

LEADERSHIP

Session

Jim Plunk, Moderator
Tim Chapman, Clerk
Chas Emerson, Treasurer
Bob Barber
Scott Sartor

Shaun Sipe*

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Diaconate

Andrew Duff, Chairman
Nick Manley
Robert Massey
Chris Tingle, Secretary
Charlie Smith***

Chris Lyons*

David Wright*

Dick Brankstone**

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

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Hillary Hale, Director of Women's Ministry, women@christcovenantms.org

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Sue Tarver, Pianist

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*“For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,
with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.”*

2 Corinthians 4:5

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

9.21.25

Notes

If you are new to church, the notes in this margin are a way to help you understand and follow along through each aspect of today's service. If you like, use the free space to take your own notes about anything you find interesting or thought provoking. If you have additional questions, you can talk with a church officer after the service.

Congregational Standing

Throughout the bulletin the asterisk * denotes congregation standing

We encourage you to use this bulletin during the week to reflect on what you have heard and experienced during worship. You can use the prayers, confessions, and scripture for personal worship and devotional time at home

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us for worship today. Here at Christ Covenant, we seek to celebrate God’s grace through Jesus Christ, who came to give us life today and for eternity. We also seek to cultivate a safe environment for the convinced and unconvinced to hear the free offer of the gospel in Jesus Christ. Whether you are a follower of Jesus, or it has been a while since you’ve considered your relationship to Him, or you are exploring His claims for the first time, we are delighted to have you with us today. We would love to be able to connect with you and share with you more about the ministry of our church. If you are a visitor, please take a moment during the service to fill out a Visitor Card located in the back of the chair and put it in the offering plate. We have a visitor bag for you in the lobby with a mug, coffee, pens and Dane Ortlund’s book, “Gentle and Lowly, The Heart of Christ for Sinner’s and Sufferers.”

Ushers: Charlie Smith & Chris Tingle

A/V Assistant: Seth Sipe

Communion & Coffee: Keith & Kim Murphree

Hosts: Donny & Ann Plunk

Nursery Helpers:

Service—Claire Becker, Monica Tingle & Elizabeth Emerson

Sunday School—Shannon Sipe & Merrell Patridge

For Your Children: We welcome children to attend and participate in the corporate worship by singing, praying and offering responses as they are able. For older children, we offer opportunities to hear a lesson that is age appropriate. For ages 4 years old and under, we offer Children’s Church during the sermon portion of the service. Children will be dismissed before the sermon. For younger children, infants to age 3, we provide a nursery throughout the service for parents who would prefer not to have their children with them.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Be sure to sign up on our website to receive the weekly E-news which is sent every Wednesday with the latest up-to-date information.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

Sunday—September 21st

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am—Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—Sunday school

Various times—Community Groups

Wednesday—September 24th

6:30am—Men’s morning bible study

9:00am—Women’s bible study

6:00pm—Women’s bible study, Youth, Kids’ Club

Thursday—September 25th

No activities planned

Monday – September 22nd

No activities planned

Friday—September 26th

No activities planned

Tuesday—September 23rd

5:30pm—Men’s bible study

Saturday—September 27th

No activities planned

Looking Ahead

- Fall break—10.6-10.10
- Covenant Presbytery—10.7 at Christ Pres. Oxford
- Fall Fest—10.19, 4:30pm-6:30pm
- Joint Reformation service—10.26, 6:00pm at Christ Pres. Olive Branch
- Thanksgiving Feast—11.9
- CPYC—11.14-16, registration begins 10.8
- Hanging of the Greens—11.30
- Ladies Christmas Tea—12.14
- Lessons & Carols service—12.21, 5:00pm

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 9.20-9.27
Andrew, Tracy, Brady & Reagan Duff • Charlie & Britt Emerson

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Helen & Monte Morgan • Dick & Emily Brankstone • Conner & Makailey Newton, expecting their third child due early December • Elijah & Emma Vaughn, expecting their first child due 11.4

Prayer Requests: Land and Building Committee • Assistant Pastor search

OUR LOCAL & WORLD MISSIONS
Please pray for these local and world missions and our missionaries.

