



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A photograph of a stone church building with a steep gable roof and a small bell tower. The church is surrounded by green grass and trees. A large tree is on the left, and a sign is in the foreground. The sign is dark green with white text that reads "COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH".

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

where God's love has the run of the house...



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<https://covenantfrazer.org>

Who We Are

Covenant Presbyterian Church is a welcoming and diverse group of people who share a mutual love for God and each other. Nestled in suburban Philadelphia along the famous Main Line, we are a thriving worship community with deep roots in the town of Frazer and the surrounding area. As a congregation, we encourage and affirm each person's faith journey – sharing the love of God as we grow deeper in our understanding of God's will for us. Through worship, fellowship and instruction we draw closer to God as we strive to be God's hands and feet on earth. We believe that faith expands into the community, and our church has an active heart for both local and worldwide mission. In all that we do, we strive to make Covenant our spiritual home, where God's love has run of the house.

What We Believe

Jesus says to us, "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be **salt**-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. Here's another way to put it: You're here to be **light**, bringing out the God-colors in the world." (Matthew 5:13-14, The Message).

At Covenant Pres., we strive to be a Salt & Light congregation, focused on spreading God's love to all who will listen. In doing so we live by the following tenets:

Covenant people cherish our intergenerational worship.

I John 4:16-17a. God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, and [love] becomes at home and matures in us. (The Message)

Covenant people seek to be biblically and spiritually formed.

Psalms 25:4-5. Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you wait all day long. (NRSV)

Covenant people are relational.

Colossians 3:12-15. As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called to one body. And be thankful. (NRSV)

Covenant people seek to provide hospitality.

Colossians 4:5-6. Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt [to bring out the best in others], so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone. (NRSV)

Covenant people are respectful and embracing of all Christian traditions.

Philippians 2:1-3. If there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility, regard others as better than yourselves.

Covenant people have a heart for mission.

Matthew 28:18-20. [The resurrected Jesus spoke, saying:]

"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. So move out and disciple all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep absolutely all that I commanded you; and look! I myself am right there with you all the days, to the consummation of history." (F.D. Bruner)

Covenant people are need-responsive.

1 Timothy 6:18. Go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage – to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If you do that, you will build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life. (paraphrased from The Message).

Covenant people are increasingly generous with time, talent, and treasure.

Luke 6:38. Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back- given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity. (The Message)

Covenant people are emotionally available and free.

Romans 12:15. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. (NRSV)

Covenant people are a people of GRACE.

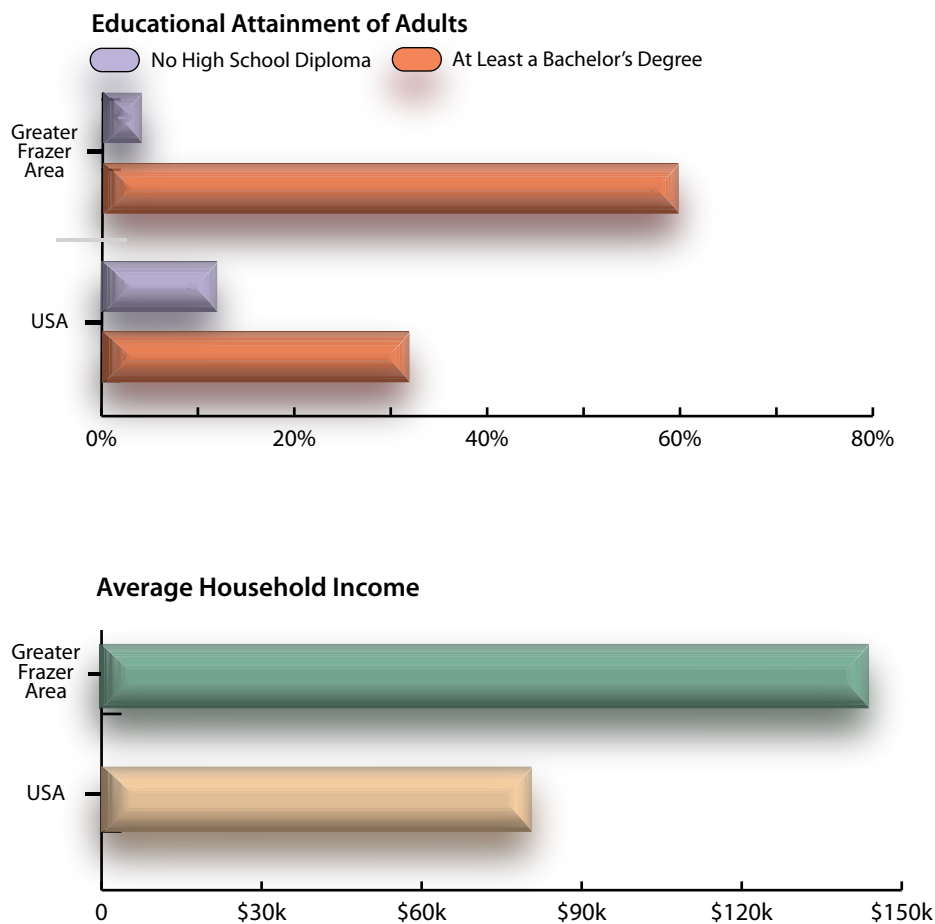
Exodus 34:6-7. The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, ... (NRSV)

