

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Covenant United Presbyterian Church
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Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting

February 19, 2023

Moderator: Rev. Alex Becker

Clerk: James S. Carr

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Staff Reports

Report of the Lead Pastor – Rev. Alex Becker

Sharing the Joy of God's Table

2022 has been a year of discernment and call. God has called us into new challenges and ministries and has reminded us of the blessings that we have been given. We said goodbye to Emily and Jen, we started searching for an Associate Pastor, and we learned about and began living into our new vision.

Over the past year, we have undergone significant transition and discernment as a congregation, watching for the movement of the Holy Spirit and listening for the call of Christ together. There have been ups and downs this year, but through it all God continues to be faithful as we face life's challenges together.

In 2022 we said goodbye to Pastor Emily and thanked her for her transitional work among us; we also began saying goodbye to Jen and marked the end of her 11 years of ministry with Covenant in January of 2023. These changes in leadership are never simple to navigate, but nevertheless I witnessed the people of Covenant looking towards God through it all. This kind of attitude which seeks both comfort and direction from God prepares us to do more than watch life go by; instead, a posture like this prepares us to learn from the past to live into the future.

One thing is clear as we exit the quarantines of 2020–2022: a new era is dawning. I hear God calling all believers and all churches to new ways of doing ministry, new ways of sharing the Good News of Jesus. It is up to us to pay attention to the movement of the Holy Spirit as we seek to share what we have received at Covenant: The Joy of God's Table. This calls for creativity and imagination, but it also calls for courage and trust as we enter the unknown. I am reminded of a poem by Christopher Logue:

Come to the edge.
We might fall.
Come to the edge.
It's too high!
COME TO THE EDGE!
And they came,
and he pushed,
and they flew.

We are often pushed about by all kinds of forces here on earth: emotional, relationship, political, economic, and even physical. But perhaps God is pushing us, too. May we sense that push, or maybe that pull to "the edge," and trust beyond where we can see that God is leading us exactly where we need to be going.

Music Ministry – Amy McLoughlin

Our Purpose

The purpose of the music department is to provide meaningful music that will enhance worship and inspire a deeper connection with God, as well as provide a musical and spiritual outlet for our volunteers, which serves to enrich their faith and connection in the church community.

Highlights

January – after 2 weeks of “rest time” following a very busy Advent and Christmas season, all Covenant musical groups resumed their normal rehearsal schedules. Preparation and planning for Lent and Holy Week services are coordinated between the Director of Music, Lead Pastors and Bell Choir Director including worship layout, scripts, image focus and advertising.

February – rehearsals for the Maundy Thursday Cantata and Palm Sunday Concert began as well as a Weekly Lenten video series "Were You There" which focused our Lenten journey together by exploring African American Spirituals. This video series consisted of spiritual discussion lead by Pastors Alex and Emily, musical discussion lead by Amy.

March – At the end of March, Amy McLoughlin began to substitute as the Organist when Linda was unable to perform her duties.

April – Maundy Thursday cantata (choir and string musicians) as well as Palm Sunday Concert (choir, bells, brass) were held on March 10th and 14th. On Easter Sunday the choir sang at both the 8:30 and 11:00 service. Brunch was provided for all musicians and singers on Palm Sunday and

on Easter Sunday Donuts and coffee were provided for all singers. All Food was coordinated by Amy for all music volunteers, because of being under COVID restrictions.

May – Chancel Choir and Covenant Strings continued to meet to rehearse and to provide music for worship.

June – Pentecost Sunday was the last choir Sunday. This was the first Week in June. Amy McLoughlin hosted an end of the year choir celebration/potluck at her home. The choir gathered to spend time with one another outside of rehearsal to enjoy fellowship and great food.

July – Amy McLoughlin was offered and accepted an expanded position on staff to include coverage for the Organist Position.

August – Throughout the summer months, music volunteers provided special music for worship. Rehearsals for special music were held weekly with the soloist and group with Amy McLoughlin and Bonnie Summerfield. Summer Pick-up choir sang once each month over the Summer.

September – Chancel choir, Covenant Strings, Covenant Quartet, Children's Choir, Salt and Light Ringers and Unity handbells all began meeting and preparing for fall worship. Preparation for all Christmas special services are coordinated between the Director of Music, Lead Pastor and Bell Choir Director, including worship layout, script, images and advertising.

October – Worship choir started to meet to prepare for the Concert for the Christ Child. It should be noted that our music

volunteers spend roughly 35 hours preparing and rehearsing for our special concerts each season. This is time spent above and beyond worship.

Also, in October, the choir helped to lead worship for the funeral service of Ken Patrick on 10/22 at 11:30 am.

On October 23rd our newly formed Children's choir offered "One Small Voice" in worship at the 11:00 service.

November - In November rehearsals continued for all our musical groups and preparation for Christmas Eve worship also started with the continuation of rehearsal time for the Concert for the Christ Child.

December - In December our music volunteers offered music at regular Sunday worship, the Concert for the Christ Child (and dress rehearsal) on December 11th and then 4 separate Christmas Eve services on December 24th. Musical groups included, Worship Choir, Chancel Choir, Unity Bells, Salt and Light Ringers, Covenant Quartet,

Covenant Strings, Children's Choir and individual instrumentalists along with the Director of Music, Bell Choir Director and accompanist.

Gratitude

The music department wishes to extend gratitude to all music volunteers, from singers, to ringers, to instrumentalists. Thank you for sharing your gifts of time and talent with our Covenant Church community. Your dedication and willingness to serve is inspiring. Your music is a blessing. You are amazing.

The music department also wishes to recognize Patti Mann and Bonnie Summerfield for their work and commitment to bringing beautiful music to life both in the rehearsal room and the sanctuary. It cannot happen without both of you.

Members - Amy McLoughlin, Patti Mann and Bonnie Summerfield



*Taizé
services are
held the
first
Wednesday
of each
month.*

Ministry to Children & Families – Jennifer Langlois, Anne Barrows & Sandy Ritchey

Sharing the Joy of God's Table

Thank you to the Covenant community for all the ways you support ministry for children, their families, and the Covenant family at large. As leaders or helpers, planners or preppers, your participation in-person and behind-the-scenes is necessary and appreciated. Thank you for sharing God's love in tangible ways to make God known to Covenant Kids. And, thank you for partnering together to build community and strengthen relationships between the ages, too! Here's what happened in 2022:

Sundays

- **Worship**
A Children's Message was offered each Sunday to coordinate with worship themes and bridge discussion to Children's Church or SermonTime StoryTime.
- **Children's Church during the academic year**
Children's Church was held during 11:00 worship. We modeled worship as we gathered, heard God's word, responded, and made plans to go forth and apply the lessons learned. Dottie Mallon led children in grades 3-5, Jen led age 3 through grade 2, and we are grateful to the additional volunteers who served as assistants in both classes. Beginning in the fall, one middle or high school student signed up to help the younger children on non-communion Sundays. To encourage leadership and mentorship, that student met with Jen before worship to prepare for the lesson. Additional middle or high school students could attend Children's Church, too, and were asked to participate and serve as role models with the older children.
- **SermonTime StoryTime**
At 8:30 worship and during the summer, Jen selected a book to coordinate with worship themes. Children were invited to SermonTime StoryTime for a short gathering, book, and discussion after the Children's Message, during the sermon. Children returned to worship to close the service with their families.
- **Worship Table**
Children are always welcome to remain in worship. A table is stocked weekly with children's handouts, books, and other activities to help children focus during worship. A special "Kids in the Pew? What Should We Do?" handout remains in the pews to help families and congregation members support our young ones in worship. A children's handout is available at covenantfrazier.org/live each week for those worshipping online.
- **Nursery**
After a hiatus, our nursery opened this fall with Iris Jung and a rotating team of second caregivers staffing the space and caring for children birth through age 3. Each week, toys are cleaned and rotated, and a story is available from [Growing in Grace and](#)

Gratitude. A coordinating take-home page is offered to families and posted at covenantfrazer.org/live.

- **Mother's Room**
A private mother's room is now available with livestreamed worship.
- **Children's Choir**
Amy McLoughlin, Director of Music, started Children's Choir in the fall with the support of our nursery caregivers and parents. The children led worship once in the fall and participated in the Concerts for the Christ Child.
- **Videos from Covenant Members and Friends**
In early 2022, as in-person attendance continued to grow, we added more videos to the YouTube library to connect members and friends who remained at home. Thank you to all the helpers!

