

Second Sunday in Advent December 7, 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

Greeting

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

Advent Reading • Isaiah 11:1-10 (8:30)

(8:30) Tom & Natalie Ganz (Benjamin, Joshua, William)

(11:00) Joe & Kelly Swenson

READER: 1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the Spirit of counsel and might,

the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

- 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- 6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,

and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;

and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze;

their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Prelude • Magnificat

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: My soul magnifies the Lord

My spirit rejoices in God My soul magnifies the Lord My spirit rejoices in God

For He who is mighty

Has done great things for me

Holy holy
Holy holy
Holy holy
Is His name

Call to Worship • from Luke 1

PASTOR: My soul magnifies the Lord,

PEOPLE: And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

PASTOR: For he who is mighty has done great things,

and holy is his name.

PEOPLE: And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

PASTOR: He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

ALL: As he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

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

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



Invocation

We pray to God to bless and guide our worship.

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

we believe.

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;

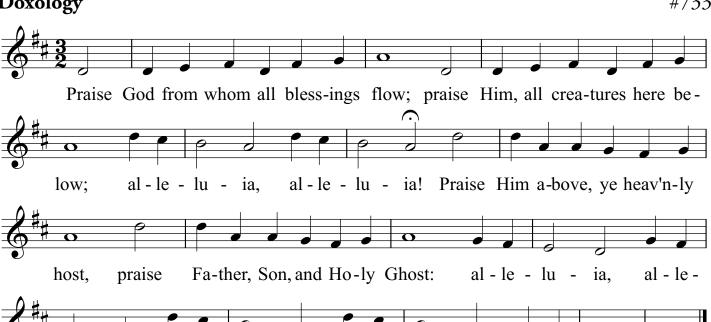
whose kingdom shall have no end.

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:

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





al - le - lu -

Thomas Ken, 1709; alt.

lu

ia,

al - le - lu -

LASST UNS ERFREUEN L.M.al. Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623

ia!

al - le - lu

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

Corporate Confession of Sin • from Luke 1

ia,

Father, you are the God who does great things and holy is PASTOR: your name.

ia,

Yet we confess, O Lord, ALL: that we have sinned against you. We have been proud in our thoughts and conceited in our words and actions. We have tried to magnify ourselves, instead of you. We have trusted in our riches to feed our souls. We have not listened to your Word nor waited on you. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon • from Romans 6

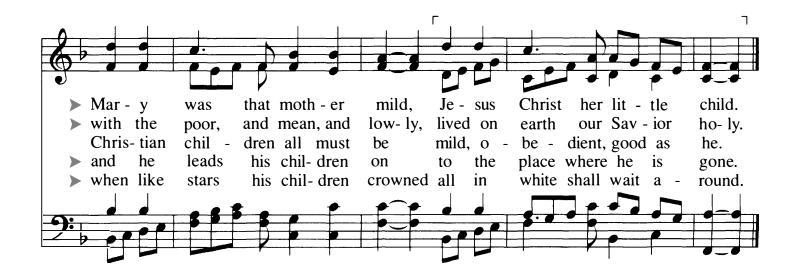
PASTOR:

Thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.





Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848

IRBY 8.7.8.7.7.7. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849

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 • Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabelle

CHOIR:

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella
Bring a torch, to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village;
Christ is born and Mary's calling:
Ah! Ah! beautiful is the Mother,
Ah! Ah! beautiful is her Son!

Hasten now, good folk of the village,
Hasten now the Christ-child to see.
You will find him asleep in the manger;
quietly come and whisper softly
Hush! Hush! Peacefully now He slumbers.
Hush! Hush! Peacefully now He sleeps.

Ah! Ah! Christ is born this holy night.

Bring a torch to the cradle run!

Hasten now, good folk of the village,
hasten now the Christ-child to see!

It is Jesus, good folk of the village;
Christ is born and Mary's calling.
Ah! Ah! beautiful is the Mother,
Ah! Ah! beautiful is her Son!
Ah! Ah! Christ is born this holy night!

Children's Worship (8:30am service only)
Parents, please bring participating children ages 4—1st grade
to meet their Worship leader in the Narthex during the following hymn.
Children can be picked up downstairs in Room 13.

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



Scripture Reading • Luke 1:39-56

Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

46 And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

- and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
- for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

 For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
- for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
- 50 And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
- He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
- he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;
- 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.
- 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
- as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

God's word is held out to us so that we might better know, love, and serve God. **Sermon** • Songs of Advent - Mary's Song

Luke 1:39-56; p.856 Rev. Noah Wiersema

1. The Spirit Moves and the Soul Magnifies

2. God Exalts the Humble and Humbles the Exalted

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

We are raised up to feast with our Lord.