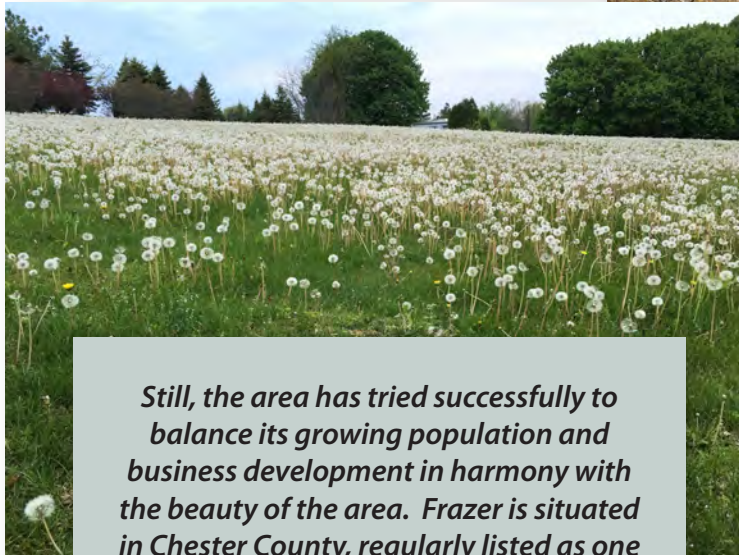
Ephesians 2:8. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. (NRSV)

Where We Live

Covenant Presbyterian is located in the town of Frazer, Pennsylvania – about 35 miles west of Philadelphia. Frazer is a small community and one of many that developed as the railroad was extended west in the mid 1800s – a stretch of towns now known as the Main Line. The greater Frazer area, including towns such as Malvern, Exton, and West Chester, is home to numerous large companies including QVC, The Vanguard Group, Saint-Gobain North America, and Keystone Foods. These and other prosperous companies provide for a vibrant economy and contribute to the local tax base to create first rate facilities. Many of the surrounding school districts are annually rated among the best in Pennsylvania. And the local Paoli and West Chester hospitals are part of the acclaimed Main Line Health and Penn Medicine Systems.

All of this adds up to a demographic area with education and income levels higher than the national averages.





Still, the area has tried successfully to balance its growing population and business development in harmony with the beauty of the area. Frazer is situated in Chester County, regularly listed as one of the best places to live in America. This, in large part, is due to the county government's decision in 1989 to start buying up land as part of its Open Space Preservation program. To date, more than 140,000 acres (larger than the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh combined) have been purchased and designated as open space – unavailable for development of any kind. Thus, despite all of its economic development, the area still maintains a rural feel, full of open meadows and winding country roads.



Where We Have Been

Covenant Presbyterian Church began in 1976, but its story extends back many years before that, with the histories of the First Presbyterian Church of Malvern and the East Whiteland Presbyterian Church. These two congregations joined to become Covenant Presbyterian Church.

East Whiteland Presbyterian Church began meeting as the Frazer Sunday School in May of 1839. The Sunday School was organized as the East Whiteland Presbyterian Church in 1849. East Whiteland Church was located on the current location of the Covenant campus, with the original manse built in 1842 and the church building built in 1876.

The First Presbyterian Church of Malvern was originally formed as the Presbyterian Sunday School in Malvern in 1892. The First Presbyterian Church was built on Monument Avenue in 1898. These two congregations merged to become Covenant Presbyterian Church on September 8, 1976. The first worship service was held on September 5, 1976, and was conducted by Reverend William Zulker.

Reverend Zulker was the pastor from September 1976 through June of 1977. The first Session meeting was held on September 8, 1976, and the moderator was Rev. John Poling. Allen Hommel was elected Clerk of Session and served in that position until January 1987. Frank Lammey was the first Sunday School superintendent. Alan Mennig served as the first Church Treasurer. At the time of the merger, the Finance committee noted a combined balance of \$64,330.49 from East Whiteland and Malvern. Charles Hughes was authorized to take the necessary steps to procure a buyer for the Malvern property and at the January 1977 Session meeting, the Elders voted to accept an offer of \$77,000 from Malvern Methodist for that property.

The First Annual Meeting was held on January 23, 1977. By-laws were adopted for the newly formed church and the first class of Elders and Deacons were ordained and installed a week later. At the February 9, 1977 Session meeting, the Elders voted to amend the new church's name to Covenant United Presbyterian Church for incorporation purposes (there was already a Covenant Presbyterian Church located in King of Prussia).

Reverend Kenneth Young was the first pastor called to the new church after Session approval on April 3, 1977. Reverend Young served from June of 1977 through September of 1988. Interim Pastor, Rev. Clyde Griffith served from September 1988 through October 31, 1989.

Dr. James Moyer has been our longest serving head pastor, serving from November 1989 until February, 2021. Under Dr. Moyer's leadership, Covenant has grown. He presided over our acquisition of a nearby building to become the Covenant Community Life Center and oversaw a several renovations and enlarging of the main church building, modernizing the facility and adding new classrooms and additional space in our Fellowship Hall.

