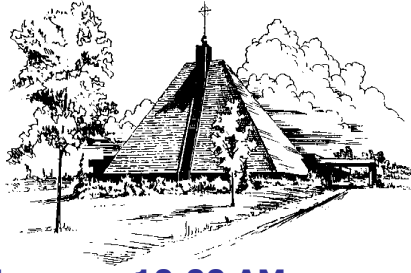


# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CINNAMINSON, NEW JERSEY



16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

## PRELUDE

*Etude Op. 25, No. 2 in F minor*  
Esma Cakmak - piano

F. Chopin

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Rosica

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In sacred times of word, wonder, and awe, in ordinary days of work and play:

**People: in every moment, God is with us.**

Leader: Whether we are stuck in doubt's mud, or standing on faith's shoreline:

**People: in every place, God is with us.**

Leader: In those who teach us and those who trouble us; in those who surprise us, and those who forgive us:

**People: in every person, God is with us.**

Leader: With prayer and praise, in Scripture and in Song, let us worship the Living God!

## HYMN

*He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought*

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## PASSING OF PEACE

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: As we stand before God, we think of all the ways we bicker with others, all those times we have not shown mercy and grace to those around us. Let us bow our hearts and confess our sin to God, as we pray together, saying,

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: It is never easy for us to confess but deep down inside, we know that while we are graced, we have trouble being grace-full to others; while we are forgiven, we are eager to judge and punish all who hurt us; while we are freed, we find ways to put restrictions on people we fear. Forgive us, Servant God. You show mercy more often than we deserve; you pardon us more times than we can count. And why? Because we are the Lord's - sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, who died and lived again, so we might live beyond death with you.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the Good News, and be at peace with yourself. God's hand of mercy is stretched out to us, making a way through all that threatens us, to touch us with grace and hope.

**People: We stand before our God, singing praise to the One who turns our despair into joy, our fears into faith. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Shall We Gather By the River?/On Jordan's Stormy Banks*

arr. Austin

## SERMON

"How Often is Enough?"

Rev. Higgs

## HYMN

*Out of the Depths*

#465

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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.*

## HYMN

*It Is Well With My Soul*

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## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*The Love of God*

Hayes

**MINISTERS:** Joy Connolly and Jim Bender (Ushers), Joan Samph (Flower Delivery), Leslie Todd (Refreshments)

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** presented to the Glory of God by Joy Connolly in loving memory of her son Darren James Connolly and granddaughter Brittney C. Connolly.

**WE THANK:** Rev. Bob Higgs for leading us in worship!

Rev. Bob Higgs is a minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA) having serviced churches in Africa, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. A returned Peace corps volunteer serving in Botswana, he was a member of the Peace Monitoring team in the run-up to the elections that ended apartheid in South Africa. Currently, Bob works as a science teacher in Haddonfield.



## **MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SCHEDULES**

**Women's Bible Study** – lounge at 11AM.

**Choir Rehearsal** – rehearsals following service (11AM)

**Bell Rehearsal** – Mondays, 7PM

**Christian Education** (Bonnie Cain and Amanda Rosica) – as needed

**Deacons** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 PM

**Fellowship** (Amanda Rosica) – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7:00 PM

**Finance and Stewardship** (Mike Martin) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:00 PM

**Men's Breakfast** -Tuesdays, 7:00 AM

**Membership** (Nancy Perritt) – as needed

**Mission** (Mary Lou Newborg) – as needed

**Music and Worship** (Leslie Todd) – Sunday, September 17th following the church service in the lounge

**Property Care** (Chuck Rosica and Bob Jeffries) – determined by chairperson

**Session** – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 7:30 PM

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **1. PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)**

Covenant has officially elected the Pastoral Nominating Committee at the Congregational meeting on September 10. The members are: Molly Day, Jeanne Martin, Sandy Pascone, Steve Peak, Amanda Rosica, Diane Steel, and Chris Todd. We ask that you pray for the team's success.

**2. 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.

## **3. BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study will resume on September 11 at 11AM located at Betty Herskovitz's home. Then Bible Study will be located in the Lounge on September 18 at 11AM. All are welcome!

## **4. COLLECTION FOR THE PEOPLE OF MAUI**

Within hours of the devastating fire that swept through Lahaina, our Presbyterian Disaster Relief program staff were already working to coordinate with emergency workers on site. Along with continuing prayer support, Presbytery leadership invites your tangible signs of support and compassion by contributing to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief program to aid ongoing relief efforts. Please make checks payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church (Memo: Maui). Covenant will send the donation to the Presbytery for Southern New Jersey. Thank you for your support and contribution.

