

# Covenant Presbyterian Church

January 2023



2618 New Albany Road  
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077  
[covenantpreschurch.org](http://covenantpreschurch.org)



# Message from Session

2 Corinthians 3: 4-6

**“Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”**

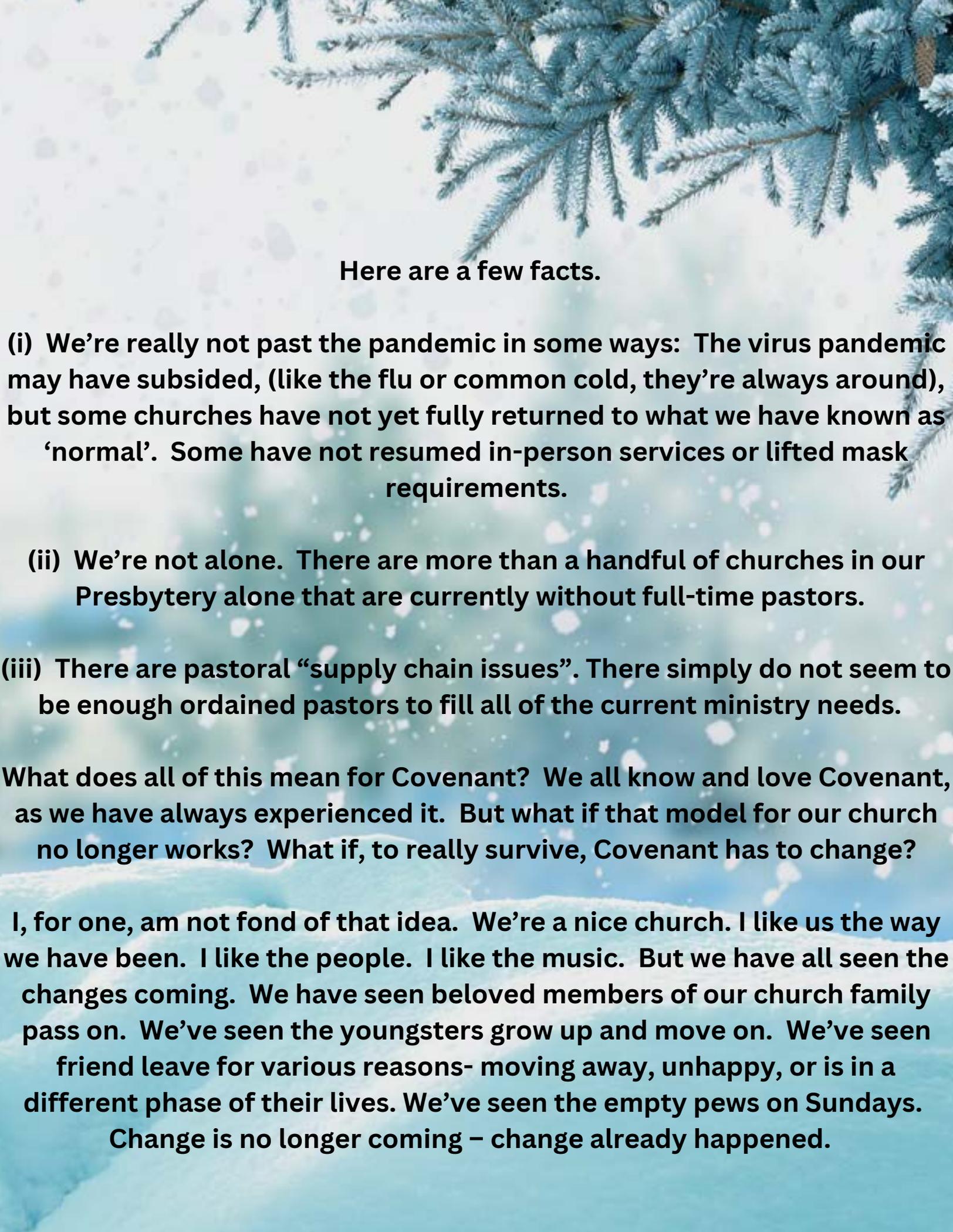
## **A New Year, a new Covenant?**

**As we close out the year 2022, and ready ourselves for 2023, perhaps we can take a moment and consider where we stand in the life of our church. You may find doing this honestly a bit troubling.**