Associate pastors who served at Covenant include:

Reverend Marcia Woodruff, Associate Pastor - September 13, 1987 through April 20, 1990

Reverend Nina Reeder, Associate Pastor - December 1999 through March 2001

Reverend. Geoffrey Kohler, Interim Pastor - March 2002 through August 2002

Reverend Michelle Grunseich, Associate Pastor - April 22, 2001 through April 2008

Reverend Timothy Dooner, Associate Pastor - September 2008 through September 2011

Reverend Joshua Gill, Youth Director - May 19, 2013 through July 31, 2014

Reverend Patricia Stoltzfus, Associate Pastor - April 26, 2006 through April 30, 2018

Reverend. Susan Carr, Associate Pastor - April 22, 2012 through March 9, 2018

Reverend Alex Becker, Associate Pastor - November 11, 2018 to present



Covenant Presbyterian Church today

Through the Years ...



East Whiteland Presbyterian Church
circa 1940



Frazer Sunday School circa 1839



First Presbyterian Church of Malvern
circa 1898



East Whiteland Presbyterian Church
circa 1969



Covenant United Presbyterian Church
circa 1994

Mission and Ministry at Covenant

Covenant's commitment to mission has been evident from the start, as mission groups were formed early on including Meals on Wheels and the Hunger Task Force. In April of 1979, Covenant was one of six local churches that participated in the first 10 mile "Crop Walk" to raise money for the Community Hunger Appeal of Church World Services. The church has participated every year since.



Through the years the Covenant campus has seen many changes to accommodate a growing congregation and more missions to the community. In May, 1979 the first building project that modified the sanctuary and office spaces and added pews and the choir loft was completed. The arch behind the pulpit was constructed by extending into fellowship hall behind the sanctuary. In the mid-1980's the lower level kitchen was renovated. A building project called "A Covenant to Build" was approved in May of 1992. This project made major changes and improvements to the church building including the addition of classrooms on the 2nd



floor, the installation of an elevator, and the creation of additional parking. Finally, in 2015 "The Time Is Now" building campaign saw the acquisition of an adjacent building that became home to the Covenant Community Life Center and the People's Pantry. It also funded an expansion of the church building providing more office and classroom space, an enlarged nursery and common area, and the installation of much needed AV technology.

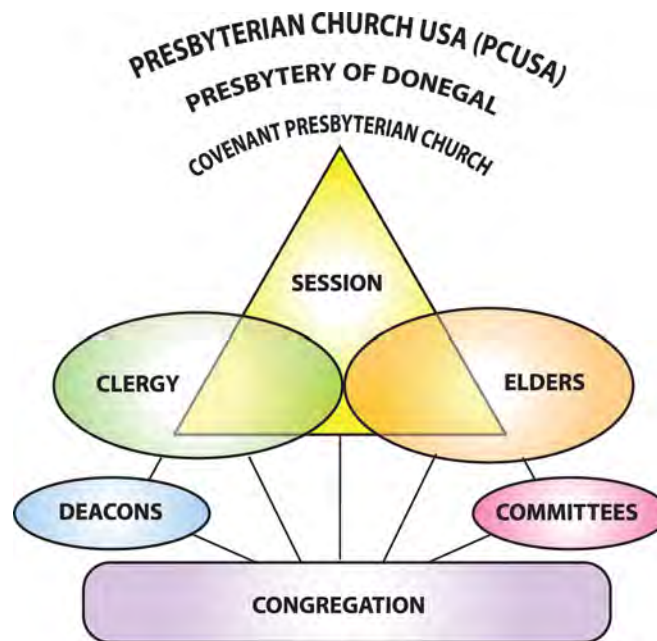


How We Function

The laity, elders, deacons and ministerial staff of Covenant Presbyterian work cooperatively with one another to promote the worship of God and provide for the needs of the congregation.

Covenant is a member of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) and under the authority of the Presbytery of Donegal. The Presbytery of Donegal is a regional gathering of Presbyterian Churches from the Reformed tradition. Called to love our neighbors and to befriend all, the Presbytery encourages healthy relationships and processes at all levels and serves to support local, national and world mission opportunities.

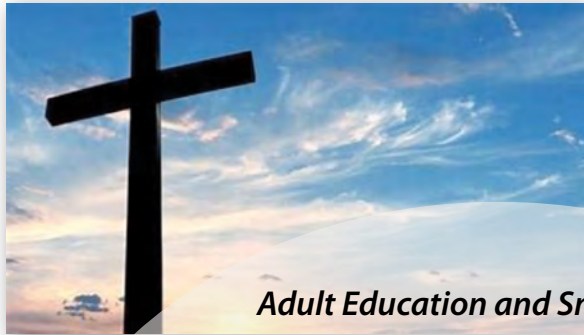
Within the body of the church, the ruling body, known as the Session, sets policy and direction based upon the directives and guidelines established by PCUSA. The Ministerial and support staffs are hired by and report directly to the Session.



Session

15 ruling elders comprise the church Session. Members serve a rotating 3 year term with 5 new members replacing the outgoing 5 members each year. Session has final authority over matters brought before it other than those defined by PCUSA policy that require approval from the church body or the Presbytery. The senior pastor acts as moderator of Session and is aided by an elected Clerk of Session, who acts as recording secretary.

