



# THE CORNERSTONE



April 2023

## Our Vision

We envision a church that proclaims the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ by identifying itself as a church of and for our community.

We envision a church that, following the example of Jesus, prays, welcomes people of every race, class or human condition, and encourages everyone to fulfill his or her ministry.

## SESSION

Rev. Steven Andrews,  
Interim Pastor  
Letha Chadiha,  
Clerk of Session  
Paul Backer  
Lori Davis  
Walt Grainger  
Bob Krenzle  
Candi Moss  
Ima Moss  
Osrice Reavis  
Linda Scott  
Jim Albers, Treasurer

## DEACONS

Anita Briggs  
Orlandra Brown  
Loretta Hill  
Helen Hurst  
Niki Krenzle  
Donna Lenhart  
Paul Moss  
Sylvia Payne  
Glenn Smith

## Pastor's Corner



As March turns into April, I find myself reflecting on the concept of 'challenge.'

I've heard members of the church describe my sermons as 'challenging.' I know they can be. I think the purpose of a sermon is to evoke a response that leads to action. I always strive to be growing in my own faith, and I want people to feel that same challenge to personal growth when they hear my sermons.

However, I worry that, taken as whole, I have been too 'challenging.' The people at my former church used that word to describe my preaching, as well, and now that I'm hearing it from you, I'm worried about taking the challenge too far.

I know that in Christian faith, the sense of challenge has to be balanced with a sense of grace. In fact, I think there should be a lot more grace than challenge. We should hear more about how God loves us as we are than how God calls us to change.

After all, there are a lot of voices in the world who ask us to be different. Bosses, advertisers, our own internal critics, all call us to change something about ourselves. Sometimes an invitation to growth can be a positive thing that leads us to make needed changes. Sometimes, it can just leave us feeling guilty and ashamed for not having already done the thing we are being asked to do.

What we all need, more than anything, is grace. We need to know we are loved without condition—by other people and especially by God. In fact, God is the only being strong enough to love us exactly as we are, without needing anything from us or demanding anything of us. God knows every hair on our head. God knows every desire of our heart—even the desires we try to keep hidden. God knows every thought we have—virtuous and not-so-virtuous alike. God knows us thoroughly and loves us thoroughly.

And that is amazing.

There is an appropriate place for 'challenging,' especially in Christian faith. Ephesians 4 notes that we are all invited to grow until we come "to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (v. 13). And none of us will reach that standard until we reach the Kingdom of Heaven.

Still, in order to grow, we need grace. We need to feel secure. We need to feel loved. We grow the most when we know we are cared about. That's why growth and grace go hand-in-hand.

Recently, on a personal level, I realized that 2023 has been a hard year for me. I say I 'realized' this because I'd been suppressing my feelings, and trying to pretend like I wasn't having a hard time. I was lying even to myself and denying the stress I was under.

(Continued on page 4)

## Session Snippets

The Session met on March 11, 2023 and took these actions:

Received February's Stewardship/Financial Report: Total Income was \$18,587.64. Total Expenses were \$21,290.82, resulting in deficit net income of \$2,703.18. Building repairs, heating costs and insurance costs accounted for a substantial portion of expenses.

Approved a motion to hold the Joint Juneteenth Picnic again at Second Presbyterian Church with the Session Clerk as the contact person.

Agreed to list Pastor Steve's work schedule (days and hours) and phone number in the Sunday worship bulletin.

Approved a motion authorizing Glen Dunmore as an approved signer for Building and Grounds Committee expenses.

Approved a motion that any regular periodic bill the church receives can go to the Church Treasurer without need for additional approval

Approved a motion permitting Upper Room KC Summer Program to use the church space from June 5 to July 21.

Approved a motion authorizing repayment of loans owed the Pantry and Urgent Need Funds from payroll surplus and declare the debt to the Capital Campaign Fund absolved.

