



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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THE CLARION

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2017

Greetings,

It is my distinct pleasure to announce to the Covenant family that at its regular September meeting our Session unanimously voted to name the Rev. Dr. Winston Lawson as Parish Associate at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Historically in the PC(USA), the position of Parish Associate has been one in which PC(USA) Ministers of Word and Sacrament not serving in a church, but actively engaged in a local congregation, are recognized as pastors in the context of that church's ministry. Most Parish Associates are Honorably Retired clergy (as is Winston), but some are clergy who serve in non-parish settings like chaplaincy or in non-profit mission organizations. A Parish Associate can have specific duties and be part of the church staff, or can simply hold the title in an honorary capacity.

Both Winston and the Session have chosen the "church staff" option, and this translates into the following duties:

1. Availability to preach and lead worship when the pastor is away.
2. Assist in worship with the pastor as requested.
3. Visitation (as needed and requested) of congregants who are restricted to their homes or in nursing homes or rehabilitation centers.
4. Hospital visitation and other pastoral contacts in emergency situations when the pastor is not available.

Prior to his retirement, Winston served as Interim Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Lehigh Acres. Since moving to Fort Myers, he and his wife Verona have been attending worship at Covenant. Verona is a practicing psychiatrist having completed her medical training at Emory University. Prior to going into her private practice, Verona served as Staff Psychiatrist in the State Hospital system in Alabama.

Winston completed seminary training in Jamaica in 1967 and following that became the General Secretary of the Student Christian Movement in Jamaica. He served as Chaplain at the United Nations in New York City for six months and then studied for his Master of Arts in Theology and Ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and received that degree in 1974 (the same year I graduated from high school!). Following that he served as Chaplain at the University of Pittsburgh and as Co-Pastor of the Community of Reconciliation Church, an ecumenical ministry. From there Winston became the Director of Minority Affairs for the General Assembly Office of the Presbyterian Church in the United States in Atlanta (one of the two forerunner denominations of what is now the PCUSA). He served in that capacity until 1983. Following that, Winston served a Moravian church in Kingston, Jamaica and as the pastor of a PC(USA) congregation in Columbia, South Carolina. He then went from there to teach Religion and Sociology at Lee College (PCUSA) in Kentucky. Following that Winston served as Chaplain and professor at Stillman College in Alabama and in 1992 he completed his Ph.D. in Social History from the University of the West Indies. Finally, Winston served 14 years as pastor of Hillside Presbyterian Church in Decatur, Georgia and ended his active career with the Interim Pastor position at Lehigh Acres. At the present time, he also serves on our Presbytery's Partnership Task Force on Cuba along with Ruth DeYoe.

We are thrilled to welcome Winston and Verona to our church family, and Winston to the church staff. Because the position of Parish Associate must be approved by the Presbytery of Peace River, Winston's official start date will be November 1. Please be sure to take time this month to welcome Winston and Verona to the ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church!

In Christ, Jeff

Fall Sunday morning adult classes meet upstairs in F207 (via the elevator or stairs) from 9 - 9:45 am
The Work of the People: Faith Engaging the World
 Each class begins with welcoming introductions, followed by a short video clip that opens up into open discussion about relevant matters of faith. Facilitated by Barb Sheets and Ruth DeYoe.

Seeking Aliveness: Spiritual Formation, Reorientation and Activation

October 1-- Aliveness in Spirit

October 8—Aliveness in Word

Allegiance to Empire: Practices of Kingdom Citizenship

This series explores ways in which the Christian community can serve the world and at the same time be faithful to God's vision of the Peaceable Kingdom. Over a seven week period we will look at the myth of the "Christian" nation and re-narrate what it means to live as residents in a foreign land.

October 15 -- Citizenship as Resistance

October 22—Citizenship as Hospitality

October 29—Citizenship as Love for Land



Peacemaking Commitment

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free expression thereof."