Standing Committees



Adult Education and Small Groups

Children and Family Ministries

Church Growth and Evangelism

Communications

Facilities

Hospitality

Missions

Nominating Committee

Personnel/Administration

Stewardship/Finance

Worship and Music

Youth Ministry



*All standing committees and all special committees,
report directly to Session and are typically headed by a
sitting, ruling elder.*

Board of Deacons

15 members ordained as Deacons act as a primary outreach to the needs of the congregation. We believe it is a calling to be a Deacon. God has given the Deacons a calling to administer to those who are in need. That need may be emotional, physical, spiritual, monetary or otherwise. The Deacons seek to fulfill their calling through prayer, actions, and visitation. Among the services handled by the Deacons are:

Home communion for those who cannot physically attend worship

Home visitation to members in nursing homes, etc.

Card ministry – sending cards to those who are ill or are celebrating a life event.

Helping Hands – bringing meals and other needed services to those who may be ill or recovering from surgery.

Hospitality – serving coffee after worship. Assisting with weddings and funerals.



Pastoral Staff

The current pastoral staff includes:



Rev. Dr. James Moyer, Senior Pastor

Dr. Jim is passionate about serving the church of Jesus Christ, bringing over 30 years of experience to this ministry. His primary responsibilities are focused on preaching and sharing of the church's leadership with the Session and staff. Jim has served as the moderator of Donegal Presbytery as well as on different presbytery committees. Jim's educational background includes religious studies at Princeton Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity) and Palmer University (Doctor of Ministry). Jim and his wife Mary have been married for 46 years and rejoice

with three grown children and three grandchildren. When not serving at Covenant, Jim and Mary are known to frequent lower, slower Delaware, and can be found crabbing, swimming, and devouring Christian literature and the Washington Post.

The Pastoral Staff is responsible for all preaching during normal worship services and special worship services throughout the year. The staff also performs hospital visitations, officiates at weddings and funerals, coordinates the make up of the worship services, and generally ministers to the congregation and the community. Along with the Session, they provide the direction for the church and establish its goals and objectives.



Rev. Alex Becker, Associate Pastor

Alex came to Covenant after pastoral positions at Langcliffe Presbyterian Church in Avoca, PA, Henryville Community Presbyterian Church and Mount Lebanon Presbyterian Church, both in Henryville, IN. He earned a bachelor's degree in biblical studies from Messiah College and a Master of Divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Alex's primary responsibilities include preaching, caregiving, visitation, and supporting missions. He and his wife Corinna have three cats, two dogs, and one rabbit, who bring great joy into their lives.

Jennifer Langlois, Director of Family Educational Ministries

Jen's involvement at Covenant began with the children's mission outreach during Sunday School. When the part-time Director of Children's Ministries position was defined in 2012, she felt a strong call to apply. In the years since, she has grown the children's program and developed intergenerational ministry with the support of a large team of creative, dedicated volunteers. Beyond Sunday morning opportunities, she runs our summer Faith, Arts, Science, FUN Week which includes morning Vacation Bible School with afternoon special interest activities and a summer reading program in partnership with Great Valley School District. Outside of church, Jen loves spending time with her husband, Noel, and children, Matt and Jess, traveling, and watching superhero movies and television shows (especially Marvel)



Assisting Jen are: Nursery Providers Sue Waxler and Monica Gildner. Collectively they have over 60 years of childcare experience.



Tom Sabatino, Director of Music

Tom has been a church musician since 1982. He has served as a Director of Music, tenor soloist, percussionist, and pianist. In addition to his role at Covenant, Tom is the Product Sales Manager for J.W. Pepper & Son. Prior to working with Pepper, Tom taught general, instrumental, and vocal music in Delaware public schools for 31 years. He was active in the Delaware Music Educators Association where he served as President and All-State Chorus Chair, and ACDA where he served as chair for High School Standards and Repertoire.

Assisting Tom are:

Patti Mann – Handbell Conductor for over 30 years;
Linda Sauerteig - Organist;
Bonnie Summerfield - Pianist

Kinsey & Jamie Edgar-Nielsen, Co-Youth Directors



Kinsey and Jamie Edgar-Nielsen joined the Covenant Presbyterian Church staff in 2018. Kinsey has her Master's Degree in School Psychology. Jamie has his Master's in Business Administration. Both studied at Eastern University for their Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees. While Jamie grew up in Japan, Kinsey was raised at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Both work full-time jobs throughout the week and love leading the Covenant Youth Ministry in an effort to impact the spiritual development of the teenagers.

Administrative & Support Staff

Lynn Kraihanzel, Church Administrator

Lynn is a graduate of Conestoga High School and Eastern University with a degree in Elementary Education. After seven years at Church of the Savior in Wayne where she served as the full-time Preschool Ministry Associate, Lynn joined Covenant in 2018, bringing her administrative gifts and infectious personality. Lynn and her husband Kris have three daughters. Her hobbies include watching classic movies and spending time with her family and dog.



The administrative and support staff provide all book keeping, communication, organizational and clerical support to the ministerial staff, session, deacons, and congregation.



Kim McNamara, Assistant Church Administrator

Kim was born and raised in Michigan, where she attended Michigan State University and graduated with a degree in Package Engineering. She worked for Lehn & Fink, and then for Lederle Labs and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals as a Senior Package Engineer for 15 years before taking a break to complete her family. She and her husband, Michael, have been married for 20 years and they have three fabulous girls together.