Agreed to transfer all accounting tasks relating to church donations from the Church Administrator back to the Stewardship Committee.

Next Stated Session Meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2023.

## Food Pantry

Our Community Food Pantry was open 24 days in March and feed households, comprised of adults, children, and seniors. Covenant Church spent \$3,063 to restock our shelves.

Year	Households Served
2023	
2022	4,489
2021	4,385

### EASTER BASKETS

Thursday, April 6, we will be delivering Easter bags to the kindergartners at Troost Elementary School. Second Presbyterian Church volunteers will fill the bags with toys, candy and snacks Wednesday, April 5.



Our Community Food Pantry and Second Presbyterian Church volunteers purchased food (cost \$2,221) to fill 200 grocery sacks that were given out on Saturday, March 18 to families for Spring Break. Kansas City Public Library Bookmobile was also parked outside handing out books to everyone.

**THANK YOU!**

## Youth Group

Covenant Youth Group will attend a Heartland Presbytery-wide youth overnight at Chapel Hill Presbyterian on Friday, April 21 for dinner through mid-morning on Saturday, April 22.

## Building & Grounds



The following projects are in progress at Covenant:

- Outside electrical work is in progress replacing exterior lights to LED continues.
- We continue to complete deferred maintenance and safety projects.
- We are beginning to get rooms ready for the Upper Room summer program.
- Researching a new security camera system and expanding the number of cameras.
- Preparing to replace the electronic door look on the Educational building front door.

## APRIL 2023

This calendar is also on our website.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>He is not here</i> <b>HE IS RISEN</b> MATTHEW 28:6</p>						<b>1</b> <b>Jeremiah Washington</b> 11:00am Fish Fry Fundraiser 11:00am Stewardship 12:00pm Esoke Dance
<b>2 Palm Sunday</b> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm A.A. <b>Lori Davis (WL)</b>	<b>3</b> 8:30am Election Setup 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	<b>4 Election Day</b> 6:00am Elections 9:00am Bread Delivery 10:00am Food Pantry 10:30am Food Delivery 7:00pm A.A.	<b>5</b> <b>Jonathan Fairchild</b> <b>Olivia Fairchild</b> 12:30pm Election Breakdown 10:00am Volunteers 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	<b>6 Maundy Thursday</b> 9:00am Bread Delivery 10:00am Food Pantry 12:00pm Easter Bags Delivery 6:00p.m. Worship 7:00pm A.A.	<b>7 Good Friday</b> <b>OFFICE &amp; PANTRY CLOSED</b>	<b>8 Marlene Reed</b> 11:00am Session 12:00pm Esoke Dance
<b>9 Easter Sunday</b> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Youth Group 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm A.A.	<b>10</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	<b>11</b> 9:00am Bread Delivery 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm A.A.	<b>12</b> <b>Brad Smith</b> <b>Paige Worthy</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	<b>13</b> <b>Willa Mae Ingram</b> 9:00am Bread Delivery 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm A.A.	<b>14</b> 8:30am Harvesters Delivery 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	<b>15</b> 10:00am Spiritual Life 12:00pm Esoke Dance
<b>16</b> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm A.A.	<b>17</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	<b>18 Tax Day</b> 9:00am Bread Delivery 10:00am Food Pantry 10:30am Food Delivery 7:00pm A.A.	<b>19</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	<b>20</b> <b>Florence Reavis</b> 9:00am Bread Delivery 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm A.A.	<b>21</b> <b>Kirk Reavis</b> <b>Faith Wilson</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 5:00pm Heartland Youth Event 6:00pm Esoke Dance	<b>22</b> 9:00am Town Fork HOA 12:00pm Esoke Dance
<b>23 Floretta Houston</b> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Christian Ed 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm A.A.	<b>24</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	<b>25</b> 9:00am Bread Delivery 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm A.A.	<b>26</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	<b>27</b> 9:00am Bread Delivery 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm A.A.	<b>28</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	<b>29 Jerry Parrish</b> 9:00am SE RJP Food Giveaway 12:00pm Esoke Dance
<b>30</b> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm A.A. <b>Letha Chadiha (WL)</b>	<b>MAY 1</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	<b>MAY 2</b> 9:00am Bread Delivery 10:00am Food Pantry 10:30am Food Delivery 7:00pm A.A.	<b>MAY 3</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	<b>MAY 4</b> 9:00am Bread Delivery 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm A.A.	<b>MAY 5</b> Cinco de Mayo 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	<b>MAY 6</b> 11:00am Stewardship 12:00pm Esoke Dance