Reformed people have been clear from the time of Calvin that human beings have no authority over the conscience of the individual. Only God can judge the conscience. This affirmation is based in the limited judgement of human beings and the omniscience of God. We can never know what God knows. The Reformers emphasis on freedom of conscience was an affirmation that the believer was called to believe what Scripture taught, whether or not the church or political structure realized it. The Reformers said that human institutions should not coerce believers to deny what they believe Scripture teaches. Freedom of conscience for Presbyterians has always been the freedom to be obedient to God through the witness of Scripture - not an affirmation that anything goes.

Calvin cultivated a position on church and state that provided a distinction between the church and the state, each being separate from the other, yet accountable to God. Calvin placed Christians' responsibility to God above their responsibility to the state.

Presbyterians have always stood up for the rights of others to exercise their religious freedom. As religious pluralism has grown, so has the idea that freedom of religious expression should not be limited to Christians. Affirming that someone should be free to express something is not the same as adopting their beliefs.

Charles Wiley III, Associate Director of Theology, Formation & Evangelism, PC(USA) Mission Agency

2017/2018

Covenant Concert Series

November 10, 2017

Dick Hyman, Jazz Pianist

December 15, 2017

Covenant Christmas Concert

January 19, 2018

Joel Raney, Pianist

February 9, 2018

Manni Cadet, Vocalist—Baritone

February 25, 2018

Washington Saxophone Quartet

March 16, 2018

Covenant Spring Concert

April 6, 2018

*Woodworks Marimba Quartet
and Debra Polkingham*



PW BIBLE STUDY—Presbyterian Women are studying "Cloud of Witnesses" The Community of Christ in Hebrews by Melissa Bane Sevier. Pastor DeYoe will conduct a study on September 5th at 10:45 a.m. in room F205. Everyone is welcome to attend.

PW CIRCLES—We invite you to come and visit one of the circles which meet at the following times:

Naomi Circle - 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Deborah Circle and Ruth Circle - 2nd Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Elizabeth Circle - 2nd Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

For more information about Circles or PW, please call Nora Harmon at 645-1125.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

This past summer has not been an easy one; in fact, by most any standard, it has been an exceptionally difficult one. We have had deaths from among our church family, some perhaps not unexpected and some shocking. The face of crime and evil has touched us and left us stunned, shaking our heads in disbelief and wondering why. Mother Nature has wreaked havoc and destruction across the state with a particularly hard hand on our SW Florida communities. Across the globe there's hardship and famine, sword rattling, and the very real threat of nuclear weapons being unleashed. To many of us it seems as if the "end of days" might be upon us. Should you want to talk out your thoughts, your worries, ask to speak with a Stephen Minister. We are here to listen and remind you of God's promise to us. Contact a Stephen Minister today...

Pat Arner: 997-9108

Sarah Jane Essebaggers: 616-502-7086

Barb Sheets: 995-8881

Lyn Sisti-Sommer: 656-1595

Rev. Dr. Jeff DeYoe: 334-8937



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is in it for the long haul. Long after many immediate disaster relief agencies have buttoned up and moved on, PDA is just getting started. After hurricanes, the rebuilding process can take years, if not decades, and PDA continues to be on the scene with money, resources and volunteer workers. A gift to PDA helps insure that long term disaster relief continues in a fair and orderly manner. After the initial shock of loss, many people do not realize that their insurance policies will not cover all their loss. Often there is a gap between the relief they receive and what it takes to actually rebuild. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is there to help. In the wake of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, and the most recent devastating earthquake in Mexico, PDA is on the scene making a difference. You can support these efforts of your church by placing a gift, marked for "Presbyterian Disaster Assistance" in the offering plate, or by donating online at pda.pcusa.org.

IT'S TIME FOR NOMINATIONS: Do you know someone whom you think would be a good church officer—Elder, Deacon, Trustee? How about you? Please pass your suggestion to the Nominating Committee. The Committee is now meeting and would love to hear from you. Just talk to one of them, or send a note to: Jef Farlow at jef.fiberart@gmail.com. Committee members are: Lyn DeWolfe, Jef Farlow, Mary Ellen Frost, Carole Richardson, Rich Ward. Thank you.