## **5. STEWARDSHIP**

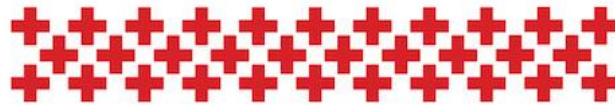
Total Income for 9/10: \$5496.00, Envelope Giving: \$846.00, Deacons Fund: \$40.00, Capital Improvement Funds: \$10.00.

## **6. BLOOD DRIVE AT COVENANT**

Covenant will be hosting a Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 20, 2023 from 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM. We will need volunteers to assist. Please contact Amanda Rosica if you are interested in helping ([amanda\\_rosica@yahoo.com](mailto:amanda_rosica@yahoo.com)).

American Red Cross

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



### **Blood Drive** **Covenant Presbyterian Church**

Main Hall  
2618 New Albany Road  
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

**Friday, October 20, 2023**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Covenant Presbyterian Church to schedule an appointment.



Fall into giving blood Oct 1 thru 20 get \$15 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See [rcblood.org/together](http://rcblood.org/together)



# PRAYER LIST

Thank you to Rev. Beth Thomas for her thoughtful sermon, leading us in worship and the congregational meeting. Mandy Rosica's participation in the service is very much appreciated, and thank you to Barbara VanTassel for the refreshments.

Prayers for the people of Maui and Ukraine.

Continued prayers for peace in our communities, country and world.

*Please pray for our friends and families at Covenant:*

Betty Graham - very good and thoughtful care as she is again in the hospital for her swollen and infected leg and a special prayer that she might have comfort on her 90th birthday

Bobbie Bechtel - continued healing of her ribs

Cynthia - thankful prayers that she is doing well with the healing and mobility of her leg

Steve Hyzer - continued healing of his foot and able to walk in comfort

Bob and Barb Seither - comfort and happiness living in their new home

B. Ann and Dave DuBois - health concerns and able to improve in feeling better

Etna Kessler - very good care at memory care facility

Emily Busby - very good care at nursing facility

Cancer patients:

Mary Lou is asking for prayers for good results following surgery and about to begin chemo for 18-month-old, Logan, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Please keep him in your daily prayers and strength for his family

Terri Bell - longtime patient - that she can rest in comfort and is receiving wonderful care from her husband, Ken

Dawn Mozzi - good care

Betty's friend, Bill, able to endure treatment for cancer and strength for his wife, Elaine

Bohdonna and Rose - and others being treated for breast cancer that they receive good results

Denise - peace of mind and enjoying Wade

Bruce, Dawn and Erin - thankfulness for employment and keeping well

Karl - recovering from a heart attack

The family of Dr. Vincent Craig - Greg's piano professor from West Chester University who passed suddenly at the age of 54.

Gary Shields - who was a student pastor at Covenant and his family were members, who suffered a stroke - prayers for Gary and his family



# 635 He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought

I am the Lord your God . . . who directs you in the way you should go. Is. 48:17

1. He lead - eth me, O bless - ed thought, O words with heaven - ly  
 2. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur  
 3. And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the

com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I be, still  
 nor re - pine, con - tent, what - ev - er lot I see, since  
 vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since

*Refrain*

'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.  
 'tis my God that lead - eth me. He lead - eth me, he  
 God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

lead - eth me, by his own hand he lead - eth me! His

faith - ful fol - lower I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

# Out of the Depths 465

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Ps 130:1

1. Out of the depths I cry to you on high: Lord, hear my  
 2. I wait for God, I trust his ho - ly word; he hears my  
 3. Hope in the Lord: un - fail - ing is his love; in him con -

call. Bend down your ear and lis - ten to my sigh, for -  
 sighs. My soul still waits and looks un - to the Lord; my  
 fide. Mer - cy and full re - demp-tion from a - bove he

giv - ing all. If you should mark our sins, who then could  
 prayers a - rise. I look for him to drive a - way my  
 does pro - vide. From sin and e - vil, might - y though they

stand? But grace and mer - cy dwell at your right hand.  
 night - yes, more than those who watch for morn - ing light.  
 seem, his arm al - might - y will his saints re - deem.

# It Is Well with My Soul 519

"The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." Job 1:21

1. When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like  
 2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let this blest as -  
 3. My sin - O, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought, my sin - not in  
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled

sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to  
 sur - ance con - trol: that Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -  
 part but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no  
 back as a scroll, the trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -

*Refrain*

say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."  
 tate, and has shed his own blood for my soul. It is well It is  
 more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 scend: "E - ven so" - it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.