Curriculum

- **Follow Me**
The Follow Me curriculum offers 4-6 week units to support worship and education for adults, youth, and children. Throughout the year, Covenant used several of these units as a focus.
- **Sabbath – Sabbath Grant**
The pastoral staff worked together, too, to offer a series about Sabbath that included education for adults, youth, and children.
Separately, Jen received a grant through the Office of Christian Formation to reengage with Sabbath. With the goal of developing writing as a spiritual practice, Jen participated in coach-led small groups and used grant funds to purchase an iPad, attend a writing workshop, and spend a few days away from home. The intentional Sabbath time and resources launched new rhythms to connect with God and self.
- **A Sanctified Art's Faces of Our Faith**
Over the summer, we studied lesser-known Biblical figures who contribute to our faith story.
- **Mister Rogers**
We kicked off the fall with Mister Rogers! Curriculum available through the Office of Christian Formation and a book shared with the congregation, The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers by Amy Hollingsworth, gave structure to this series. Together we:
 - watched clips of Mister Rogers and connected with scripture during Children's Church
 - created a beautiful bulletin board together as a congregation (supported by Iris Jung, summer Children's Ministry Intern)
 - celebrated the end of the series with a dinner (organized by the Hospitality Committee)
 - shared virtual conversation with the author (organized by Elizabeth Young)

- Jen had the opportunity to share a sermon during that series, too, which was a great honor.

Family Communion Workshop for Children Grade 3 and Up

Children and their parents were invited to a communion workshop in preparation for World Communion Sunday; each family then decided if their child would partake in communion.

Second Grade Bibles and Family Workshop

Children and their parents were invited to a Bible workshop before Bibles were presented in May.

Lent and Easter

- Pretzel Sunday was celebrated this year with pretzels after worship.
- Lent Adventure was planned to explore the gifts of Jesus' ministry. Upon solving puzzles at each station, participants were given Resurrection Eggs to take home for further exploration as a family. Each family also received a copy of Traci Smith's Faithful Families for Lent, Easter, and Resurrection: Simple Ways to Create Meaning for the Season. We referenced this book each week throughout Lent in Children's Church. Thank you to all who prepared materials and led stations that day.
- Rock Tumbling progressed throughout Lent. Each Sunday, Jen reported on the progress of rough rocks becoming smooth as we approached Easter. Thank you to Frank Resides and Doug Van Mater for the equipment and support!
- Good Friday prayer stations were organized by the pastoral staff. Jen set the labyrinth with the help of Anna, Kellen, and Charlotte McLoughlin. On Good Friday, Sharon Connor and Marie Raws invited folks to enter the labyrinth with a rough rock, meditate and pray as they walked, and then trade their rough stone for a smooth stone at the labyrinth center to carry with them into the day.
- Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday packets were provided for children during these worship services to support children's participation in these special, important worship services.
- Easter Egg Hunts were offered after Easter worship services. Thank you to all who contributed eggs, candy, and toys, filled eggs, and organized the hunts.
- Easter Joy was explored on the Sunday after Easter with prayer stations for all.

Summer Programming 2022

Thanks to an incredible team of 103 adults (both in person and from home), we offered:

- Knights of North Castle Vacation Bible School to 55 children
- Middle School MashUp to 19 middle school students
- Sewing Camp to 14 children in grades 3-8 (Some also attended VBS or Middle School MashUp.)
- Volunteer Opportunities to 10 high school students

VBS and Middle School MashUp participants received:

- Tshirt to tie dye (Thank you to our donor!)

- Music CDs
- A book to read and discuss throughout the week and then at home

Offerings were given to:

- Eric Brown Music Scholarship Fund via registration fees – Lynne Frederick of Malvern School of Music led music sessions with the preschool children on two mornings.
- Summer Ministry Expenses via registration fees

Backpack Blessing

Children's backpacks were blessed at a special September worship service. Back to School photos were shared with a prayer, and each child received a backpack tag for his/her backpack.

Nursery StoryTime PlayTime Event

We welcomed families with children birth through age 3 to meet and explore gratitude together. We gathered, read a book, played at a variety of gratitude-themed stations, and then gathered again to close. This new offering to families was well-attended and a fun time to meet, play, learn, pray, and build community.

Advent Evening – Supper and Make-It-Take-It Gifts

To kick off Advent, individuals of all ages met for a crockpot soup night. After supper, everyone was invited to visit tables to make gifts to take home for loved ones. This fun, intergenerational event was possible thanks to the Hospitality Committee for supper set up and clean up, everyone who brought food to share, those who planned and led craft stations, and our staff for advertising and facility preparations.

Hobby Hunt – January 8, 2023

Thirty participants, ages 2 to 92, set tables to showcase their hobbies, interests, collections, and gifts. A scavenger hunt filled with images and trivia questions led us through the event. Plus, individuals made presentations to share dance, yoga, music, and tae kwon do. Thank you to all!

Children's Sunday Offerings and Outreach were extended:

- One Great Hour of Sharing – We offered coins in fish banks to support the outreach of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.
- Ukraine Offerings – All ages were invited to create zipper pulls and peace doves as prayer outreach to coordinate with Covenant's special offering to support the Ukraine community.
- People's Pantry – We collected cake mixes, plates, and more to assemble birthday party kits for clients.

Ongoing Communication with Families

- Birthday cards were sent to children throughout the year through the church office.
- Surveys and opportunities to gather allowed input from parents and volunteers.

- A weekly newsletter with updates, images, and downloadable family pages was sent to families.
- The website (<https://covenantfrazer.org/past-resources-covenant-kids/>) includes all variety of videos with lessons, music, crafts, and sharing from the Covenant family for the Covenant family. You can access these same videos on Covenant's YouTube channel.

Association of Partners in Christian Education National Conference
Jen attended this conference virtually in January. The conference theme was, "Circles of Faith" and allowed networking, idea-sharing, and inspiration!

Many thanks again to everyone who participates
behind-the-scenes or directly in children's ministry!

Your hands and hearts are needed to provide this variety of opportunities.
Children's Ministry allows children, youth, and adults to grow in faith together!



Youth Ministry – Rev. Alex Becker

At Covenant youth, this year's recipe has been fun, food, friendship, and faith! We have an incredible youth group: caring, welcoming, curious, and joy-filled. This year we said goodbye to Pastor Emily and her leadership, but with the support of volunteers youth group has not only survived, but thrived! We put into practice the famous quote: "You can learn more about a person in an hour of play than a lifetime of conversation." It turns out, that's true not only when learning about other people, but when exploring our faith as well.



Each week, we meet at the Covenant Community Life Center to play games, eat, learn about the Bible together, and form friendships. We've gone bowling, to escape rooms (and escaped!), we've done mission projects for Rise Against Hunger and Ryan's Case for Smiles, and we've collaborated with the youth group of St. John's Pres. Church in Devon along the way. These activities couldn't happen without amazing volunteers. Each week, different volunteers prepare a meal for the youth, and often eat that meal with them, getting to know them a little better

(You can sign up too at covenantfrazier.org/youthmeals). Other volunteers stay for the whole 90-minute meeting, helping lead the activities for the day. While we have many people to thank, Youth Group would not have been possible without the weekly, faithful leadership of Drew Reindel and George Sabo.

Last Summer, youth participated in a Middle School camp at Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, VA and a High School camp in Montreat, NC. We hope to participate in these trips again this year (and if you'd like to support scholarships, donations can be made any time at covenantfrazier.org/donate! Just select the youth fund).



In the coming year, we're looking forward to welcoming the leadership of Dara Harris, the new Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Dara has already been warmly welcomed by the youth group. While Dara will be focusing primarily on Children's Ministries in her first few months at Covenant, she will plan to take full leadership of youth group in the Fall. Under her leadership, and with God's help, youth will continue to be formed in their faith, participate in the life of the church, build relationships

with one another, and discover more deeply the love of Jesus Christ that's present in their lives.

Session Reports

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee – Milly Elrod

The APNC was formed by motion and vote at the 9/18/22 congregational meeting. Called to serve were Lorraine Avvento, Max Edgin, Milly Elrod (chair), Meg Hauler, John Hausladen, Drew Reindel and Elizabeth Young with alternate Karen Hayes. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Karen resigned in November. We are tasked with bringing an Associate Pastor for Congregational Life candidate to the congregation for approval.

The committee completed the following tasks during the remainder of 2022:

- Introductions and team building
- Training from Presbytery on creating a Ministry Information Form (MIF)
- Informational exchange with Session representatives around Covenant's new vision and mission statements
- Information gathering with Session Personnel Chair, Director of Family and Children's Ministries, and Lead Pastor about the Associate Pastor and Director of Family Ministries job descriptions
- Completion of MIF and submission to Session (MIF approved by Session 12/12)
- Submission of MIF to Presbytery

The following tasks were completed in January 2023:

- MIF approved by Presbytery
- Training from Presbytery on processing candidates
- MIF published in the Presbyterian Leadership Connection database (CLC)
- Discussion and agreement on supplemental questions for candidates
- Discussion of interview questions for candidates
- Beginning review of Pastor Information Forms from initial matching in the CLC

We are grateful for the prayers and support we have received from Session, Staff, and the congregation. Please continue to pray for us to be led by the Holy Spirit.