Phil Pennington, Porter

Phil was born and raised in Delaware County. He earned a BS in Accounting from Drexel University. He retired in 2017 after a career in private accounting. He and his wife Maria have 4 children and 6 grandchildren. They have been members of Covenant for the past 23 years. Phil is a sports enthusiast, watching all sports on TV. He enjoys the Chester Valley Trail and playing a round of golf.

Covenant Preschool

Covenant Pres. is thrilled and honored to host a weekday preschool in the church building. Covenant Preschool strives to respect each child's uniqueness and provides a program in which every child can safely explore his/her world through developmentally appropriate activities that foster cognitive, emotional, physical, social and spiritual growth.

Goals of this program include:

To provide a safe, clean, loving and nurturing Christian environment where each child can develop academically, physically, emotionally and socially;

To help each child develop a sense of security, self-confidence and cooperation while preparing them for kindergarten;

To let children know there is a caring, forgiving God and to know God's place in their lives.

Leading this school are:

Karen Karcher, Preschool Director

Karen received a degree in Elementary Education from West Chester University and began her career as a first grade teacher and then became a director of a child care center. Sixteen years ago Karen assumed the position of Director of Covenant Preschool. Karen and her husband have three children. She is an avid reader and loves spending time with her family at the beach.



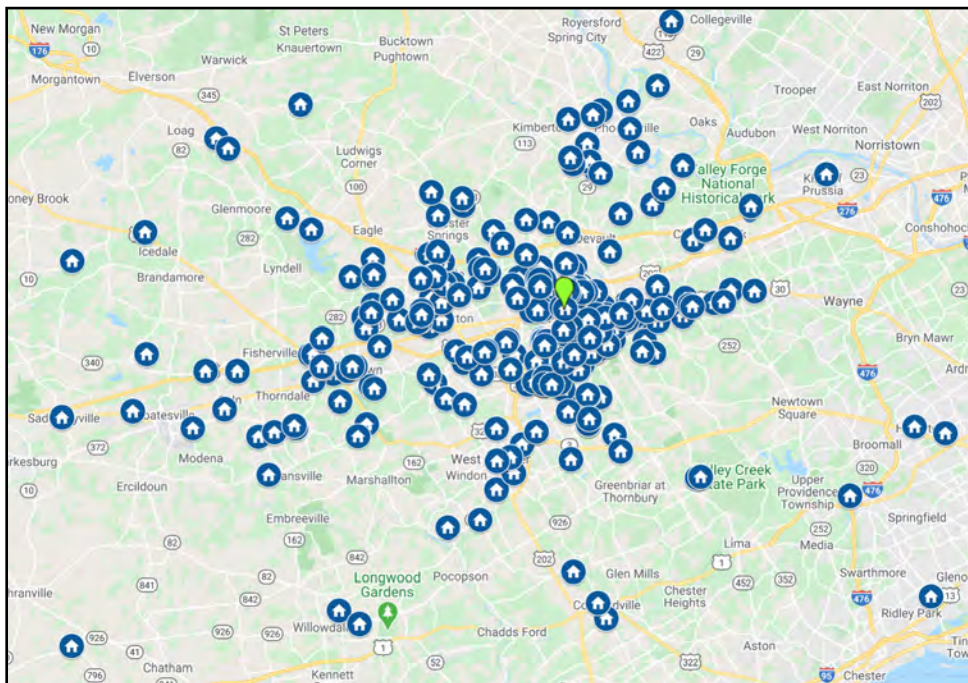
Bobbie Smith, Preschool Teacher

Bobbie has been teaching young minds for nearly 20 years at Covenant Preschool. She and her husband live in West Chester, where they raised 3 amazing sons. Bobbie enjoys spending summers on the Chesapeake and is very involved with David's Drive 831, a charitable organization raising money for homeless and hospitalized veterans.

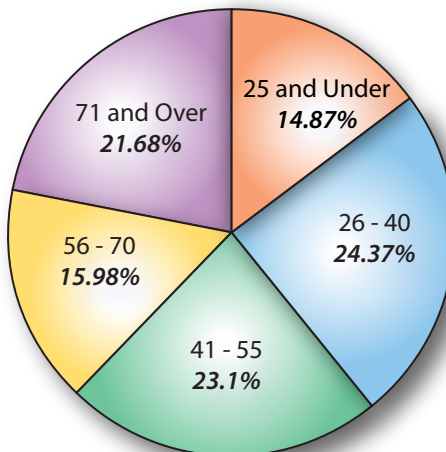
The Congregation

The body of our church is made up of members who come from diverse spiritual and socio-economic backgrounds. Over the years, the church has welcomed many new members who previously had been non-Presbyterians. These members identified themselves as previously belonging to one of 17 denominations including Catholic, Baptist, Jewish and 7th Day Adventists.

Formal demographics of the body show that the membership is currently at 630 people, with about 300 of them being regular attenders. The geographical distribution is quite wide, but 80% of the congregation reside within a 10 mile radius of the church.