- Family Movie Night on November 17th at 6:30 p.m.
- Youth Lock-in November 17-18
- Women of the Church sale on November 19th
- Hanging of the Greens on December 3rd

CEDARKIRK FAMILY CAMP is NOVEMBER 3-5, 2017

What is it? Cedarkirk is a Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center located in Lithia, FL. Cedarkirk offers a unique opportunity to grow as part of the Covenant church family and meet and have fun with other families in a relaxed atmosphere. Families of ALL ages are invited.

Accommodations? All families will stay in an air conditioned lodge. It is comparable to dormitory living.

Food? Everyone eats together in the dining hall for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Food is served family style and there is plenty for all. Food is included in the cost.

Activities? Cedarkirk is nestled in the woods and there are a variety of group and individual activities. Friday night will feature mixers, games and snacks. Saturday features group activities, hiking, games, canoeing, swimming, hayride, campfire and line dancing. Sunday includes worship and family activities.

Cost? The cost is \$119 (ages 13 to adult) and \$104 (ages 5 to 12). Kids under 5 are free. The cost includes two night accommodations and 5 meals. The maximum expense per family is \$355. A \$30 per person nonrefundable fee is required to hold your room. **PLEASE REGISTER ASAP!!! Registration forms in the front office.**

Cedarkirk Testimonials:

In our hectic family life of band rehearsals, football games, school productions, scouts, homework and so much more, my family and I have come to excitedly look forward to our weekend at Cedarkirk each year. Throughout the year my husband's work schedule prevents him from participating in church activities, but he always makes time for the fellowship, fun and delicious food at Cedarkirk. The gathering gives us a chance to unplug from our hustle and bustle and get plugged in to family and faith. The theme and topics of discussion are biblically related, but moreover family focused for all ages. I've seen the kids grow over the years in all the best ways. Our son has grown up on the trails and canoes and cinnamon rolls of Cedarkirk. Young and older get elbow-deep in games of Spoons, and Uno as well as coloring projects and loads more excitement. Nighttime in the woods is the perfect time to catch a glimpse of nature and experience true quiet that we city-folks rarely witness.

And don't think for a second that Cedarkirk is only for families with young children. It's for couples, singles, seniors and everyone who wants to get away from it all and reconnect with relaxation. And don't forget about the much deserved weekend away from cooking, because the fabulous fare prepared in the lodge kitchen rivals my Grandma's cooking!

Don't put it off another year. Come to Cedarkirk this November. The two nights you spend there will be the best investment you can make in your family and in your faith.

-Maria B.

We have been going to Cedarkirk as a family for over 40 years. It has meant so much to us. After we went the first time and came back to Covenant on a Sunday we felt such a sense of community. Even when our children were in college they would come and bring their friends for Family Camp. Now our children and our grandchildren try to never miss a Family Camp. Cedarkirk is a beautiful place to be and connect with your church family and with God.

-DeAnne S.

I love going to Cedarkirk because it means getting back to nature, spending time with family away from TV, eating great food around a family table, and especially enjoying the peaceful, quiet canoe ride.

-Barb S.

Cedarkirk means communing with God in the outdoors; it means fellowship with our larger Covenant family with its family style meals; it's a Bible study in the woods, and canoeing the river as a group, and ending an evening with a bonfire and stories; it means worship where we gather together in an outdoor pavilion. All ages have fun and fellowship together – singles, families of multi-generations, seniors and teenagers. Cedarkirk grows to be a tradition with great meaning and the creation of life-long memories. Our family looks forward to Cedarkirk every year.

-Bev G.

August 2017 Financial Report

Income for August	\$53,908
Income Year-to-date	\$423,743
Expenses for August	\$53,132
Expenses Year-to-date	\$432,869
Year-to-date deficit	\$9,125
Current Balance on Loan	\$396,706
Principal & Interest Paid in August	\$4,094

A complete finance report is available in the church office.