Congregational Life – Sarah Reindel

Adult Sunday School – Jim Godbold

The purpose of the Adult Sunday School is to provide an opportunity to engage in the study and discussion of Scripture with applications to faithful living in a small group setting, and to connect with one another and nurture one another in our faith journey.

For most of the time, the group has used the *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living* curriculum, which has been synchronized with the topics and scriptures for each week's worship services. We also spent six weeks studying the book *Sabbath as Resistance* by Walter Brueggemann. One Sunday in October the class hosted Covenant Connects. On Sundays when there have been special presentations hosted by the Mission Committee, the class has joined in attending these presentations. Of the twenty-plus individuals who have attended the class, on average there are 12 present each week. Individuals have the option of attending class in-person or via Zoom.

The support provided to this class by the church staff has been superb. We thank:

- Jen Langlois for providing the curriculum material for learners and discussion leaders.
- Lynn Kraihanzel and Kim McNamara for weekly making handouts and publishing announcements
- Phil Pennington for room set-up
- Pastor Alex for his encouragement

Covenant Book Club – Elizabeth Young



What another wonderful year!

We met on the third Tuesday in person and also via Zoom. We have members who have moved away or travel and the Zoom option permits us to all stay connected throughout our program year. It also permits us to have authors join us. Thank you for continuing to make this available to our group.

We have roughly 18 active members in our small group.

In June the author Lisa Scottoline joined us via zoom for the discussion of her book “What Happened to the Bennett’s.” In June we also went on a field trip to Chanticleer in Wayne where we had a private tour.

We rounded out our program year with our annual Christmas selection which was a tradition started by one of our charter members Joyce Lammey. This year we read “The Christmas Bookshop” by Jenny Colgan.

Covenant Quilters – Elizabeth Young & Iris Fairbairn

Covenant Quilters was blessed to continue our small group ministry at the home of Iris Fairbairn and her daughter Eileen Gradwell this past year for quilting, tea, lunch, prayer, and fellowship. There are currently 8 members of our Quilting Circle. The Covenant Quilters are a “Circle” under Presbyterian Women.

We were delighted this past year to work on a number of quilts. We began the year working on a wedding quilt for Iris’s granddaughter Lauren’s wedding. We then made a quilt to give as a gift to Pastor Emily Chudy to thank her for her time at Covenant. The next quilt to go into the frame was a quilt made by a friend named Suzanne who passed away before it was completed. Her husband Jack had asked if we would be willing to finish quilting and bind it for him. The final quilt to be loaded into the frame in 2022 was again another quilt made as a gift. This one was made for Jen Langlois.



Our circle continues the tradition of hand quilting quilts using the same frame around which quilters from Covenant have gathered for over 125 years.

We welcome all interested individuals to join us for fellowship, sewing, and fellowship.

LIFT – Betty Pehlman

LIFT, Living in Fellowship Together, is a safe place for women to gather, share, pray and grow in the knowledge and love of Christ. We have a devotion each week and then pray for each other and others brought to our attention.

We discuss two books that we have read, one in the fall and one in the spring. The books are selected to create informative, healthy, enlightened Christian discussion with perspectives to support living in Christ in our daily lives.

This fall we read *Made for This Moment* by Max Lucado. This spring we are reading *Hanging onto Hope* by Melanie Sovoda.

We averaged 10 people in person and 5-6 by Zoom for the Fall 2022 session. We share experiences and perceptions with each other in an environment of confidentiality, respect, and love. What is shared in LIFT stays in LIFT!

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Pat Graham

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continued its mission of spreading Christ's love via shawls and blankets made and blessed by our loving and faithful group. We continue to make shawls available to any and all in the cabinet in the gathering space. Pocket prayer shawls are always available at the welcome desk.



This year our projects included: making pink pocket prayer shawls to support comfort bags for women with cancer (in memory of Dallas Genter), we contributed hats and scarves to the Broad Street Ministry mission, our annual Christmas project for the Peoples Pantry was knitted dish cloths and dish detergent (we donated over 65 gifts). We continue to put shawls on the church windowsills during the year when possible or appropriate. We supply red crocheted hearts for All Saints Day. We send shawls, baby blankets, loaves, and youth blankets

to members and friends. We celebrate the happy and share the grief of the sad.

We changed our meeting time to 12 noon on the second Monday of every month except July and August. There is always a zoom option. We meet in the church parlor, share lunch then conduct our meeting. We are a warm and welcoming group. We embrace new members.

Promise Keepers – Jim Carr

Covenant Continues to have two Promise Keeper Groups that meet weekly. Each group consists of Christian men who meet regularly to fellowship with each other and discuss materials of interest with varying topics. Both groups are open to all men in the congregation, as well as in the community. We have been meeting continuously for the past thirty years. An average of a dozen or so men meet weekly.

A good portion of 2022 was spent reading and discussing the book, "The Dignity of Difference", "How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations" by Jonathan Sacks. An excellent book filled with profound meditation on human diversity and religious differences.

In the Fall, we started to read and discuss "The New Oxford Annotated Apocrypha, an ecumenical study bible. We will continue with the Apocrypha through the Spring of 2023. Lots of conversations and discussions were generated from all the material.

Presbyterian Women – Mary Decker

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit we commit ourselves:

To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study,

To support the mission of the church worldwide,

To work for justice and peace,

To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Rebecca Circle started 2022 with the continuation of our bible study Into The Light - Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament, which we concluded in April. During our May meeting we compiled 12 Infant Kits for the Mennonite Central Committee which Elizabeth delivered to their office in Lancaster. In June we gathered as a group to enjoy lunch at the Longhorn.

Blanket Sunday for CWS was held on Mother's Day, May 8. In December we had our annual Christmas luncheon where we filled 18 Christmas Cheer Bags to deliver to Covenant folks on the visitation list.



PW joined together for lunch at the Desmond with the ladies of LIFT in August to say goodbye to long time PW & LIFT member, Carol Cornell who moved to Flordia in September. We resumed meeting in October and welcomed Lee Paylor to PW.

The study book for this year is Celebrating Sabbath. All ladies of the church are invited to join us at any time.

Through our circle offerings we financially supported the mission of the PW Church Worldwide along with the Birthday and Thank Offerings.

PW TREASURER'S REPORT - Kathy Hanson, Treasurer

Balance-December 31, 2021	\$2319.04
Receipts-2022	\$1927.20
Expenditures-2022	\$2540.01
Interest	\$ 1.15
Balance-December 2022	\$1707.38

Softball – Noel Langlois

The Covenant Softball team had another great season of multi-generational and inter-church fellowship and ministry in 2022 as part of the Upper Main Line Co-Ed Church Softball League. We had 27 men and women ranging in age from 16 to over 80 play at least one game for the team last year. It's very unique and special to have such a wide age range of people coming together, and Covenant likely had the most total team members and the most church



members of any team in the league. Many of the players were new to the team as we try to connect with as many people as we can. We stress that a full-season or multi-game commitment is not required from anybody and we are happy to have anyone out there regardless of experience or how many games they can attend. Glorifying God through ministry and fellowship on the softball field is the highest priority of the team and league, and the Covenant team excelled at that. On the field, the team played well and made the playoffs. We also had 18 players for a nail-biter

playoff game, just missing out on making the championship. Most importantly, the team enjoyed being together and showed great spirit, camaraderie, and support for each other and the other players. We hope to have a 2023 season from mid-April to mid-July and will be reaching out to folks shortly to see if we have enough interest.

Women's Bible Study – Sarah Reindel

The goal of our group is to study the Bible and build relationships with each other as we grown in faith. We welcome other women to join at any time. The group has continued to grow in membership and fellowship! We began the year finishing up our study guide on Ephesians by: N. T. Wright. We then moved on to studying a book called *The Flawed Family of God*, by Carolyn B Hesel and Song-Mi Suzie Park. This book examined the families of the book of Genesis and the issues raised through stories, we then discussed how they applied to our lives today. We enjoyed several social dinners including a picnic at Marsh Creek. We are truly grateful for the relationships that are being nurtured through scripture-based Bible study.



We're also grateful for our volunteers who gathered church members and others for multiple campfire nights.



DID YOU KNOW COVENANT HAS THE FOLLOWING SMALL GROUPS?

We'd love to have you join us!

Feel free to contact any group leaders for more information.

ADULT SMALL GROUPS:

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

In adult Sunday school, the focus is on discussion of how ideas in biblical passages relate to our everyday lives - with consideration of societal issues as well as our individual relationships with neighbors, family, & God. The class uses various curriculum materials, usually in small blocks of about 4 weeks; these materials typically provide a study guide of 4 - 5 pages per week that serve as the basis for the week's discussion. Often times, the lessons are planned to connect with the week's sermon text and topic. All are welcome!

Location: Rm. 207 (upper level) with a Zoom option

Schedule: Sundays, 9 - 9:45 a.m., Sept. - June

Contact: Jim Godbold; jhgoldbold@gmail.com

BOOK CLUB

A multi-generational book discussion group. Books are selected by the members. Come for lively discussion!

