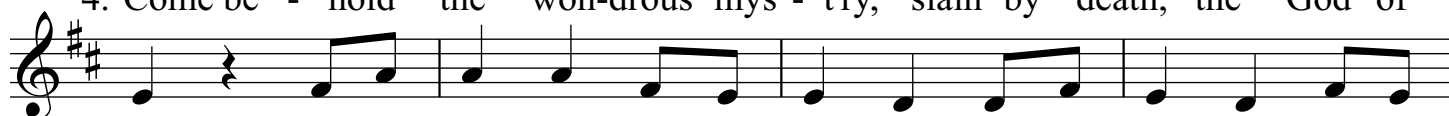
Parents, if you think your child or children are ready to come to the table, please contact your fold elder or a pastor.

We are raised up to feast
with our Lord.

Communion Hymn • *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*



1. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, in the dawn - ing of the
2. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, He the per - fect Son of
3. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, Christ the Lord up - on the
4. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry, slain by death, the God of



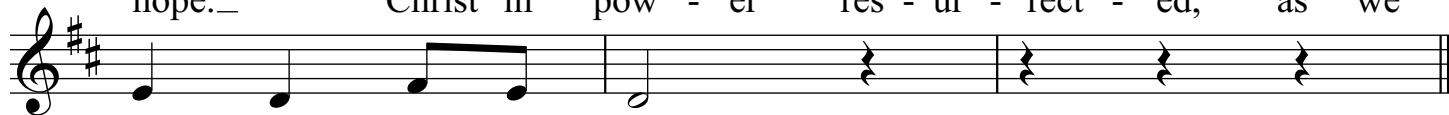
King. He the theme of heav-en's prais - es, robed in frail hu - man - i -
Man. In His liv - ing, in His suf - fring, nev - er trace, nor stain of
tree. In the stead of ru - ined sin - ners hangs the Lamb in vic - to -
life. But no grave could e'er re - strain Him. Praise the Lord, He is a -



ty. In our long - ing, in our dark - ness, now the light of life has
sin. See the true and bet - ter Ad - am, come to save the hell-bound
ry. See the — price of our re - demp - tion, see the Fa - ther's plan
live! What a fore - taste of de - liv - 'rance, how un - wa - ver - ing our



come. — Look to Christ, who con - de - scend - ed, took on
man. — Christ, the great and sure ful - fill - ment of the
un - fold. Bring - ing man - y sons to glo - ry; grace un -
hope. — Christ in pow - er res - ur - rect - ed, as we



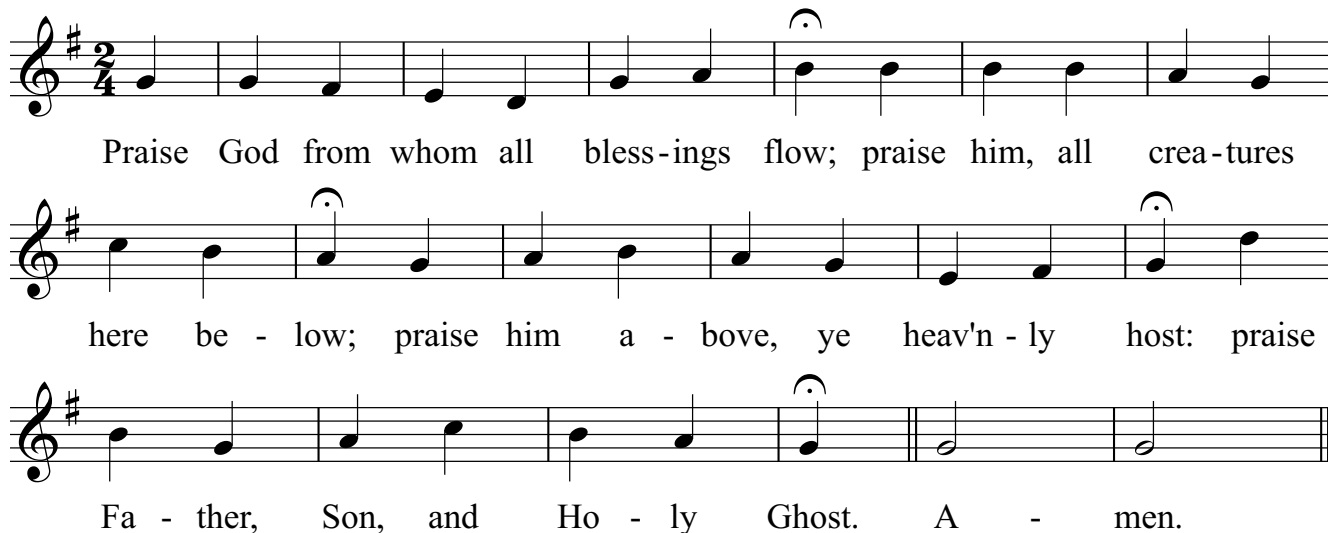
flesh to ran - som us.
law, in Him we stand.
meas - ured, love un - told.
will be when he comes.