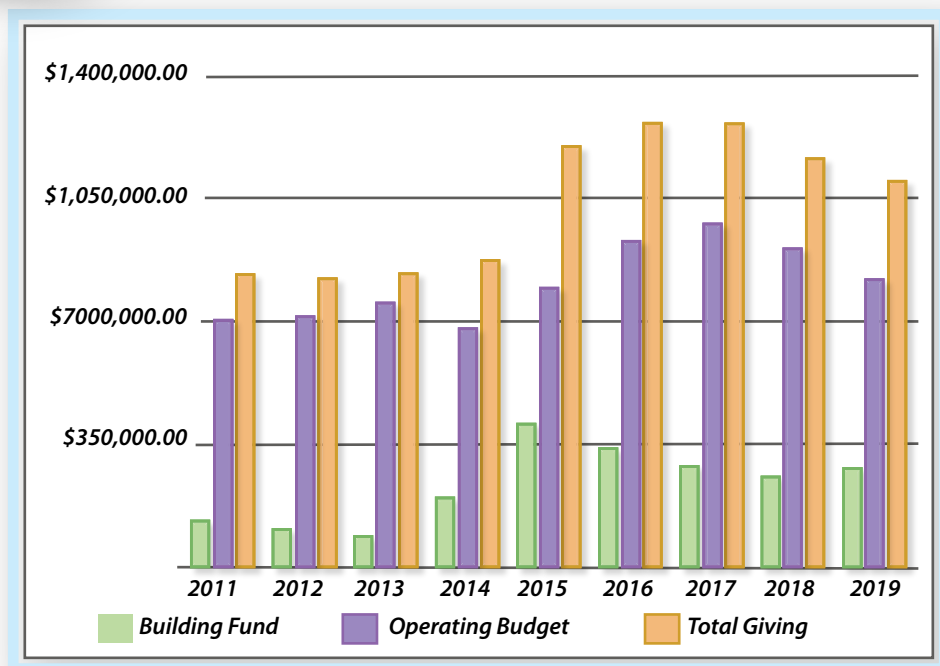
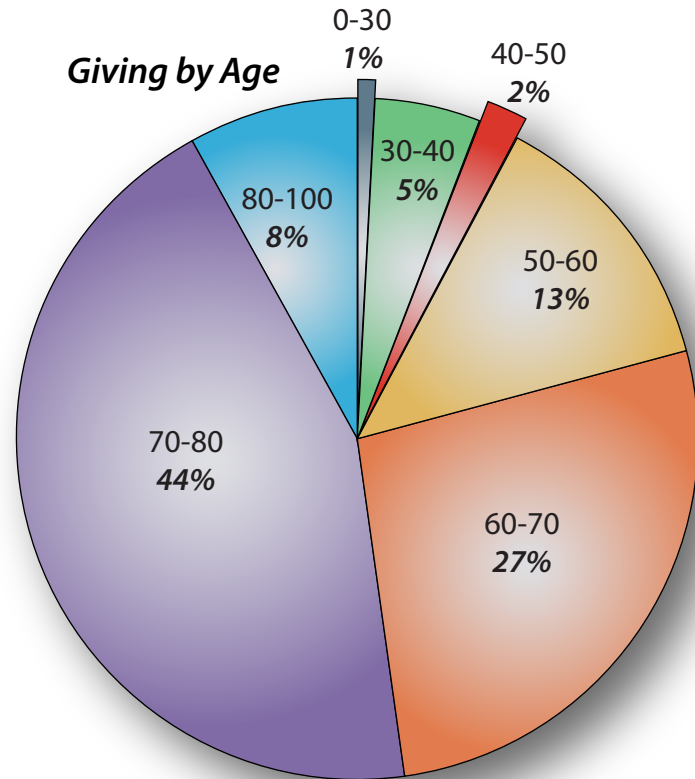
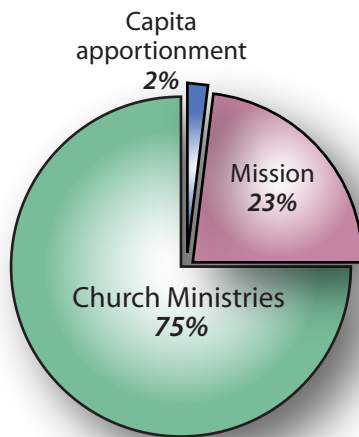


Distribution by age shows a balanced membership, though many of those 25 and under are away at college and do not attend regularly. While our traditional worship style attracts many “older” new members, we continue to add a mix of young and old with each new member class.



Financial Stewardship Trends

Age	Giving
0-30	2,806.00
30-40	20,305.00
40-50	4,871.00
50-60	53,175.00
60-70	108,335.05
70-80	178,308.00
80-100	32,917.05



Financial giving has remained constant as have commitments to the latest building fund.

How We Relate

One of the greatest strengths of Covenant is the way we relate with each other. Many members claim they joined the church because of the warm and welcoming atmosphere they felt when first attending worship. The congregation is open, down to earth, and very caring for those who are members or just visiting. We enjoy “doing life” with one another and this is shown in how we relate to each other both inside and outside of the church.