Location: Fellowship Hall (lower level) with a Zoom option

Schedule: 3rd Mondays, 7 p.m.

Contact: Elizabeth Young; here1990@gmail.com

LIFT - LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER

The purpose of LIFT is to create a safe time & place for women to gather, share & grow in the knowledge & love of Christ. During the morning meetings, this group studies a Christian Book together ("Made For This Moment" by Max Lucado), supports one another in prayer & gets to know one another well. New members are welcome at the start of each semester. All women are invited to the Christmas & spring brunches.

Location: Fellowship Hall (lower level) with a Zoom option

Schedule: Mondays, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Sept. - May

Contact: Betty Pehlman; betty1444@icloud.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a heartwarming group of people who knit, crochet & pray. People who receive our shawls are cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace & wrapped in love. All are invited to join.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - continued

Location: Parlor with a Zoom option

Schedule: 2nd Mondays, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m., Oct. - June

Contact: Pat Graham; patgraham@rocketmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

All women are welcome at our monthly Bible study for inspiration, fellowship, & service. Our study book this year is "Celebrating Sabbath". All ladies of the church are welcome to join us. If you are new to PW, please let Mary Decker know so we can have a book for you. The cost is \$10.00.

Location: Parlor with a Zoom option

Schedule: 3rd Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m., Sept. - June

Contact: Mary Decker; marydecker02@comcast.net

PROMISE KEEPERS

Promise Keepers is a Christ-centered men's group open to the community. Every gathering starts with fellowship & sharing of prayer concerns, followed by a time of prayer & study. This year the group is continuing with William Barclay's "The Letter to the Romans".

Location: Parlor with phone option

Schedule: Mondays, 6:30 p.m. & Fridays, 6:30 a.m., All year.

Contact: Jim Carr; jscarr@jameesscarraia.com

QUILTERS

A quilt is composed of layers stitched together. So, too, is this group of women. This group hand quilts together while they share conversation about "anything and everything" over the quilting frame & our bagged lunches. All are welcome to join us for fellowship & sharing of time & talents. Covenant Quilters donate all offering earned to the mission work of Presbyterian Women.

Location: Iris Fairbairn's house (call church for address)

Schedule: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., All year

Contacts: Elizabeth Young; here1990@gmail.com &

Iris Fairbairn; irisfairbairn@gmail.com

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study is a place to find rest, to be encouraged, & to grow in faith! Together, this group centers on God's Word & discovers what the Bible has to say today. They listen for God's guidance & apply what they learn in their everyday lives. Join them as they build relationships & encourage one another in their faith through studying & discussing scripture.

Location: Fellowship Hall (lower level) with Zoom option

Schedule: Thursdays, 7 p.m.

Contact: Sarah Reindel; sarah.reindel@comcast.net

MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS:

THE CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir provides worship music for Sunday mornings & special services throughout the church year. We welcome everyone (high school through adult) with a strong desire to sing! No experience necessary.

Location: Music Room

Schedule: Thursdays, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Contact: Amy McLoughlin;
amcloughlin@covenantfrazer.org

THE WORSHIP CHOIR

The Covenant Worship choir consists of members of the Chancel Choir PLUS any & all singers who want to join in to perform music for the Concerts for the Christ Child (held in early December) and/or the Palm Sunday worship services.

Location: Music Room

Schedule: Thursdays, 6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Contact: Amy McLoughlin;
amcloughlin@covenantfrazer.org

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children from ages 3 through 5th grade will gather to learn songs together. They will offer these songs in worship several times a year. The goal of this program is to allow children to give back to God in worship & enrich their faith & understanding of God and Jesus.

Location: Upstairs

Schedule: Sundays, 9:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.

Contact: Amy McLoughlin;
amcloughlin@covenantfrazer.org

UNITY HANDBELLS

This adult group of handbell ringers welcomes new members. Join us to learn music, enjoy teamwork, & lead worship through song on select Sunday mornings & special services.

UNITY HANDBELLS - continued

Location: Music Room

Schedule: Tuesdays, 6:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.,

Contact: Patti Mann; pattimnm@comcast.net

THE SALT & LIGHT RINGERS

Students in grades 6-12 are welcome to join this fun group of youthful ringers (ranging in age from 9-70!). No experience is necessary.

Location: Music Room

Schedule: Sundays, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Contact: Patti Mann; pattimnm@comcast.net

STRING CHOIR

Adult & teen guitar, bass, or other string instrument players are welcome to join this group that will be playing music of all genres from church hymns to rock. Whether you are a beginner or an Eric Clapton, all are welcome.

Location: Music Room

Schedule: Mondays, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., All year

Contact: Amy McLoughlin;
amcloughlin@covenantfrazer.org

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

COVENANT KIDS

At Covenant, we welcome & encourage all children to participate in worship services. We also offer:

DURING 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE:

Nursery (birth - age 3) - Children birth through age 3 are invited to the nursery to play and to learn together. Loving caregivers will share a short story and simple activity each week with the children. A take-home page is available for families to reinforce the lesson.

Children's Church (ages 3 - grade 5) - Following the children's message, children are invited to join a team upstairs for the remainder of the service to further explore worship topics & themes.

Contact: Dara Harris; dharris@covenantfrazer.org

COVENANT YOUTH

Join us for a volunteer-led weekly youth gathering! Games & dinner provided. View our calendar at covenantfrazer.org/youth. If you would like to receive youth ministry emails with upcoming events, please sign up at our website on the youth ministry page or contact the church office.

Location: Covenant Community Life Center (CCLC)

Schedule: Sundays, 4:30 p.m - 6:00 p.m. (some exceptions)

Contact: Pastor Alex; Youth@covenantfrazer.org or
Dara Harris; dharris@covenantfrazer.org

Deacons – Stephanie Callaro

It is a calling to be a deacon. God has given the deacons a calling to serve those in need. That need may be emotional, physical, spiritual, monetary, or otherwise. The deacons seek to fulfill those callings from God through prayer, actions, and visitations. Christ was the one who came, “not to be served, but to serve.” Matthew 20:28.

While most of us began to enjoy our freedom of attending activities and worship in our old familiar ways, health safety related to Covid still lurking about continued to be a concern for many of our members, especially our aging population and those unwell. Our top priority in 2022 continued to be safely serving those in need and isolated, keeping them connected to Covenant, showing our support, and especially conveying Christ's love.

Deacons meet the first Monday of the month and continue to have hybrid meetings to keep us all informed. Meetings begin with a devotion/prayer, minutes of the previous month, Treasurer's Report, and each of the Deacon's Ministries report on the previous month's activities with discussions of congregational concerns and needs.

Recapping 2022 Deacon's Ministries:

Card Coordinator – Reports 1,413 birthday/get-well/thinking of you/sympathy cards were sent to Covenant members by the deacons. What an outstanding job in connecting with our Covenant community.

College Outreach and Covenant Care Packages – A combined total of 98 care packages were sent to our college students and delivered to our visitation list members on special holidays/events. They appreciated their special treat bags filled with goodies, and fun activities, and felt appreciated and loved.

Flower Coordinator – Reports 8 roses for new babies were given during church service and 44 flower arrangements were delivered to our ill or grieving members. An additional 40 Christmas poinsettias were purchased in remembrance of loved ones.

Emergency Fund – This very helpful outreach deacon ministry provided 9 different times a total of \$1,645 to help to cover various bills such as fuel/groceries/insurance/rent to Covenant members and the Great Valley community.

Grief Series – A 7-year-old endeavor, 203 cards/pamphlets were sent this year to families in the congregation who have lost loved ones. The cards are sent at specific intervals to express our concerns during this time of grief. An observation, this is a 20% increase from last year, perhaps reflecting our aging congregation as well as the ongoing national health crisis.

Helping Hands – This ministry has been very busy providing over 101 tasks throughout the year to 30 members. Tasks include meals for those in need, transportation to church and Dr. appointments, grocery shopping, and other various household tasks. Helping Hands is such an important ministry as many of our elderly members find it physically difficult to shop and travel safely. As they say, it takes a village or some helpful deacons!

Home Communion - 5 members were served communion at their homes a total of 18 times throughout the year. Deacons travel in pairs to their homes and members are so grateful for the opportunity to receive Christ's sacraments. "When two or three are gathered in My name, I am there in the midst of them". Matthew 18:20.

Visitation/Covenant Connections - The current Board of Deacons continued to make phone calls and visits throughout the year to our members who were isolated or going through difficult times. This communication is essential to those who cannot physically worship with us, to continue their connection with Covenant and feel that they have not been forgotten. Two "Coffee Socials" were organized at Wellington and attended by 6 members along with Church Staff and several Deacons. Snacks and Cheer bags and social conversation were so appreciated.