Please pray for our friends who are unable to attend services:

Maureen Bashaw, Doris Flaitz, Gloria Gibbs, and Sue Loman.

God Bless You!



Session Highlights for September

The Session met on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 with Rev. Jeff DeYoe moderating the meeting and ten elders in attendance. Others present: Alana Nanz, Deacon; Gary Brothers, Facilities Manager and Barbara Heflin, Clerk of Session.

- Approved the job description for the Parish Associate position.
- Approved The Reverend Dr. Winston Lawson as Parish Associate effective November 1, 2017.
- Approved an adult study titled Living on the Edge: "Good to Great in God's Eyes" by Chip Ingram and facilitated by Anne Schorle. The class will be held immediately following the worship services on the following dates: October 8, 15, 22, November 12, and 19, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in F202/203. The class is inclusive to everyone.
- Approved the Mission Committee's request to appeal for "seeds" for the community garden project by requesting needs through Minute for Mission, after church "Lunch in the Garden", Clarion articles, etc.
- Gary Brothers is receiving bids to remove the large tree blown down during Hurricane Irma.
- Thanks was expressed to Gary Brothers, David Beardsley, the Hispanic Church, (which meets in Building C) and others for their untiring efforts in clearing the church campus of debris following Hurricane Irma.



Grill & Chill

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

We would like to invite you to a fundraiser for the CPC Youth Group at the Dairy Queen located at 14891 Tamiami Trail on **October 10th from 5 to 8 p.m.** A portion of all funds received during that time will go directly to our Youth Group. Thank you in advance for your support!



Presbyterian Women Luncheon

Sunday, October 22

Featured Speaker: Ruth DeYoe



Covenant Presbyterian Church hosts a full calendar of events for all youth in 6th through 12th grade! Youth Bible Study is held every Sunday morning at 9:00 am before worship. Youth fellowships take place every month and include meals, games, activities, music and discussions. A variety of trips, retreats, mission and outreach opportunities are available as well. Youth do not need to be members of Covenant to participate and are always welcome to invite friends! For specific information regarding dates and times of youth activities please contact Eric Nanz at nanzet@gmail.com.

- 10/1 Sunday School & Afternoon Youth Group (9am – 1:15pm)
- 10/8 Sunday School & Afternoon Youth Group (9am – 1:15pm)
- 10/10 Tuesday Night Fundraiser at the DQ on US-41 (5pm – 8pm)
- 10/15 Fall Break (No YG/Sunday school)
- 10/22 Sunday School & Dinner/Kickball at Centennial Park (5pm – 7pm)
- 10/25 Wednesday Youth Band Rehearsal (7pm – 8pm)
- 10/29 Youth Sunday Service, Youth Band performs and Fall-Fest Luncheon (9am – 1:15pm)

“Leisure Time Book Club” meets on the third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in room F205. Bring your lunch or cup of tea and join us! Book selections are available for lending in CPC Library. For more information, stop by our CPC library or email Beverly Campbell at campbell.beverly@gmail.com

Thursday, October 19, 2017 Robert N. Macomber will be our guest! Since we will have already read *An Honorable War* for our September meeting, everyone is welcome to read ANY other book from Robert N. Macomber's Honor Series that you wish to read!

Thursday, November 16, 2017 *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor (reprinted in 2015 in paperback)

Thursday, December 21, 2017 *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult (published Oct 2016)

Are You Tired of the "Status Quo" Christian Life? Do you dream of making an eternal impact in the Kingdom of God? Do you long for a spiritual breakthrough? If you're looking to go to the next level or get a fresh infusion of faith and spiritual passion, then look no further than this group study. In this series, Chip Ingram uses Scripture, personal stories, and examples from real Christians who left an indelible mark on the world to offer clear steps to becoming great in the things that matter most. These steps are not intended to earn God's favor or to impress other people; however, they are an opportunity to fulfill the highest and best purposes God has for your life. Learning how to apply the practical principles in this study will jump-start your relationship with God by providing you with a practical and Biblical means to go from good to great ... in God's eyes.