## Pastor's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

As some of you know, my family endured a small house fire last August. The fire itself was not a huge deal. We're all fine. But we lived in a hotel for six weeks, and now we're in a temporary apartment, waiting to move back home. It's hard to be in a place that doesn't feel like yours. It's hard to not have access to a lot of your stuff because it's all in storage. It's extra stress to deal with contractors and adjusters and all the other people who are trying to make money while helping us.

Meanwhile, I started two new jobs in January (this one and a part-time counseling internship), regularly relive past trauma through the book I'm writing, and am helping one of my kids through a very difficult experience of school. It's been hard. To top it all off, I didn't take a break after leaving my former church before starting here, so I'm feeling especially worn out.

In the midst of all that, I'm glad for the grace you all have shown me as I've fumbled through the work of being your pastor. I appreciate that. And speaking of grace, I'm going to show myself some grace in April by taking two weeks off.

And more than anything, I will rest in the grace of God, which covers all my mistakes, sins, hesitations, and uncertainties.

I am grateful to God and grateful to each of you.

As we continue to work together in ministry, I'll try to show a little more of that in my sermons.

## Community Programs

### Community Food Pantry

Monday-Friday 10:00 A.M. - Noon

### Boy Scouts Troop 1027

Monday 7:00 P.M.

### New Fellowship/The Way Out A.A.

Sunday 5:00 P.M.

Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 P.M.

### We are Recovery N.A.

Wednesday 6:30 P.M.

### Esoke Cultural Arts

Friday 6:00 P.M.

Saturday 12:00 P.M.; Sunday 1:30 P.M.

### Martial Arts

Sunday 12:00 P.M.

### Town Fork Creek HOA Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9:00 A.M.



### Church Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 641 472 5608

Passcode: Q6fy0G

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6414725608?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6414725608?pwd=bWhFL1JkWFhTSghjZG1SaVo2SkZHQQT09)

[pwd=bWhFL1JkWFhTSghjZG1SaVo2SkZHQQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6414725608?pwd=bWhFL1JkWFhTSghjZG1SaVo2SkZHQQT09)

Mobile: +16465588656 (EST)

+13126266799 (CST)



**TITHE.LY**  
Innovative church giving



Find us on  
**Facebook**  
covenantonswope

Subscribe to our

**YouTube Channel**



Covenant Presbyterian Church

## Prayers

**Please include these members and friends in your prayers:**

Ed Albers  
Bryan Durant  
Lewis Fairchild  
Roy Mae Fitzpatrick  
Jean and Chuck Eklund  
Willa Ingram  
Sam Johnson  
Donna Lenhart  
Martha Lewis  
Jerry Malone  
Jerry & Regina Parrish  
Rev. Kirk Perucca  
Kirk Reavis  
Doug Tilton



## Covenant Presbyterian Church

5931 Swope Parkway

Kansas City, MO 64130

(816) 444-3693

office@covenantpreskc.com

www.covenantpreskc.com

Rev. Steven Andrews

(816) 351-4993

smandrews@ymail.com

Tues. and Wed. 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.



### Church Office

Monday - Friday 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

### Adult Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

### Sunday Worship and Children's Sunday School

10:30 A.M.

### Wednesday Bible Study

7:15 P.M.

### Women's Bible Study

(3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday) 6:30 P.M.