**In 2022, Covenant’s pastor departed rather suddenly. Months later, we remain a church in transition. Moreover, the Presbyterian denomination is in transition, as are all mainline protestant churches.**

**PCUSA shared the conclusions of Georgia Tech professor William Drummond regarding mainline churches “If we do nothing different, by 2040 all of our current churches sized 100 and less will be gone.”**

**After the pandemic, Drummond revised his prediction to 2030.**

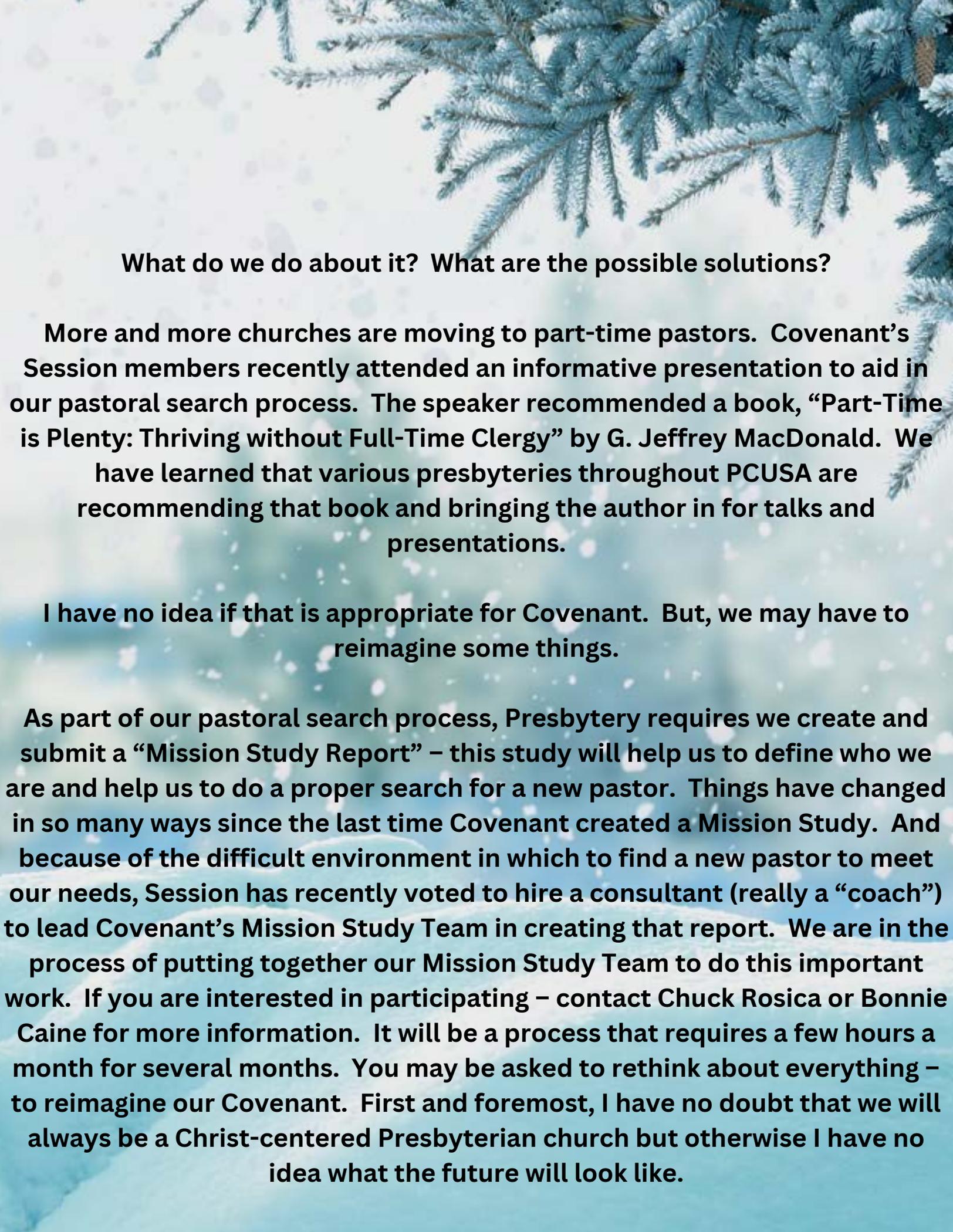


**Here are a few facts.**

- (i) We're really not past the pandemic in some ways: The virus pandemic may have subsided, (like the flu or common cold, they're always around), but some churches have not yet fully returned to what we have known as 'normal'. Some have not resumed in-person services or lifted mask requirements.**
- (ii) We're not alone. There are more than a handful of churches in our Presbytery alone that are currently without full-time pastors.**
- (iii) There are pastoral "supply chain issues". There simply do not seem to be enough ordained pastors to fill all of the current ministry needs.**

**What does all of this mean for Covenant? We all know and love Covenant, as we have always experienced it. But what if that model for our church no longer works? What if, to really survive, Covenant has to change?**

**I, for one, am not fond of that idea. We're a nice church. I like us the way we have been. I like the people. I like the music. But we have all seen the changes coming. We have seen beloved members of our church family pass on. We've seen the youngsters grow up and move on. We've seen friend leave for various reasons- moving away, unhappy, or is in a different phase of their lives. We've seen the empty pews on Sundays. Change is no longer coming – change already happened.**



**What do we do about it? What are the possible solutions?**

**More and more churches are moving to part-time pastors. Covenant's Session members recently attended an informative presentation to aid in our pastoral search process. The speaker recommended a book, "Part-Time is Plenty: Thriving without Full-Time Clergy" by G. Jeffrey MacDonald. We have learned that various presbyteries throughout PCUSA are recommending that book and bringing the author in for talks and presentations.