INSIDE THE CHURCH

Worship: Formal worship is held at three Sunday morning services throughout the academic year, typically 7:30, 8:30, and 11:00 (summer hours vary). Worship follows a traditional format filled with hymn singing, scripture reading, corporate prayer, and a sermon. The setting is very relaxed with no formal dress code, and the ministerial staff keeps the atmosphere light and inviting. The fellowship time after each service provides an opportunity to connect with friends and co-worshippers and share in God’s love and faithfulness to the congregation. Together, Sunday worship is the hub of all activity at Covenant.

A Wednesday night Taizé service is held once a month. This solemn service offers a time of prayer, meditation, music and comfort in an intimate setting. While no formal lesson is given, scripture readings and prayer guide the evening and encourage worshippers to draw closer to God.

Music Ministry: Music is an integral part of worship at Covenant. It is vibrant and varied, full of the faith-filled expressions of a diverse body of believers. We have music programs for everyone at Covenant including:

Chancel Choir - who sing traditional hymns and anthems.

Worship Choir - an expanded Chancel Choir group that performs at our Christmas and Palm Sunday services.

Covenant Bells – handbell choir who perform traditional hymns and anthems.





Youth Bells – youth and young adults combine to perform traditional hymns and anthems.

Youth Band – Playing contemporary Christian music at youth group and selected services.

Angel Choir – Comprised of singers under age 12.

Bible Study: Sunday school is offered each week for both adults and teens. Two adult classes are offered, Adult Bible Study which focuses on an individual book of the Bible; and Adult Seminar which takes a thematic approach. Women's Bible Study is held on Wednesday evenings. Youth Sunday School is by age groups with Confirmation Class being held for 10th graders. Younger children are offered age appropriate content.

Youth Ministry: Equipped with a recently renovated youth center, Covenant's long history of youth ministry continues to grow. Students from four different school districts attend Sunday evening youth group where they socialize, have fun, and grow in faith together. As they learn more about God's love for them and mature in their faith, they are encouraged to spread that love to others through various outreach missions and community events. Each year the youth go on various retreats and mission trips, allowing them to grow and apply their faith. They also lead the entire congregation in worship on Youth Sunday.



Family Ministry:

Family Ministry: Under the leadership of Jen Langlois, Director of Family Educational Ministries, Covenant has expanded traditional children ministry to a larger vision. We strive to provide multiple pathways for children to learn about God, experience God's love, practice worship arts, and explore their gifts with peers and between generations. Ministry opportunities are available only by the generous gifts of time and talent shared by our Covenant volunteers.

Children's Church:

When we gather, our nursery is open for babies and toddlers. Our experienced nursery staff has both state and federal clearances and provides an introduction to the Bible through lessons and stories. And, ***Children's Church*** is held during the second half of 11:00 worship for children ages 3 through grade 5. Various inter-generational opportunities are scheduled throughout the year for fellowship, education, and worship. For example, in the summer, we share Faith, Arts, Science, FUN Week which includes morning Vacation Bible School with afternoon special interest activities and a summer reading program in partnership with Great Valley School District.



Vacation Bible School



Small Groups: Covenant offers many other small group opportunities to meet others and grow together in faith. Among them are:

Promise Keepers

LIFT (Living In Faith Together)

Covenant Quilters

Presbyterian Women



Covenant Quilters



LIFT (Living in Faith Together)



Prayer Shawl Ministry

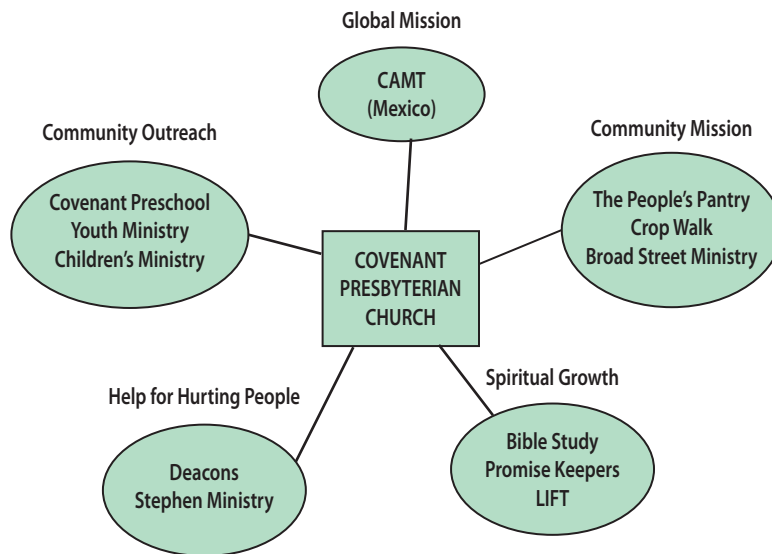


**stephen
MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministry at Covenant: Stephen Ministry is a distinctively Christian care ministry where clergy and laity work together to provide quality one-to-one care to meet the needs of people experiencing a wide range of life circumstances or crises. Stephen Ministry at Covenant began in 2011. Since then we have continued to grow and serve the Covenant family. Today the Stephen Ministry at Covenant has twelve Stephen Ministers who stand ready to serve. Our Vision Statement states it well. We are led by the Holy Spirit to meet, seek out, and support struggling people in our church and our community; to listen to them, to pray with them, and to act lovingly to meet their needs.