50-Year Member Recognition took place on June 12th and 45 Fifty-plus year Covenant members and members who were 90-plus years old were recognized during the Sunday service. Hospitality, cake, and punch followed worship. Prior to the service, a beautiful custom card with a portrait of the church was sent along with a Guardian Angel Coin. Recipients really appreciated their gift and recognition.

Senior Friendsgiving Luncheon - Deacons kicked off the holiday season by organizing a luncheon on November 9th, specifically for our senior members of Covenant. What a success! The luncheon was attended by 43 guests, plus deacons and staff. Guests were welcomed to the festive event with a sit-down luncheon served and prepared by the Deacons with soup, sandwiches, and desserts. Attendees were so thankful to have a social function just for seniors where they could feel at ease and have time for conversation and long-time connections reestablished - an annual event going forward we hope!



Deacon's Ministry donated \$1,000 to Covenant's Children and Family Ministry as well as \$500 to Rise Against Hunger.

What a great year! Thank you, Alex, for your selfless guidance and to all our hard-working Deacons who volunteered and lived in the light and love of Christ. Blessings to our 4 outgoing deacons: Susie Baldwin, Judy Hurley, Dottie Mallon, and Elizabeth Young, well as our continuing deacons: Carol and Ray Braun, Phil Pennington, and Barb Rhinehart. Thank you so much for your service. I am very honored to have worked with you and am so proud of all our accomplishments!

Facilities – Roger Baldwin & Russ Lum

Our Purpose

To maintain the Church (and connecting buildings) so they are safe, beautiful and an inviting place to congregate and worship God. To have a committee that is welcoming and enjoys working/worshipping together.

Highlights

- New Interior Signs installed throughout the church.
- Wi-Fi enablement of the Sanctuary and Cat5 cable run to the boardroom.
- Disposed/Cleared of many items in the church's basement and shed. New Fencing around the fire pit with the removal of the old fencing destroyed by the small fire caused by a lightning strike.
- New walking mats placed throughout the basement dirt floor.
- Sump in the elevator replaced (under warranty) after we had over 3 feet of water in elevator shaft.
- Boy Scouts installed a new Basketball net and benches as part of an Eagle Scout project.
- 5 Year Sprinkler Maintenance completed in the CCLC.
- New HVAC contract signed with Haly Home Comfort to do biannual inspections/maintenance.

- Completed punch list for various items – Fixed a couple of roof repairs, various new electrical outlets installed, various painting projects, gravestone site repairs, cemetery burials, cemetery flag replacements, and general maintenance.
- Ongoing maintenance and cleaning. Many thanks to facilities committee members, other congregational members, staff, and Scout Troop 76 for helping to clear parking and walkways, shoveling snow from walks, trimming shrubs, raking, mulching and covering duties for the sexton when asked!
- Regular maintenance on elevators, air conditioning, lighting, kitchen equipment, boiler, sprinkler systems, walkway repair, and landscaping was completed.

Gratitude

We are thankful for our faithful volunteers who have spent countless hours working behind the scenes to make Covenant great facility and place to worship and meet. We are always looking for additional committee members and you can call either Roger or Russ directly and we will find a spot for you. Everyone is invited! Great way to get involved. No experience necessary.

Committee Members

Duane Billingsley

George Hahn

Carl Lotz

Chick Hatton

Frank Resides

Earl Widergren

Tom Reardon

Bill Graham

John Hidell

Paul Keeler

Russ Lum

Roger Baldwin

Jim Carr

Porter

Phil Pennington

Housekeeper/Painter Extraordinaire

Bobbie Smith

Sunday Sexton

Russ Lum

Duane Billingsley

Paul Keeler

George Hahn

Chick Hatton

Frank Resides

Earl Widergren

Roger Baldwin

Bill Graham

Tom Reardon

John Hidell



Finance & Stewardship – Al Raws, Michael Neeb & Jim Carr

Our overall finance/stewardship theme this past year continues to be “Imagine Tomorrow”. We continue to imagine the “tomorrow” God has in store for us as we share the joy of God’s table.

The major responsibilities of your Finance Committee are:

- Ongoing oversight of the budget, and budgeting process.
- Meeting with the executive committee and senior staff to consider budget allocation and reporting to session on recommended strategies to ensure that Covenant is operating commensurate with our financial resources.
- Annual audit of the church financial books.

Highlights

Operating Budget

Overall financial health of the church is strong. Offerings on the year exceeded the budgeted amount by \$36,558.54 (\$728,558.54 vs \$692,000.00) and led to an overall net income of \$32,430.86.

Key variances in the budget versus actuals are related to staffing vacancies/transitions which contributed to the positive outcome.

The annual audit of Covenant’s financial books has been completed. Our findings are consistent with prior years, namely we found that no problems were discovered and that our accounting procedures were applied consistently with prior years. We have submitted our audit report for retention in Covenant’s records. Ellen Jordan continues to do an excellent job in managing Covenant’s books and we do not anticipate any problems.

Capital Campaign Update

Our Capital Campaign to eliminate our mortgage debt is progressing well, starting with our matching donors making their contributions in full at the end of 2021. Starting in 2022 we began the process of paying the remaining balance of \$850,000 in 10 equal payments of \$85,000 due in June and December of 2022–2026.

As of December 2022, we had made 3 of these payments and have funds available to make a 4th in the early part of 2023. This puts us ahead of schedule with the next payment not due until June 2024. We plan to continue to make the \$85,000 in advance as funds are available. Once the 4th payment is made, remaining balance will be about \$500,000 (from an overall starting point of \$1,950,000)

Accrued interest is being paid through a separate fund provided by matching donors so that all contributions will go directly to reducing principal.

From a starting point of ~\$1.86M, our current mortgage balance is \$589,488.32 with \$202,335.26 available in our Capital Campaign account for our next payment.

We are very grateful for all of your generous support that will keep Covenant a special place – thank you!

Hospitality – Mary Wojnowski

Our Purpose

Covenant's vision expressly states that as a church, we demonstrate "hospitality that invites people to God's Table." We hold that God's love has the run of the house which shapes the posture of those services and programs which are planned and provided by this committee: to offer love, welcome, and care for members and guests.

Highlights

The Covenant Presbyterian Church Hospitality Committee was reimagined on August 24, 2021, and we currently have 12 volunteers. Our committee undertook several projects and managed many events.

- We Organized and Hosted four funeral receptions.
 - Kenneth Patrick
 - Gladys Reese
 - Holi Ashenfelter
 - Dot Barrington
- Organized and sponsored Easter Flowers
- Hosted Congregational Picnic on June 5th
- Served Pancake Brunch on August 7th
- Set up and hosted Ice Cream Sundae Sunday on September 4th
- Set up and hosted Kick Off Sunday on September 11th
- Hosted the farewell reception for Emily on September 25th
- Provided and served the Christmas Eve buffet for our Ushers, Staff and Volunteers
- Staffed the volunteers for the welcome desk at both the 8:30am and 11am
- Reestablished Covenant Connect which has been a huge success bringing members and guests together in fellowship between services.

Gratitude

A shout out to all our volunteers who have stepped up and worked tirelessly to make all our events successful. A special thank you goes out to Mary Decker and the Deacons who have helped us staff the Welcome Desk.

Member Volunteers

Dolly Hatton, Barbara Rhinehart, Mary Decker, Colleen Widergren, Penny Hidell, Carolyn Reardon, Sarah Reindel, Millie Williams, Lee Paylor, Lou Koup, Elizabeth Young, Meg Hauler

Missions/Covenant Adult Mission Team – Sean Zelig & Matt Quail

2022 saw a continued reinvigoration of mission activities as pandemic conditions continued to improve. Our in-person events included our Adventures in Mission (“AIM”) series which is an inspirational forum to highlight the many missions and ministries that we support at Covenant. We also continued the Minute for Mission (“MFM”) announcements from the pulpit to help raise congregational awareness of our many opportunities to serve. We published two issues of the Covenant Community Missions newsletter to highlight completed events and share photos of our many volunteers. Copies of these can be found at Covenantfrazer.org under the Connect/Missions tab. During 2022 CAMT went back to Reynosa, Villages in Partnership (VIP) celebrated the return of friendship and medical mission trips to Malawi, we completed two Rise Against Hunger events (a record!) and created new connections with local mission organizations like Bridge of Hope. Details of the CAMT activities are listed below.

Adventures in Mission (AIM)

Downingtown Hurricane Relief – March

On Sunday, March 20th we welcomed Kevin and Becky Zeeger from Central Presbyterian Church in Downingtown to Covenant for an AIM presentation. Kevin shared pictures of the damage caused by Hurricane Ida in August, 2021 and how the community came together to help those in need. Members of Covenant joined forces with Central Presbyterian Church to assist with hands-on disaster recovery work throughout 2022.



Covenant also held a special offering to benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and their efforts in Ukraine during the March, 20th AIM presentation. Covenant raised more than \$5,000 which was matched by The Synod of Trinity. Thank you to all who donated!