**

**I have no idea if that is appropriate for Covenant. But, we may have to reimagine some things.**

**As part of our pastoral search process, Presbytery requires we create and submit a "Mission Study Report" – this study will help us to define who we are and help us to do a proper search for a new pastor. Things have changed in so many ways since the last time Covenant created a Mission Study. And because of the difficult environment in which to find a new pastor to meet our needs, Session has recently voted to hire a consultant (really a "coach") to lead Covenant's Mission Study Team in creating that report. We are in the process of putting together our Mission Study Team to do this important work. If you are interested in participating – contact Chuck Rosica or Bonnie Caine for more information. It will be a process that requires a few hours a month for several months. You may be asked to rethink about everything – to reimagine our Covenant. First and foremost, I have no doubt that we will always be a Christ-centered Presbyterian church but otherwise I have no idea what the future will look like.**



**In the meantime, pray for our church. Pray for our Mission Study Team. Talk about our church and its future with your Church friends, your family, in your Bible study. Take a moment to be grateful for all that we have at Covenant. Get excited about the coming year and the future.**

**One way or the other – it will arrive. Let's welcome it.**

**Scott Scioli  
Clerk of Session**

**John 14:1-3**

**“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”**

# Schedules

## Preachers

1/1: Rev. Seth B. Kajang  
1/8: Rev. Seth B. Kajang  
1/15: Rev. Frank Zeidler  
1/22: Rev. Seth B. Kajang  
1/29: Rev. Seth B. Kajang

## Flower Delivery

1/1: Jeanne Martin  
1/8: Marge Jeffries  
1/15: Ann Rosica  
1/22: Christy Jeffries  
1/29: Cynthia Joffe



## Ushers/Greeters

1/1: Carol Ortlip and Nancy Perritt  
1/8: Christy and Bob Jeffries  
1/15: Pat Rothenhofer and Sandi Pascone  
1/22: Joy Connolly and Jim Bender  
1/29: Diane Steel and Carol Grunigen

