



THE CORNERSTONE



February 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 Krenzel
Candi Moss
Ima Moss
Osric Reavis
Linda Scott
Jim Albers, Treasurer

DEACONS

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

Pastor's Corner



In some ways, it feels like I have been your pastor for more than a month. You have graciously welcomed me and helped me feel like part of the family right away. Though I continue to learn the rhythms of worship and continue to struggle with names, I feel like I am already home at Covenant. Thank you for that.

When it comes to names, I am sorry for the times I have called you by the wrong name or struggled to remember what your parents chose to call you. As you may know, I started another part-time job at the same time as this one. I am meeting a lot of people over there, as well. I am learning new cultures and new rhythms at both places. It's a lot to mentally process.

But I'm sure we'll get there.

Another place I'm sure we'll get, in consultation with the Session, is to a new sense of vision for the church. When a church is in an interim period, it's a good time to tell the story of what it has been and what it will be.

When you form the Pastor Nominating Committee who will guide you to your next pastor, a solid vision and a clear strategic plan will help the next pastor get excited about ministry at Covenant.

In a visioning process, we'll be asking questions like:

What is the mission and vision of Covenant? Are the current statements memorable enough that you can recite them? Are they relevant enough that they still speak for the church today? In my view, if the church wishes to keep its current statements of mission and vision, we should develop other phrases, shorter phrases, that are better for marketing.

This church already has a city-wide footprint, because you come from all over the Kansas City metro area to find something special here. If we choose to pursue a city-wide digital evangelism campaign, it would require clear, simple messaging. After all, there's so much noise out there. In an advertisement, if you don't catch people's attention in ten words or less, they're moving on.

But we can work on that.

As we vision together, we'll also be asking:

Do current ministries serve well the needs of the church and our wider community?

What unmet needs do we have the passion, time, and talent to meet?

Are there any major changes that need to be made to church property in order to better meet our callings from God?

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Session Snippets

Session members include Rev. Steven Andrews (Moderator) and nine elders: Paul Backer, Letha Chadiha (Clerk), Lori Davis, Walt Grainger, Bob Krenzle, Candi Moss, Ima Moss, Osric Reavis, Linda Scott

Session received the December Stewardship/Financial Report: December's Total Income was \$18,398.41. Total Expenses were \$18,638.32, resulting in deficit net income of \$239.41. Gas usage/heating costs accounted for the largest portion of December expenses.

Session received the 2023 Church Budget and referred it back to Stewardship for final review.

Session approved the following motions: Ima Moss and Paul Backer to serve on the Nominating Committee; Osric Reavis to serve as liaison on the Building and Grounds Committee; Letha Chadiha to continue serving as Session Clerk; Jim Albers to continue serving as Church Treasurer; Walt Grainger and Letha Chadiha to serve as Commissioners to Presbytery; to serve communion on the First Sunday of each month, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, and Christmas Eve; to hold an Annual Congregational Meeting on February 19; and to use urgent need funds for prison ministry.



Youth Group

On the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, January 16, nine youth and two adults from Covenant volunteered at the Heartland Presbytery Youth Event.

Food Pantry

Our Community Food Pantry was open 18 days in January. Covenant Church spent \$3,015 to feed 405 households, comprised of 651 adults, 532 children, and 138 seniors.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Households Served</u>
2022	4,489
2021	4,385

**FEBRUARY PANTRY REQUEST:
OATMEAL**

♥ Happy Valentine's Day ♥



Joint Worship

January 29 was truly a wonderful experience as we welcomed members of our sister church, Second Presbyterian, into our home to join us in worship.

Thanks to all those who made that day special. Volunteers worked to welcome our guests by directing traffic to the parking lots, providing mobility assistance, greeting folks at the door and offering name tags, setting up the Paseo Room and Fellowship Hall for social time together, serving fellowship, providing beverages, teaching Sunday school and crafts, helping to lead worship, and, of course, singing in the choir. I'm sure there were countless other nuggets of hospitality that I am unaware of.