Bridge of Hope – October

The Reverend Scott Dorsey from Bridge of Hope joined Covenant on October 30th to give the fall 2022 AIM presentation. Bridge of Hope is a local non-profit active in 23 locations across 13 states. Bridge of Hope’s mission is to engage Christian faith communities in ending and preventing family homelessness through neighboring relationships that demonstrate Christ’s love. CAMT member Eileen Gradwell is currently forming a team to meet the urgent needs of a Ukrainian refugee family in Chester County. Covenant hopes to form our first “neighboring family” in partnership with Bridge of Hope in 2023.

Minute for Mission (MFM) Presentations during the Worship Service

3/20/22 – Downingtown Hurricane Relief

4/24/22 – Eric Brown Music Scholarship Fund

5/1/22 – Rise Against Hunger

10/30/22 – Bridge of Hope

CAMT Mission Opportunities

Faith Ministry, Reynosa, Mexico

Faith Ministry welcomed five Covenant volunteers back to Reynosa, Mexico to work alongside Faith Ministry from April 30 to May 7, 2022. The team worked alongside community members to help with the construction of a casa which was financed with funds from Covenant's general budget. The team also participated in a variety of tasks such as working with the garden, the clinic, children's programs, and worship together. Covenant also sponsor's three scholarship students in Reynosa. A visit with them was the highlight of the trip.



Broad Street Ministry ("BSM")

BSM is a wonderful faith-based ministry in Philadelphia that provides barrier-free access to life-sustaining services for 7,000 people each year. Pre-pandemic, Barbara Rhinehart helped coordinate monthly volunteer trips to assist BSM with their lunch service; these volunteer activities were put on hold during the pandemic. After a nearly 18-month pause, BSM resumed their lunch service program for volunteer activity beginning in late 2022. Individuals are welcomed and encouraged to volunteer with BSM through a CAMT sign-up the 3rd Thursday of every month. In addition to the volunteer days, CAMT donates clothes, fleece/knit hats, and CAMT funds to BSM. Donations are always welcomed.

Rise Against Hunger (“RAH”)

Eileen Gradwell helped coordinate not one, but two Rise Against Hunger events in an effort to meet RAH’s goal of eliminating world hunger by 2030. The first event was held on May 21 in the CCLC and featured more than 85 volunteers who helped pack over 15,000 meals! Covenant partnered with Westminster Presbyterian Church for the second RAH event on October 15th. This was held on Westminster’s campus and featured volunteers from both congregations.



Villages in Partnership (“VIP”)

Villages in Partnership celebrated the return of Friendship and Medical Mission Trips to Malawi in 2022 led by CAMT member Eileen Gradwell. Eileen returned to Malawi in March as part of the Medical and Dental Mission Team. During this trip the team partnered with local medical and dental practitioners to provide care to villagers who have little to no access to care. They treated over 3,300 patients many of whom suffer from ailments that we rarely, if ever, see in the US like dysentery, scabies, malaria, and parasites. The team conducted home visits to the most vulnerable, providing care and basic supplies like blankets and soap. During one visit, Eileen met a 28-year-old who was paralyzed from the waist down 3 years ago. She never owned a wheelchair and was being carried around her home by her mother. God must have known there would be a need, as the team had arrived with a wheelchair which was received with joy and relief.

Eric Brown Music Scholarship Fund

We are happy to report that we have granted an Eric Brown Music Scholarship to a fourth student during 2022. Our newest student is a piano player and joins our two music therapy students and our one violin student in using scholarship funds. On Sunday, April 24th Covenant welcomed scholarship recipients to share their music in worship. Thanks to all at Covenant who supported the scholarship program during 2022 and throughout the history of the program.

Latin American Fellowship

We were pleased to join Central Presbyterian Church in Norristown for their 19th anniversary celebration in June. Covenant members continue to support Central Presbyterian Church through the Christmas Family outreach program organized under the People’s Pantry. Our relationship with Central Presbyterian Church of Norristown began in 2009 and has continued under the leadership of outreach liaison Kay Rowell of CAMT. We hope to continue expanding this relationship in 2023 and beyond.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (“PDA”)

A special offering was collected to benefit PDA’s efforts in Ukraine on March 20, 2022.

2022 Mission Allocations

Please pray for these missions that we financially support from Covenant's annual budget as part of our mission outreach. This year 22 organizations each received \$300. This list will be used for 2021-2023. We would love to learn what organizations you volunteer or receive services from. Feel free to send a note to the mission chairs if you would like to submit a nomination.

- The ARC Chester County
- Central Presbyterian Church in Norristown
- Chester Co Food Bank
- Chester Co Migrant Ministries c/o PA Council of Churches
- Community Volunteers in Medicine
- Community Warehouse Project
- County Correction Gospel Mission
- Domestic Violence Center of Chester Co
- EduKenya
- Encuentro Church – Coatesville
- Friends of Presbyterian Education Board
- Good Works
- Habitat for Humanity of Chester Co
- Mom's House
- PA Home of the Sparrow
- Push the Rock
- Safe Harbor of Greater West Chester
- Sneakers for Soldiers
- Surrey Services
- Villages in Partnership
- Wings for Success
- *WILD CARD – Bridge of Hope

*this organization can change each year and allows us to address any specific needs that come up during the three-year period.

The Mission Committee offers our deepest appreciation for your continued support for our many mission programs as we fulfill our goal to be the hands and feet of God as we serve our local community and communities around the world.

Barbara Rhinehart is the CAMT treasurer and admin and committee members include: Milly Elrod, Eileen Gradwell, Kay Rowell, and Nancy Reynolds



As always, we support the ministry of The People's Pantry!



Officer Nominating Committee – Dick Eppleman

The following people have agreed to serve on the:

2023 Officer Nominating Committee

Kathy Brackin
George Hahn
Tom Reardon
Dick Eppleman
Ray Braun (chair)
Alternate:
Mary Decker

Class of 2026 Elders:

Lisa Gordon
Pat Young
Al Zlogar
Kim Edgin
Meg Hauler

Class of 2026 Deacons:

Penny Hidell
Joy Lum
Karen Smith
Nora Newman

Class of 2025 Deacons:

Marie Raws (2-year term)

Many thanks to this year's Nominating Committee: George Hahn, Patty Dodson, Tom Reardon, Kathy Brackin, Sean Zelig, Ray Braun, and Rick Ridall (alternate).

Elder and Deacon Bios

Elders

Kim Edgin

Kim Edgin, MPA, SHRM–SCP, SPHR, PHR–CA is currently the Chief Human Resource Officer for The Renfrew Center, an organization which provides treatment to women experiencing eating disorders. She holds a master's degree in Public Administration/Human Resources from West Chester University, as well as SHRM –SCP, SPHR and PHR–CA certifications. Kim has extensive professional Human Resource experience, including over 25 years of management/leadership experience. She is serving as District Director for the Southeast Region of the National Society for Human Resource Managers (SHRM), PASHRM, a volunteer leader position. In 2013 and 2017, she was nominated for Delaware Valley HR Person of the Year (DVHRPOY) in recognition of her strategic leadership and contributions to the Human Resource field. In 2017 she was awarded the DVHRPOY award for small companies. Kim has

participated in the HR mentoring program at Villanova University, as well as, participating as a guest instructor for the HR Master's program at Villanova University & adjunct professor at West Chester University. Kim has been a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church since 1985, along with her husband Tim Edgin. Their children, Corinne and Maxwell have been members as well. We found Covenant to be a church which met our spiritual needs over the years and provided opportunities to join a community which is welcoming and gives back. Serving this Church in a leadership function is a calling which she is honored to be considered for.

Lisa Gordon

I grew up in Malvern and am a lifelong Chester County resident. I have worked for a local company for 22 years. I have served on the Session, Personnel Committee and volunteered with the youth programs. Additionally, I serve on the board of directors for Brandywine Valley Active Aging. I enjoy reading, travelling with my family and have a son at Temple University. I love to read, entertain, and have several rescue pets. We love Covenant because it feels like home to us and the youth program was especially impactful to my son.

Pat Young

I have lived in the Malvern, PA for over 24 years and have been a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church for 15. My wife Robin and I have two adult children, Kelsey-29 and Brendan-27. I have been in B2B publishing my whole career working for the Chilton Company and McGraw-Hill Healthcare. I'm currently with PMMI Media Group as Publisher of ProFood World, a trade journal that serves the food and beverage manufacturing market. I have been an usher, I enjoy travel, music, movies and I am an avid golfer and tennis player. I'm looking forward to sharing my time at CPC as an Elder.

Al Zlogar

I live in the Downingtown area with my wife Sue. We were originally members of Covenant from 1984 to 1991, moved out of state for some years, then moved back and have been members of Covenant from 2002 to the present. We have two children (both baptized at Covenant), who are grown and live away from home now. I retired in 2021 from a long 39-year career as an actuary in the insurance industry. (I am still figuring out hobbies and post-career life - so far yardwork!)