Peru Mission (Chimbote Church Plant) • Bill Berry (Christ Redeemer in Jonesboro) • RUF: John Craft (Rhodes College), John Crosby, Spencer Sipe (University of Memphis), Justin & Carey Helms (LSU) • Jermaine Van Buren Jr., (Jackson State) • Reclaimed Ministry • Ricky Kroeger (Wycliffe Bible Translators—Mexico) • Conner and Makailey Newton (18.26 Network)

Sermon Preview

9.28.25	Matthew 5:13-16	Living in the Kingdom: Salt & Light
10.5.25	Matthew 5:17-20	Living in the Kingdom: The Law
10.12.25	Matthew 5:21-26	Living in the Kingdom: Anger
10.19.25	Matthew 5:27-30	Living in the Kingdom: Lust

Preparing for Worship
With so many distractions vying for our attention, this is a time to listen to the prelude music, read of Vision Statement on the front cover, and get ready for the service.

Call to Worship If worship is offering all that we are to all that God is, then this call is a way to proclaim this movement, while also challenging us on what we worship daily.

Why we sing
We sing in order to remember the stories of how God has worked in our loves. Singing takes the truth of who God is and what He is doing, and applies it into our lives.

Prayer of Invocation
Is from the Latin *invocare*, meaning “to call on.” God has called us to worship—and now, in grateful response, we cry out for His presence among us.

The Lord’s Prayer
Jesus gave this example in the New Testament (Matthew 6:9-13) to show us how to pray. We use this prayer corporately each week as a reminder.

ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Gospel Welcome

Prelude

***Call to Worship** Rev. Jim Plunk
PASTOR: Behold the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.
PEOPLE: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.
PASTOR: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.
Psalm 33

***Song of Adoration** *All People That On Earth Do Dwell #1*

***Invocation** (concluded by 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.

Confession is the time when we are honest about ourselves with each other and with God. As we admit our misplaced affections, we are called to reorder our lives. Only by being honest will the good news of grace be significant and needed.

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort are encouraging words which is what we need to hear after the honesty of our confession

Confession of Sin

PASTOR: Let us now humbly confess our sins together:

ALL: Lord God, You require us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before You. We confess that we have not loved You or our neighbor in this way. We repent of this. Grant that Your Holy Spirit drives us to seek these things through Christ. Amen.

Micah 6:8

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live in him.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

ALL: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation! The old has passed away, behold, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

*Song of Renewal

Nothing But The Blood #307

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Adults meet in the sanctuary. Youth will meet in the south end lounge area, kids on the classrooms, toddlers in the nursery and the Inquirer’s Class in the lobby office.

Community Groups: Meet tonight at the homes of various members based on location. This is a great way to get to know more people in the church and grow together. Groups are based geographically and meet in member homes. Please see an elder to be placed in a group. Community Group fall dates: 9.21, 10.12, 11.2, 11.16

Vaughn Baby Shower: All women of CCC are invited to a baby shower honoring Emma Vaughn and baby boy Eric Alfred on 9.28 from 2-4 PM at the home of Catherine Sartor. 1584 Hillshire North, Hernando. The new parents are registered at Amazon, Target & Walmart.

Communicants Class: If you have a child who hasn’t professed faith, we are making available a parent guide to explain what you should be discussing with your child. After reviewing the guide, feel free to express interest to an elder if you feel they are ready to become a communing member, and we will begin plans for a series of classes.

Officer Nominations: The session will open officer nominations for elder and deacon Sunday October 12th-Sunday November 2nd. A nominations guide will be made available to explain the process.

Pray For Me: Pray for Me has relaunched for 2026. Thank you for praying for your child/student. If you have any questions, please reach out to Christa Chapman.

Fall Fest: Fall Fest will be Oct 19th from 4:30-6:30pm at the Church. We are collecting candy and treats for the Fall Fest! Please bring your candy/ treats and place in the bins in the lobby. Also, we will need individually wrapped cookies and treats for the pumpkin walk, please let Christa Chapman know if you would be willing to help!