We are sent out with
God's blessing.

Benediction

Doxology

#731



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures
here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host: praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Thomas Ken, 1709

OLD HUNDREDTH L.M.
Louis Bourgeois's Genevan Psalter 1551

We are reminded of the
peace we have in Jesus and
we share that peace with
one another.

The Peace of Christ

PASTOR: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

PEOPLE: And also with you!

Postlude

Musicians – Bekah Marsh, Piano & Vocals

Unless noted otherwise, all Scripture notations are from The ESV Bible
[The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, © 2001 Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.] and all hymns are from the *Trinity Hymnal*.

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Offertory (“Simeon’s Song”): Words and music by Paul Zach and Tenielle Neda. © 2021 Integrity’s Alleluia! Music,
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Communion Hymn (“Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery”): Words and music by Matt Boswell, Matt Papa and
Michael Bleecker. © 2012 Getty Music Hymns and Songs | Getty Music Publishing | Love Your Enemies
Publishing | Bleecker Publishing | McKinney Music, Inc. CCLI Song #7026028.

NO EVENING SERVICE TONIGHT

CONNECTIONS

THIS WEEK at COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be CLOSED through Friday, January 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events: *For more information about all of our upcoming events, scan the QR code or visit www.cpcstl.org/calendar or the “Upcoming Events” tab in the church app.*

- January 6: Precept Inductive Bible Study Begins
- January 11: Annual Meeting and Potluck
- January 14: Youth D-Groups Resume
- January 16-19: Sr. High Winter Retreat
- January 17: City Missions Trivia Night
- January 19: Covenant Women’s Book “Club”
- January 19: Guys Night Out
- January 29: Women’s Bible Study Starts



ANNOUNCEMENTS continue on page 18

THIS WEEK’S PRAYER FOCUS

- | | |
|--|---|
| Elder: Matt & Ashley Brandt (Kuyper, Eva, Calvin, Dietrich) | John & Morgan Fussell |
| Elder: Dan & Debbie Legters (Alyssa, Caleb, Owen) | Mike & Janay Galbraith |
| Deacon: Casey & Jenny Jowdy (Matthias, Adeline, Ridley) | Chad & Atria Harmon (Zoe & Adam Larson) |
| Brad & Melissa Davitt (Colin, Ethan) | <i>Nick & Maddie Bratcher (RUF, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington)</i> |
| Judy Finazzo | <i>Frank Harrell (Japan)</i> |
| | <i>Camp Ridge Haven</i> |

ANNOUNCEMENTS continued

Precept Inductive Bible Study - Understanding the Anger of God

Tuesdays, beginning January 6 | 7:00pm; Schaeffer House

A 6 session course on the books of Micah, Nahum and Habakkuk will begin Tuesday, January 6, led by Dan Seibert. All ages are welcome. Sign up through the [QR code](#).



Annual Meeting & Potluck

Sunday, January 11 | 5:00pm potluck, 6:00pm meeting

Our annual meeting is a congregational meeting where we go over reports from the ministries of the church, a financial report, and we vote for new church officers. Officer bios and photos of those up for election went out in the Congregational email sent on Dec. 11. For the potluck dinner, last names A-M please bring a main dish, N-Z please bring a dessert.

City Missions Trivia Night

Saturday, January 17 | 6:00 pm; Fellowship Hall

Get ready for our annual City Missions Trivia Night! Collect your team, or just sign up to play and we'll assign you to a team. Sign up using the [QR code](#).



Year-End Donations – 2 Ways to Save on Taxes

There can be tax advantages to you by donating appreciated stock (held more than 1 year) to the church, and there may be tax advantages to you by donating a portion of your required minimum distribution from an IRA. Please consult a tax advisor for what may be right for you. Information on securities donations can be obtained from an information sheet in the narthex, or you may call or email Ed Sunder or Donna Baber, church bookkeeper.