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

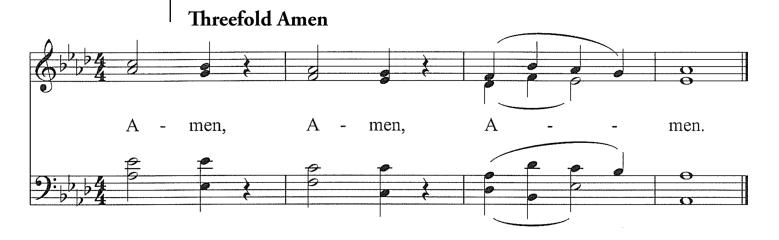
Grape juice is in the clear cups and wine is in the tinted cups.

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

Communion Hymn • All My Heart This Night Rejoices #217 (vv.1-2,4-5) heart this night re-joic I hear far and near 1. All es my as 2. Forth to - day the Con-qu'ror go who the foe, sin and woe, eth, still dread God's dis-plea -3. Shall we free - ly gave who, to save, sure. ➤ 4. He be - comes the Lamb that tak eth sin a- way and for aye voice from yon-der man soft and sweet, doth en-treat: 5. Hark! a ger, an - gel voic- es. "Christ is born," their choirs are sing ing > sweet - est death and hell, o'er throw- eth. God to de - liv man, man er; most cher- ished Trea- sure? To re deem us, he hath giv en mak - eth. For our life full a - tone- ment his own he ten ders; "Flee from woe and dan - ger. Breth- ren, from all ills that grieve you, ٦ till the air ev - 'ry - where with is ring - ing. now joy his dear Son one with our blood for ev er. now is Son the throne might heav - en. own from of his in his race. his grace, for glo ren - ders. and our by meet ry I will are freed; all you need sure give you." ly

We are sent out with God's blessing.

Benediction



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 – Jonathan McGuire, Organ & Piano; Tim Cole, Choir Director; Bekah Marsh & John Fussell, Children's Choir

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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EVENING WORSHIP

If you would like to give your tithe this evening, please place it in the wooden offering box located in the narthex before or after the service.

Prelude

Call to Worship • Psalm 33:1-8

PASTOR: Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!

PEOPLE: Praise befits the upright.

PASTOR: Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre;

make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!

PEOPLE: Sing to him a new song;

play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

PASTOR: For the word of the LORD is upright,

and all his work is done in faithfulness.

PEOPLE: He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

PASTOR: By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,

and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

PEOPLE: He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;

he puts the deeps in storehouses.

PASTOR: Let all the earth fear the LORD;

PEOPLE: Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

God, through his Word, calls us to worship Him

We pray to God to bless and guide our worship.

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

Opening Prayer

Catechism Question • Heidelberg Lord's Day 15

PASTOR: What do you confess when you say that he suffered?

ALL: During all the time he lived on earth, but especially at the end,
Christ bore in body and soul the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race.

Thus, by his suffering,
as the only atoning sacrifice,
he has redeemed our body and soul
from everlasting damnation,
and obtained for us
the grace of God, righteousness, and

the grace of God, righteousness, and eternal life.

PASTOR: Why did he suffer under Pontius Pilate as judge?

ALL: Though innocent, Christ was condemned by an earthly judge, and so he freed us from the severe judgment of God that was to fall on us.

PASTOR: Does it have a special meaning that Christ was crucified and did not die in a different way?

ALL: Yes.

Thereby I am assured that he took upon himself the curse which lay on me, for a crucified one was cursed by God.

#207

#229

Prayer Requests

We take time to pray for one another.

Hymn of Preparation • Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Scripture Reading • John 1:1-5, 14 and Galatians 4:4-5

John 1:1-4, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Galatians 4:4-5

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

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

John 1:1-5, 14, p.886 and Galatians 4:4-5, p.974 Rev. Chris Smith

Hymn of Response • Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!	#198 (vv.1-2,4,6)	
Benediction		We are sent out with God's blessing.
Postlude		
	·	

Musicians – Jonathan McGuire, Piano

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*.

CONNECTIONS

THIS WEEK at COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TODAY, DECEMBER 7

Mexico Mission Trip Info Meeting | after the 11:00am service; Mare Room

Evening Worship | 6:00pm; Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Precept Inductive Bible Study | 7:00pm; Schaeffer House

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Prayer Meeting | 7:00pm; Zoom Choir | 6:30pm; Sanctuary

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.