What I love about Covenant - the Covenant church community is fantastic and I greatly admire their service and involvement. Now that I am retired I have started slowly increasing my own involvement and making more friends at church I am looking forward to continuing that. I am really enjoying the weekly Men's group, participating in some music activities.

I also feel fortunate that we have our enthusiastic and terrific pastor Alex, our amazingly committed Elders and deacons, Amy leading the music, and the rest of the staff and volunteers. The motivation and commitment of these folks has been an inspiration in these recently challenging times and inspired me to agree to serve and hopefully help us continue to grow our church community in Christ.

Deacons

Meg Hauler

I grew up in North Jersey, came to southeastern PA for college, and have been here ever since. My career phases have included IT professional; full-time mom & volunteer (including a Deacon term at Paoli); and research librarian.

I joined Covenant in 2015 and still love the warmth, meaningful sermons, and commitment to stewardship that first drew me in (in addition to an active bell choir, of course!). I also currently serve on the APNC and hospitality committee.

I live in West Chester with my 80-pound dog and 8-pound cat, and have a grown daughter in northern Virginia. Besides church activities, I enjoy volunteering at my CSA farm, cooking, reading (esp. for my book club), and paddling with my dragon boat team.

Penny Hidell

My family moved to Malvern when I was in 3rd grade. My family attended 1st Presbyterian Church of Malvern. My Dad travelled a lot for work, and I was fortunate to see a lot of the world. In 1965 my family moved outside of Johannesburg, South Africa and I graduated from Rhodes University in Grahamstown.

After college I returned home to Malvern and married Eric Brown in 1971. Eric and I have 2 daughters and 3 grandsons that live in Phoenix, AZ. Eric died in 2006 and we started the Eric Brown Music Scholarship Fund in memory of Eric. I am blessed to have reconnected with John Hidell (we graduated from Great Valley High School '65) and were married at Covenant in 2015. Together we have 3 daughters, 1 son, 1 granddaughter and 6 grandsons. My daughters and grandsons live in Arizona and John's children and grandchildren live in North and South Carolina.

I began working at Covenant part-time in the church office in 1981 and eventually became full-time office administrator. I retired in 2017 after 36 wonderful years. I loved working at Covenant. What a warm and caring congregation which is why I officially became a member of Covenant around 1985. I am currently a member of the Unity Handbell Choir, Covenant Hospitality Committee, and an usher. I was previously a Deacon and look forward to serving on the Deacon Board again. I love to read, and John and I look forward to travelling across America and other countries.

Joy Lum

I live in Malvern with my husband Russ, our 17 year old daughter Laura who is a senior at Great Valley High School, and our adorable dog Beth who is 11 years old (she is a rescue, so her age is approximate). Russ and I have lived in Malvern for 25 years. I did not stray too far as I am originally from Lansdale, PA in Montgomery County. We have been members of Covenant Presbyterian for 4 years. We were previously members of Malvern United Methodist Church up until the time it closed.

I am a math teacher at Academy Park High School in Delaware County. In my non-working time, I enjoy watching Laura's basketball games, exercising at ACAC, scrapbooking, reading books for the neighborhood book club, and going out to eat with friends.

I love the friendly and welcoming feel of Covenant Presbyterian. There are so many activities and groups at Covenant, so everyone can find their niche. I also love that everyone is willing to contribute their talents to the church community. I am looking forward to contributing to the Covenant community by becoming a deacon.

Nora Newman

I live in Malvern with my daughter, Kristina. I grew up in New Jersey and moved to Pennsylvania for college. I have worked at Vanguard for over 25 years and am currently a writer. Kristina recently graduated from Drexel and works as a nurse at Paoli Hospital.

We joined Covenant in 2005. I love the family feeling here. We don't have local family but we have built a family through the church.

I have served as an elder, Sunday school superintendent, and co-leader of the backpack drive. I am excited to become a deacon.

Marie Raws

My husband Al and I have lived in the same house in Malvern for 50 years next year. Our four boys, Christian, Sean, Wyeth and Colin attended West Chester area schools. We now have 5 grandchildren from 18 years to 6 months. I was raised Irish Catholic and converted after marrying Al. I coached and refereed soccer at the club, travel and high school levels. I have been a deacon at Great Valley Presbyterian, and Covenant Presbyterian.

Al and I both volunteer for Rise Against hunger, I volunteer at the People's pantry and anywhere else Mary, Dolly and Jen tell me I am needed. I also joined the amazing Covenant Book Club, which I recommend to everyone.

Karen Smith

Bio coming soon

Personnel & Administration – Ginger Pohlman

The Administration Commission members were Rev. Alex Becker, Rev. Emily Chudy (through August), Ginny Abplanalp, Jim Carr, Dick Eppleman, John Hausladen, Kurt Moyer, and Ginger Pohlman (Chairperson). The Personnel Committee members were Ginger Pohlman (Chairperson), John Hunter, Lisa Gordon and Jim Carr. As noted in last year's annual report, the Administration Commission and Personnel Committee were separated in January 2022.

The Administration Commission has continued to set the session docket throughout 2022. In addition, the Administration Commission is tasked with and working on updated Covenant Policies.

There were number of staff changes during 2022: first third of 2022 brought the following personnel changes at Covenant:

- Rev. Emily Chudy left her position as Co-Pastor and the role of Youth Director.
- Rev. Alex Becker became Lead Pastor when Rev. Emily Chudy left and the process for searching for an Assistant Pastor began.
- Maxwell Staley was hired as Covenant Pastoral Care Assistant to assist with pastoral care until an Associate Pastor is hired.
- Amy McLoughlin's position as Music Director was revised to include the organist role.

- The Tech Position was updated based on current needs and James Looney was hired to fill the position of Worship Technology Coordinator in December 2022
- The nursery opened again during services and Iris Jung and other nursery staff were hired.
- Jen Langlois gave notice that she would be leaving her position of Director of Family and Children's Ministries in January 2023
- The decision was made to create a position for Director of Children and Youth Ministries, which covers the children's ministry coordination portions of the Director of Family and Children's Ministries position. A search was conducted to fill this position (Dara Harris was hired in January 2023 to fill this position)
- Remaining duties from the Director of Family and Children's Ministries position were given to other staff members or added to the position of Associate Pastor for Congregational Life

In addition, the Personnel Committee and staff have focused on the following in 2022:

- The Personnel Committee assisted with developing the job requirements for the Assistant Pastor position, including pastoral care and intergenerational ministry items from the former Director

Family and Children's Ministries position.

- The Personnel Committee developed job descriptions for new/updated positions including: Worship Technology Coordinator, Director of Children and Youth Ministries and Covenant Pastoral Care Assistant.
- A Coaching and Equipping process continues to implemented with staff following guidance on the process which was created Donegal Presbytery and is used by other churches in the presbytery. The process is outlined in the Covenant Personnel Manual. This process has

been phased in with staff members that work over 20 hrs. per week with a modified process for employees under 20 hrs. per week.

- The Covenant Personnel Manual was finalized. Rev. Emily Chudy took the lead in this effort, using information available from Donegal Presbytery and direction from a legal expert. The manual was presented to Staff in June and went into effect 1 July 2022.
- Contracts with music staff were updated to conform with individuals' job descriptions and be in-line with PA requirements.

Stephen Ministry – Milly Elrod & Kurt Moyer

Stephen Ministry continues to support the Covenant congregation by providing one on one weekly care to individuals who are looking for support during a challenging time in life. We currently have 5 trained Stephen Leaders and 7 active Stephen Ministers. This year we have had care relationships with 5 congregational members. We are grateful for the ministry of Penny and John Hidell who both retired from the program during this year.

Stephen Ministry is a little different from other groups in that someone can request to be matched with a Stephen Minister for a caring relationship or someone can apply to become a Stephen Minister or Stephen Leader, but otherwise Stephen Ministry is not 'open' to someone joining. Stephen Leaders are responsible for the administration of the program and Stephen Ministers are those who can be matched with a requesting congregational or community member. We have no plans currently to train new Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Ministers attended supervision twice a month. Stephen Leaders (after attending training) initiated a program to train appropriate groups to be Stephen Ministry advocates who assist in bringing awareness to potential care receivers. The leaders then trained the Stephen Ministers, Covenant Staff and the Deacons. We hope to train additional groups this coming year. Leaders reviewed promotional materials and placed them appropriately at the church, presented ministry information in church services in September (Kurt) and November (Claudia). We sent a representative, Kurt, to the Regional Stephen Leader meeting in November.

Our current roster of Stephen Ministers includes: Milly Elrod, Claudia Faunce, Jennifer Langlois (who will be taking a sabbatical starting in Feb 2023), Kurt Moyer, Nancy Reynolds, Ida Mae Wallace and Colleen Widergren. Stephen Leaders are: Alex Becker, Milly Elrod, Kurt Moyer, Nancy Reynolds and Ida Mae Wallace.