Christmas Tea Hostesses: Save the Date! Women's Christmas Tea is Sunday, 12.14 from 4-6 PM. We’re looking for ladies to host or co-host a table! Contact Hillary or Jill if interested. Online sign-up available soon.

COMMUNION GUIDELINES AND PRAYERS

Bread: Each tray contains gluten-free bread in the brown cup.

Cup: Each tray has wine in the outer rim. The pink cups in the center are filled with grape juice.

When we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we are gathering around the table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, we invite all followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this wonderful sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his church.

Parents, your children are welcome to partake, if they have been baptized and been received as a communing member of the church to which you belong. If you think your child is ready to become a member, please speak to one of the elders.

Prayer for Covenant Children (not yet a communing member)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. I now resolve in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit to seek to walk in a manner pleasing to you. Amen.

Prayer of Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

We confess our faith as an act of worship, together with Christians in all times and places. “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Offertory is a time for prayerful reflection and response by considering how to be generous with your time, talents and resources. If you are new to our church, or exploring Christianity, please don’t feel obligated to give. Instead, please be sure to fill out a visitors card which can be found in the lobby. Also, you can give securely on our website : <https://christcovenantms.org/online-giving/>

Doxology We sing this short hymn of praise to thank and adore our God of glory.

The Sermon is a teaching based on the passage from the reading of God’s Word. The role of the sermon is to make real truths of the Gospel. It is not just an intellectual function. Rather, using the imagination, our hearts are to be affected by the text.

COMMITTING TO GOD’S KINGDOM

***Confession of Faith**

PASTOR: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

ALL: That I belong---body and soul, in life and in death---not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Heidelberg Catechism 1

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory

How Deep The Father’s Love For Us

***Doxology** (*Children under 4 dismissed at this time*)

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word

Matthew 5:1-12 (p. 759)

READER: The grass withers, the flowers fade
ALL: But the word of our God will stand forever. *Isaiah 40:8*

The Sermon

Rev. Jim Plunk

“Living in the Kingdom: Virtues”

COMMUNING WITH GOD

The Great Thanksgiving:
Following the pattern of Jesus, this prayer of thanksgiving reminds us this is a meal offering thanks to God for all he has done as we bring our whole selves to him with the communion of the saints.

Words of Institution: These words recorded in the synoptic gospels and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 are words from Jesus setting this meal apart from every other meal as a holy sacrament for God’s people.

The Memorial Acclamation reminds us of the center of history and our lives; the death, resurrection, and return of Jesus.

The Lord’s supper: God meets us not only in hearing the Word, but also in visible, tangible form—uniting us with himself spiritually by faith in Christ

The Great Thanksgiving

PASTOR: The Lord be with you

PEOPLE: And with your spirit

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts

PEOPLE: We lift them up to the Lord

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

PEOPLE: It is right to give Him thanks and praise

PASTOR: It is indeed good, right, and our delight that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and saying...

ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

PASTOR: Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us!

PEOPLE: Hallelujah!

PASTOR: Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

PEOPLE: Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

PASTOR: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

Holy Communion

Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT WITH GOD’S BLESSING

*Song of Sending Rock of Ages #500

*Benediction

PASTOR: Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

ALL: Amen

*Gloria Patri

Sermon Notes

Continuing the series: The Mission of Jesus in the Kingdom of God:

Studies in the Gospel of Matthew

“Living in the Kingdom: Virtues”

Matthew 5:1-12 (p. 759)

Character in Christian living

Evidence of Christian living

Fruit of Christian living

Consequence of Christian living

The Benediction
is how we close our time of worship. It is not a prayer but rather a blessing with a charge to go beyond our church into the world carrying the hope, joy and love of the Gospel.

Gloria Patri
We have heard and witnessed God’s glory. Now we leave singing His glory that others might know His glory.

Sermon Audio
If you want to listen to any archived sermons, please visit the sermon page on our website
www.christcovenantms.org
or on our app on your smartphone. All music used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

Practical Needs and Prayer
If you have questions or would like to pray with someone, our officers can be available after the worship service, or you may call the church office and leave a message for a deacon at 662.469.9330 and someone will get in touch with you. You can also send prayer requests to office@christcovenantms.org.