December 7: Mexico Mission Trip Information Meeting

December 14: Lessons & Carols (Evening Service) followed by cookie reception

December 15: Blue Christmas Service at the Schaeffer House December 17: Blue Christmas Service at the Schaeffer House

December 21: Carol Requests (Evening Service)
December 24: Christmas Eve Services (4pm & 6pm)

December 28: One Morning Service (10:00am) - No Sunday School or Evening Service

January 17: City Missions Trivia Night

January 19: Covenant Women's Book "Club"

ANNOUNCEMENTS continue on page 22

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS

Elder: John & Julie Bauer (Katherine, Elizabeth, Christopher)

Elder: Jon & Lindy McCluskey (Jonathan, Jude,

Alaina)

Deacon: David & Amanda Moore (Joey, Riley,

Elijah, Luke, Emmy)

Deacon: Dan & Evonne Moore (Caleb)

Ben & Gina Butterfield (Elias, Josiah, Samuel)

Tim & Stacy Cole (Sam, Joe, Lucy)

Dan & Jill Fager (Elijah, Wim, Eva)

Garry & Marian DeWit

Brandon & Erin Haan (RUF, Univ. of. Minnesota)

Verne & Alina Marshall (MTW Chile)

Mission to North America

ANNOUNCEMENTS continued

Care Meals

For further information, see the weekly email or scan the QR code.

Rebekah Collins - Recovery from surgery.



Mexico Mission Trip Informational Meeting - TODAY

Sunday, December 7 | after the 11:00am service; Mare Room

Join us for an informational meeting <u>in the Mare Room</u> about our 2026 Mexico Mission Trip (July 11-19, 2026). Anyone in the church ages 14+ is invited to consider joining the trip to gain a broader vision of the kingdom of God and to partner with Christ's body in Mexico in bringing encouragement and practical assistance.

CPC Leaf Raking - DATE CHANGE

The Diaconate and Youth are offering leaf raking services on **Saturday, December 13**. If you would like to have your home added to the list, please reach out to Andy Belval (andybelval@gmail.com or 314-651-7122). For those willing to serve on a crew, meet at the church on December 13 at 8:00am.

Lessons and Carols Service and Cookie Reception

Sunday, December 14 | 6:00pm; Sanctuary

Join us for our Lessons and Carols service featuring the CPC choir, the children's choir, and much more! Lessons and Carols is a service that intersperses scripture and song and tells the story of the grand sweep of redemptive history leading up to the birth of the Messiah. A cookie reception will follow. Sign up to bring cookies using the QR code.



Blue Christmas Services

Monday, December 15 & Wednesday, December 17 | 7:00pm; Schaeffer House

During the holidays, festivity is abundant, and yet in this very season, many of us feel grief, loneliness, sadness, and longing. Join us for a time of lament, remembrance, and hope. Note that the service will be the same on both nights. RSVP through the QR code.



Covenant Christian School Christmas Chapel Invitation

Covenant Christian School invites church members to join them on <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>December 17</u> at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary for Covenant Christian School's Christmas Chapel rehearsal.

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 at the welcome desk, or you may call or email Ed Sunder or Donna Baber, church bookkeeper.

CURRENT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

ADULTS (BEGINS AT 10:00AM)

Light and Life

Fellowship Hall; led by L.B. Graham

Romans

Room 107; led by Dick Tiburzi

Vietnamese Bible Study

Room 109; led by Stephen Nguyen

YOUTH (BEGINS AT 9:45AM)

Tracing God's Story Junior High

Youth House | led by Stephanie Smole & Jon McCluskey

Christian Apologetics Senior High

Youth House | led by Josh Fikkert & Will Nabholz

ROOTS (5TH/6TH GRADES - 9:45AM)

Room 5 (lower level) | led by Abigail Nabholz and Evan Kvale

CHILDREN (BEGINS AT 9:45AM)

Contact John Fussell if you have any questions: jfussell@cpcstl.org

Stories from the life of Jesus!

3 year olds - 4th graders; on the lower level

- 3 year olds Kindergarten (Room 15)
- 1st-4th graders in the Heartland Room (Room 12)

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, koller/@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, <u>bbutterfield@gmail.com</u> or Gina Butterfield, <u>ginamariebutterfield@gmail.com</u>

Use the QR code to sign up to receive ministry emails



Preaching Schedule	Session Elders		
December 14	Matt Brandt	Garrett Jacobs	Jonathan McCluskey
Morning: Luke 1:57-80	Bill Cahill	Jeff Klinger	Bill McGreevy
Evening: Lessons and Carols	John Dawson	Mike Koller	Alan Norman
December 21	Dave Haverdink	Dan Legters	Roland Van Heest
Morning: Luke 2:1-8	Will Haynes	Jeremy Marsh	David Yates
Evening: Carol Requests	D:		
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	Diaconate RC Balaban Andy Belval Jamey Brester Walt Bosch Kevin Dana Women's Ministry	Don Jacobs Casey Jowdy Jeff Massot Dan Moore David Moore Leadership	Norman Reed Todd Schultz Nathan Theus Reed Voorhees
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	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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