REPORT of the CLERK for 2022

Active membership as of January 1, 2022 621

Additions to roll:

By Certificate of Transfer	0
By Profession or Reaffirmation of Faith	15
By Profession of Faith & Baptism	0
By Restoration from the Inactive Roll	<u>0</u>
	15

Losses:

By Death	8
By Transfer to another church	5
By Deletion from Roll	0
Moved to Inactive Roll	<u>0</u>
	13

Active membership as of December 31, 2021 623

Rev. Becker conducted 6 Baptisms and 8 Funerals

Necrology:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Entered Church</u> <u>Triumphant</u>
Gladys Reese			1/9/22
Sara (Sally) McKay			2/20/22
Holli Ashenfelter			3/3/22
Sherwood Hewitt	Deacon	2/26/12	3/29/22
Richard Ashenfelter			5/30/22
Linda Pickard			6/24/22
George Hanna	Deacon	1/25/02	9/9/22
Kenneth Patrick	Elder	1978	10/14/22

Respectfully submitted,

James S. Carr,
Clerk of Session

THE MINUTES OF THE FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING
Of the Congregation and Corporation of
Covenant United Presbyterian Church
Sunday, February 27, 2022

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by the moderator, Rev. Alex Becker, at 11:15 a.m. in person and via zoom video and teleconference.

Rev. Emily Chudy then presented the Report of the Clerk for 2021. The necrology was read as follow:

Necrology:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Ordained</u>	<u>Entered Church Triumphant</u>
Marcus Hasz			2/18/21
Christina Hayes			1/28/21
Dot McCleary			4/21/21
Doug Melrose	Deacon	2/23/14	3/19/21
James Seagers			2/21/21

It was voted to approve, On Motion, the Minutes of the Forty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Covenant United Presbyterian Church held on Sunday, February 28, 2021.

Rev. Becker thanked the 2021 Officer Nominating Committee for their work. The committee members were Dick Eppleman, Chairperson, and George Hahn, Milly Elrod, Mary Decker, Penny Hidell, Kathy Brackin and Rick Ridall (alternate).

Rev. Becker then received the names of the congregational representatives for the 2022 Officer Nominating Committee as follows: Kathy Brackin, Patty Dodson, Tom Reardon, George Hahn, and Dick Eppleman, Chair. Alternate Rick Ridall. Rev. Becker asked for any nominations from the floor. The representatives listed above were unanimously approved, On Motion, by the congregation.

Rev. Becker then provided some overviews and highlights of the 2021 Annual Report.

Rev. Becker and Rev. Chudy then announced to the congregation that the session is working with a consultant/coach. The session had an all-day retreat with the consultant on February 12, 2022. Included in the discussion was what will Covenant Church look like in a post-pandemic world. This discussion will continue tomorrow evening at the scheduled Stated Session Meeting. The congregation will hear about the process as it goes forward.

Jen Langlois gave a brief update on the Family Ministry at Covenant. Children's Church will start up again next week. We are looking for VBS helpers for the June 20-24 VBS.

On Motion, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. and was closed by saying the Lord's Prayer.

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2022

ASSETS

Cash	525,807.19
Restricted Investments	251,913.44
Land and Buildings	6,973,290.34
	7,751,010.97

FUND BALANCES

Highley Estate Fund	33,801.74
Rogers Estate Fund	218,129.69
Housing Fund	5,000.00
Capital Campaign Fund	202,335.26
Deacons Fund	4,398.46
Other Fund Balances	221,071.47
	684,736.62

LIABILITIES

Mortgage (384 Lancaster)	0
Mortgage (400 Lancaster)	589,488.32
	1,274,224.57
General Fund Balance	92,984.38
Land and Buildings	6,383,802.02

TOTAL FUND BALANCES & LIABILITIES	7,751,010.97
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400 Lancaster Avenue
Malvern (Frazer), PA 19355
610.648.0707

covenantfrazer.org

Alex Becker, Lead Pastor

Amy McLoughlin, Director of Music Ministry

Dara Harris, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

January 21, 2023

To all interested parties,

We have examined the books, records and accounts of Covenant United Presbyterian Church, except for the records associated with Presbyterian Women, for the year ended December 31, 2022.

In all cases we found the books, records, and accounts to be in order.

Respectfully submitted,
The Review Committee
(Mike Neeb, Tony Kessler, Al Raws & Al Zlogar)

Covenant Servant Leaders 2023

Pastoral Staff

Lead Pastor	Rev. Alex Becker
Director of Children & Youth Ministries	Dara Harris
Director of Music	Amy McLoughlin
Temporary Pastoral Assistant	Maxwell Staley

Administrative Staff

Church Administrator	Lynn Kraihanzel
Assistant Church Administrator	Kim McNamara
Porter	Phil Pennington
Bookkeeper	Ellen Jordan
Housekeeper	Bobbie Smith
Worship Technology Coordinator	James Looney

Music Staff

Pianist	Bonnie Sumerfield
Handbell Choir Director	Patti Mann

Session

Rev. Alex Becker
James Carr, Clerk of Session
Frank Lammey & Dawn Catteau, Treasurers
Presbytery Elder Commissioners, Dick & Ginny Abplanalp

CLASS of 2023

Roger Baldwin
Dylan Gordon
Ginger Pohlman
Russ Lum
Michael Neeb

CLASS of 2024

Jeff Catteau
Mary Wojnowski
Tony Kessler
Sandy Ritchey
Al Raws

CLASS of 2025

Anne Barrows
Bill Frazier
Matthew Quail
Sarah Reindel
Sean Zelig

CLASS of 2026

Kim Edgin
Lisa Gordon
Meg Hauler
Pat Young
Al Zlogar

Deacons

Deacon Moderator, Stephanie Callaro

CLASS OF 2023

Elizabeth Young
Susie Baldwin
Judy Hurley
Stephanie Callaro
Heidi Reese

CLASS of 2024

Phil Pennington
Barb Rhinehart
Ray Braun
Carol Braun
Dottie Mallon

CLASS of 2025

Corinna Becker
Pat Graham
Lisa Samms-
Catania
Marie Raws

CLASS of 2026

Penny Hidell
Joy Lum
Nora Newman
Karen Smith

Congregational Life

Adult Sunday School

Book Club

Covenant Quilters

LIFT for Women

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Presbyterian Women

Treasurer

Rebecca Circle Leader

Promise Keepers Coordinator

Softball Team

Women's Bible Study

Jim Godbold

Elizabeth Young

Elizabeth Young & Iris Fairbairn

Betty Pehlman

Pat Graham

Mary Decker

Kathy Hanson

Mary Decker

Jim Carr

Noel Langlois

Sarah Reindel

Stephen Ministry

Milly Elrod & Kurt Moyer

People's Pantry

Pantry Coordinator

Thanksgiving Families

Christmas Families

Mary Decker

Dolly Hatton

Mary Moyer

This report was added to the Annual Report after the Annual Meeting on February 19, 2023

Vision Committee – Anne Barrows & Sandy Ritchey

Our Purpose

The Vision Committee was formed in August 2022. The purpose of the Vision Committee is to introduce the new mission and vision statements to the congregation, and to pursue activities outside of the current committee and event structure to execute more fully, and/or facilitate the execution of, the church's mission and vision.

Highlights

In February 2022, Session met for a retreat. One result of this retreat was the formation of three working groups: one to write new mission and vision statements for the church, one to review past events and activities at the church, and one to speak with members of the community to identify unmet or partially met needs.

By the end of summer, the work of these three groups was concluded with the approval by Session of new mission and vision statements, a completed review of historical church activities, and an extensive review of community needs which culminated in two near-term focus areas, namely food and seniors. This review also identified a consistent desire by the congregation to see greater utilization of Covenant's facilities. At this time, the Vision Committee was formed.

In the Autumn, the Vision Committee focused upon the task of introducing the new Mission and Vision statements to the congregation. Eric Doss consulted with the committee as it introduced the statements first to the APNC, the staff, and to the deacons. Finally, these small group meetings were followed by two presentations to the full congregation on November 27 and December 4, 2022, with coordinated updates to the language on the Church's website, new posters placed around the church, and a related bulletin board installation.

At the December 4 Congregational meeting, the Vision Committee requested written feedback from the congregation. The Committee received input from 28 people, and subsequently typed and organized this feedback for easier review. With this introductory phase of the vision rollout complete, in 2023, the Committee's work will enter a new phase aimed more towards implementation.

Gratitude

The Vision committee would like to thank many folks: the other members of Session who worked on the 3 working groups, including those who wrote the new Mission and Vision statements; consultant Eric Doss; the church staff for their support, such as their assistance with the new posters around the church; and members of the congregation who have provided valuable feedback on their own, in small groups, and in congregational settings.

Members

In 2022, the Vision Committee members were Anne Barrows and Sandy Ritchey.