# Refreshments

1/8: Robin Sutton

1/15: Cheryl Cinque

1/22: Linda Ballenger

1/29: Karen Schwartz

# Birthdays

1/4: Michael Cain

1/5: Carol Lambersky

1/9: Skip Jeffries

1/10: Greg DiBona

1/12: Allie Duba

1/15: Dave Landgraf

1/15: Anthony Cinque

1/18: Lynne Trout

1/19: Graham Slater

1/19: Justin Cain

1/22: Joan Samph

1/27: Cindy Eldridge

1/30: Lauren Rosica

# Anniversaries

1/2: Christy and Bob Jeffries

1/12: Cynthia and David Joffe



The background features a soft, snowy winter scene. At the top, there are branches of a blue evergreen tree. The middle section is a light blue and white gradient with falling snow. At the bottom, several hands of various skin tones and sleeve colors (including plaid, stripes, and polka dots) are reaching upwards. Small red hearts are scattered throughout the scene.

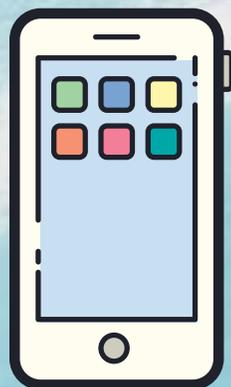
# **Your Participation is Needed!**

**Members are invited to participate in our services. Please contact Bonnie Cain or Greg DiBona if you are interested in reading scripture or leading our worship services. We are also in need of more volunteers to operate the camera and soundboard. Please contact the church office if you are interested.**

# Updates

**Covenant is making some exciting updates!**

**We are now able to accept credit card payments for our events (such as tickets for the tea or Breakfast with Santa). Covenant will need to download the Square app onto a host piece of hardware, such as an iPhone or iPad. The Square Reader can work with any iPhone 7 or more recent phones or with iPad if operating systems have been updated. If you have an iPhone or iPad (7 or newer) that you would to donate to the church to help us support this update, we would be most grateful. Please contact Mandy Rosica or Chris Todd.**



**2023**

## **2023 Giving Envelopes**

**All 2023 envelopes are located in the narthex by the bulletin board. They are organized by number and labeled by family.**

### **Initial Offering**



**As a congregation in the Presbyterian Church (USA), we support the administrative costs of the Presbytery for Southern Jersey, the Synod of the Northeast and the General Assembly. These costs are shared equitably through per capita apportionment as each congregation contributes money based on the number of active members. Please prayerfully consider using your special envelope marked Initial Offering to help Covenant meet its giving responsibility for our connectional church. For 2023 we are requesting a contribution of \$40.00 per member to meet the per capita costs of the presbytery, synod and general assembly. Thank you.**

# Sunday School

Children ages four and up are welcome to attend Sunday School during the worship service on January 15th.



## Women's Bible Study

Bible study is located in the Lounge on Mondays at 11 AM. The group will be studying a new book called "Fruit of the Spirit." We hope to see you there!

# Highlights from the Christmas Season



## Breakfast with Santa



# Santa's Helpers!



# Christmas Eve



## Bell Concert



## Nativity Scene

# Brunch



Yum!!





**Chuck Rosica  
and Mila Day**

*best  
Grandpa  
ever*



# Angel Tree



**The Deacons would like to thank everyone who chose tags from the Angel Tree and bought gifts. We wrapped and delivered everything right before Christmas. It was heartwarming to see the thoughtfulness with which everyone shopped for these families. The Covenant congregation is very generous, and able to do great things for our neighbors.**



**Deacons enjoyed wrapping gifts!**





# Music



**Covenant's Chancel Choir will be performing throughout January. All are welcome to sing! Rehearsals take place after worship services at 11 AM in the new choir room.**

**Covenant's Bell Choir rehearses on Mondays at 7 PM. All are welcome to ring!**

## **Choral Anthems:**

**1/8: Bethlehem Light, by J. Martin**

**1/15: All Earth Rejoice with Gladsome Voice, arr. Hopson**

**1/22: Let the Praise Go 'Round, arr. Hopson**

**1/29: I Will Sing Praise, by J. M. Martin**



2023

Happy  
New Year