good to great
IN GOD'S EYES

10 practices great Christians have in common

Chip Ingram

The Christian Education Committee is offering this new opportunity to those who would like to grow in their faith and fellowship at Covenant and find that the time after worship fits yours schedule better than before worship. This class will be held October 8, 15, 22 and Nov. 12 and 19 from 11:30 to 12:30 in F202/203. The classes will run simultaneously with Youth Group, Children's Choir and Nursery Care so that young people will have a fellowship experience as the grown-ups grow in their faith with other adults. Please register at the Connection Station.

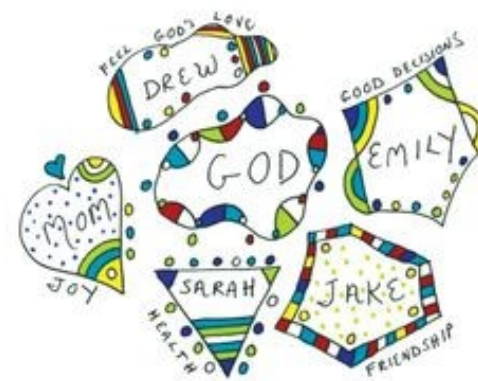


You're invited to join us for a Fall Festival on Sunday, October 29th after worship in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite dish to share that will accompany fried chicken! There will be plenty of games and activities for the kids. We are adding lots of new activities so make sure you look for future announcements by email or in the weekly Bulletin Announcements. Come decorate a table before the event. A sign-up sheet will be on the Connection Station to decorate.

L.I.F.E. Update

The Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (L.I.F.E.) coalition of Ft. Myers churches continues to work collaboratively and actively with the other DART affiliates in Florida for the statewide Civil Citation legislation. Current L.I.F.E. efforts are focused on Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott and the Florida Sheriffs Association who have so far opposed the current version of the proposed legislation in the Florida House. A compromise bill is being proposed to the Sheriff's Association in an attempt to gain their support.

After a successful financial campaign, L.I.F.E. has been able to again hire a Lead Organizer, Chelsea Baker, who will come "on board" in October. This should be a big help in organizing the L.I.F.E. actions on his year's "Ask", a continuation of the efforts to reduce the number of unsolved murders in Fort Myers.



PRAYING IN COLOR WORKSHOP will be held on Sunday, October 1st from 11:30 to 12:30 in F207 for all ages. The Christian Education Committee will provide all the supplies. What is Praying in Color? Basically it is **prayer + doodling**. Why Pray in Color? 1) You want to pray but words escape you. 2) Sitting still and staying focused in prayer are a challenge. 3) Your body wants to be part of your prayer. 4) You want to just hang out with God but don't know how. 5) Listening to God feels like an impossible task. 6) Your mind wanders and your body complains. 7) You want a visual, concrete way to pray. 8) You Need a new way to pray. We hope you join us! If you can't make this workshop, please don't worry...we can schedule another one in the future if needed.

The Mothers of Preschoolers will be packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child in October. Your donations will be greatly appreciated. Our group sends 125 boxes each year to be distributed to needy children all over the world.

DONATIONS FOR OCC BOXES:

Toys such as small dolls, stuffed animals, cars, puzzles, jump ropes, etc.

School Supplies such as pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks, coloring books, etc.

Non-liquid Hygiene Items such as toothbrushes, bar soap, washcloths, combs, etc.

Accessories such as socks, hats, t-shirts, flip-flops, hairbands, sunglasses, etc.

Younger Children: sticker and picture books, finger puppets, pages of colorful stickers.

Older Children: small tools, tape measures, sewing kits, fabric squares, etc;

solar calculators; rulers; jewelry; deodorant.

Charges are a minimum of \$7 per OCC box. We will gladly except help with shipping!