Whether you volunteered for a specific task, or just did something that needed to be done, whether you played a very public role or did something behind the scenes, know that your efforts -- and you -- are greatly appreciated!

Paul Backer, Worship Committee Moderator



FEBRUARY 2023*This calendar is also on our website.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BLACK HISTORY MONTH			1 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	2 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm A.A.	3 Rhyan Andrews 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	4 Gabrielle Wilson 11:00am Stewardship 12:00pm Esoke Dance
5 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm A.A.	6 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	7 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 10:30am VPC Delivery 7:00pm A.A.	8 Joe Straws 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	9 Naylin Dunmore 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm A.A.	10 8:30am Harvesters 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	11 11:00am Session 12:00pm Esoke Dance
12 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Youth Group 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm A.A.	13 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm A.A.	15 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	16 Mike Dunmore 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm A.A.	17 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	18 Kevin Hyland Darryn Smith 10:00am Spiritual Life 12:00pm Esoke Dance
19 Denaja Riggins 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Annual Congregational Mtg. 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm A.A.	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	21 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 10:30am VPC Delivery 7:00pm A.A.	22 Noah Alvarenga 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	23 Karen Gentry-Strickland 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm A.A.	24 Sawyer Dunn 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	25 9:00am Town Fork HOA 12:00pm Esoke Dance
26 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Christian Ed 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm A.A.	27 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	28 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm A.A.	MARCH 1 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	MARCH 2 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm A.A.	MARCH 3 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	MARCH 4 11:00am Stewardship 12:00pm Esoke Dance

Sunday Worship Leadership**Worship Leader**

February 05 Sandi Moss
 February 12 TBA
 February 19 TBA
 February 26 Letha Chadiha

Church Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 641 472 5608 Passcode: Q6fy0G
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6414725608?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6414725608?pwd=bWhFL1JkWFhTSZGhZG1SaVo2SkZHQQT09)
[pwd=bWhFL1JkWFhTSZGhZG1SaVo2SkZHQQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6414725608?pwd=bWhFL1JkWFhTSZGhZG1SaVo2SkZHQQT09)

Mobile Zoom: +16465588656 (EST) or +13126266799 (CST)

Would you like to know about upcoming
Covenant News, Events, and Worship Services?

Yes

Make sure the church office has your
current mobile phone number to receive
text messages and alerts.



Pastor's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

Do church committees and other ministry structures need to be rethought in response to our vision and the needs of the church?

Is the current staffing structure in line with the needs of the church and the community?

Should we invest the church's endowment in a major push for growth, service, and change, knowing the effort may not yield the fruit we expect? Or are we content to keep things basically the same? If we are content to keep things basically the same, is there a point where we begin spending down the endowment to meet regular expenses? What's the threshold for potentially making that change?

On this question, it might be tempting to choose a middle-ground, but I would advise against that. You might want to spend the endowment a little, and make some small, targeted investments in growth. You might be open to change, but only a bit. In my view, any decision to spend down the endowment should come with a major push for growth, change, and service. In my view, the middle ground would be the worst of both worlds, where the church would both lose its endowment and not grow.

In my view, major growth requires major investment.

These are some big questions to consider, and I know there are more for us to engage with together. In the meantime, I hope this article is stoking your fires for the work to come, and I look forward to seeing where God will take us, as we discern together where the Spirit is calling.

Rev. Steven Andrews

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

4th Saturday 9:00 A.M.



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Covenant Presbyterian Church
13 subscribers

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
Kirk Reavis
Doug Tilton



Please call the office to add names to the prayer list.

Covenant Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Steven Andrews, Interim Pastor

(816) 351-4993



Adult Sunday School 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship & Children's

Sunday School 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Study 7:15 P.M.

Women's Bible Study (3rd Thursday) 6:30 P.M.

Orlandra Brown, Office Administrator

Bobby & Flo Houston, Custodians

Doug Tilton, R.L., South Africa

Paul Backer, Choir Director

Osric K. Reavis, III, Organist

Greg Richter, Drums

Tom Pender, Guitar

Joseph Straws Jr., Bass

Sam Johnson, Drummer Emeritus