Sign Ups are open for our 2026 Mexico Mission Trip

Who: Anyone in the church ages 14+

What: Gain a broader vision of the kingdom of God and to partner with Christ's body in Mexico through practical service and encouragement

When: July 11-19, 2026

Cost: Participants are encouraged to fundraise \$1,250 for the cost of the trip

For more information, contact Josh Fikkert or Dan Legters. Sign up through the [QR code](#)



January Sunday School - Adults and Youth

January 11 - February 8 in the Fellowship Hall

This Sunday school will share what it means to be a member at Covenant in light of our new vision statement and core values. We encourage both visitors and members to come and gather together! If you are interested in membership, please contact Faithe Bennett (fbennett@cpctl.org) for more information.

Grace & Peace Women's Shelter

Covenant church has once again committed to providing meals for the Grace and Peace Winter Shelter! Our dates start on January 13 and are scattered throughout the rest of the season into March. This is an opportunity to be God's hands and feet in our own community, sign up today to participate with friends, family, or on your own! Contact Emily Bryan with questions. Sign up through the [QR code](#).



CURRENT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY!!

COMMUNITY GROUPS

MONDAY

Manchester Day Group

1st & 3rd Mondays; 3:00pm

Contact: Jeff Klinger, jlklinger23@att.net

TUESDAY

South County

1st & 3rd Tuesdays; 6:30pm

Sermon on the Mount by Sinclair Ferguson

Contact: Mike Koller, koller7@gmail.com

THURSDAY

Des Peres

1st & 3rd Thursdays; 6:30pm | Gospel of Matthew

Contact: Mary Beth McGreevy, mbmcgreevy@sbcglobal.net

Webster/Kirkwood

1st & 3rd Thursdays; 7:00pm

Contact: Linda Yates, lindacyates@sbcglobal.net

FRIDAY

Manchester

2nd & 4th Fridays; 7:00pm

Contact: Lois Miller, ephraim06@gmail.com

St. Peters

1st & 3rd Fridays; 6:00pm

Contact: Nathan Theus, nat5the@hotmail.com

St. Charles

2nd & 4th Fridays; 6:00-8:00pm

(1615 Burnside Lane, 63303)

Contact: Ben Butterfield, bbutterfield8@gmail.com or

Gina Butterfield, ginamarielbutterfield@gmail.com

Use the QR code to sign up to receive ministry emails



Preaching Schedule

January 4

Morning: Joshua 1:1-18

Evening: Zechariah 8:1-23

January 11

Morning: Joshua 2:1-24

Evening: Annual Meeting

Church Staff

Noah Wiersema, Senior Pastor

Chris Smith, Associate Pastor

John Roberts, Assistant Pastor/Head of School

Josh Fikkert, Assistant Pastor of Youth Ministry

Stephanie Smole, Administrative Assistant

Morgan Fikkert, Director of Women's Ministries

Rebekah Marsh, Director of Music

John Fussell, Director of Children's Ministry

Faithe Bennett, Covenant Life Coordinator

Jamey Brester, Property Manager

Julie Bauer, Bulletin Coordinator

Donna Baber, Bookkeeper

Session Elders

Matt Brandt

Bill Cahill

John Dawson

Dave Haverdink

Will Haynes

Garrett Jacobs

Jeff Klinger

Mike Koller

Dan Legters

Jeremy Marsh

Jonathan McCluskey

Bill McGreevy

Alan Norman

Roland Van Heest

David Yates

Diaconate

RC Balaban

Andy Belval

Jamey Brester

Walt Bosch

Kevin Dana

Don Jacobs

Casey Jowdy

Jeff Massot

Dan Moore

David Moore

Norman Reed

Todd Schultz

Nathan Theus

Reed Voorhees

Women's Ministry Leadership

Moms of Littles - Anna Kvale, Lauren Dakich

Hospitality & Fellowship - Tricia Creel, Sarah Theus, Amanda Moore

Service & Compassion - Mary Reed, Debbie Jacobs

Discipleship - Lydia Seibert



By the grace of the Triune God, Covenant Presbyterian Church exists
to form and send disciples with passion for God and compassion for people.

Statement of Faith

We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), which believes that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God and holds to that system of doctrine summarized in the Westminster Confession of Faith & Catechisms.

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