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

Missions: Covenant's Adult Mission Team (CAMT) is active in our local community and beyond. We spearhead annual teams to assist Faith Ministry which serves the population in Reynosa, Mexico, including building a home, scholarships to students, and establishing a music program. CAMT also sends monthly teams to support Broad Street Ministries in Philadelphia. We organize a yearly meal packaging event for Rise Against Hunger as well as other workday opportunities for organizations in our area. Covenant is home to the Eric



What Covenant Does in the World Around Us

Brown Music Scholarship Fund which supports music/music therapy lessons for those with financial need. Covenant also partners with Great Valley School District and other organizations to provide gifts for those households that would otherwise not be able to afford gifts for their children in a Christmas Outreach program. Last year 490 children benefited from the program.

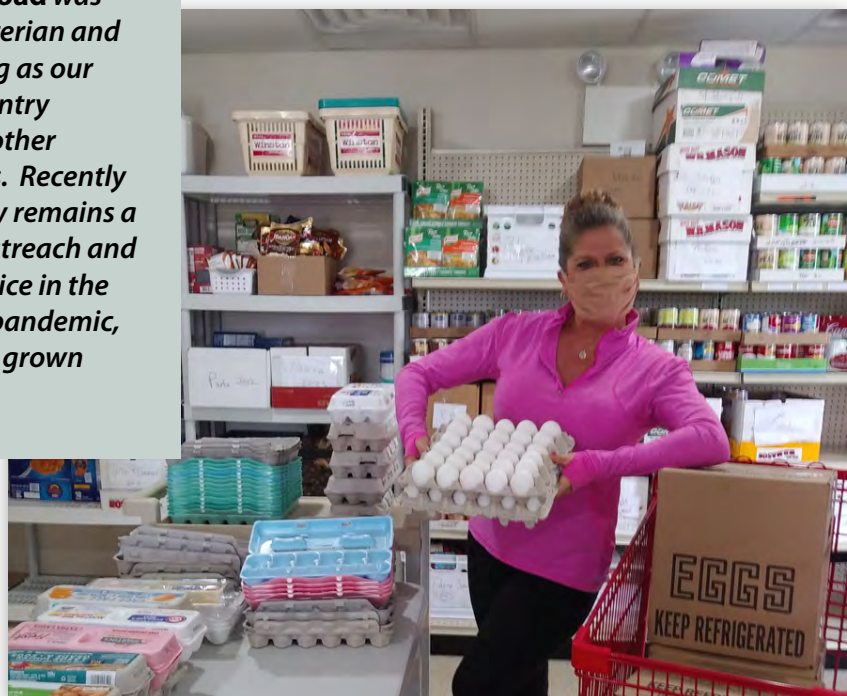


Church members volunteer their time, treasures, and talents at a variety of worthy organizations, following Jesus's great commission to spread the word to Frazer, Pennsylvania, and the world. We are believers in spreading our resources among many diverse groups; some of the organizations we have supported in the past 12 months are listed below:

Bridge of Hope
 Broad Street Ministries
 Chester County Food Bank
 Chester County Migrant Ministries c/o PA
 Council of Churches
 Community Volunteers in Medicine
 Community Warehouse Project
 County Correction Gospel Mission
 Decent Life Volunteers
 Domestic Violence Center of Chester County
 EduKenya
 Encuentra Latino Church of Elverson, PA
 Evangelical Alliance Mission –
 (Jim Nielson - missionary in Japan)
 Faith Ministry

Family Lives On Foundation
 Friends of Presbyterian Education Board
 Good Works
 Habitat for Humanity of Chester County
 La Iglesias España Toughkennamon
 Mission Yearbook
 Mom's House
 PA Home of the Sparrow
 Push the Rock
 Rise Against Hunger
 Safe Harbor of Greater West Chester
 Salvation Army
 Sneakers for Soldiers (founded by a
 Covenant member)
 Surrey Services for Seniors
 Villages in Partnership – Malawi
 Wings for Success

Now an independent 501c3, The People's Pantry at Church Road was founded by Covenant Presbyterian and is located in the same building as our youth center. The People's Pantry provides food, clothing, and other needed items to local families. Recently expanded, the People's Pantry remains a major focus of our mission outreach and provides a much-needed service in the community. In this year of a pandemic, the pantry's constituency has grown from 65 to 109 families.



What Makes Us Us

A recent round of Congregational Conversations sought to define the core traits of the church. When asked what traits brought them to Covenant, the following responses were given:



Indeed, Covenant Pres. is best defined by the open and welcoming nature of its congregation. Many new members remark about how they quickly felt accepted and loved by the church. Our motto – that Covenant is our spiritual home, where God's love has the run of the house remains a key focus for the church.

Where We Are Going

Covenant Presbyterian Church is proud of our history and heritage and we are looking to the future with great hope and excitement. Our Congregational Conversations and surveys have identified specific needs and desired goals for the near future.

GROWING OUR CHURCH

We strive to continue to be a spiritual home where God's love has the run of the house. The Covenant Church community is a welcoming, accepting, and diverse group of people who encourage and affirm each person's faith journey. We believe that faith expands in community and our community is built on a strong foundation of genuine and caring relationships. We have a relaxed, inviting, and relational culture filled with the joy of Jesus Christ. We seek to expand and accelerate our tradition of welcoming new members and families to our Church. We recognize that the future of Covenant Presbyterian Church is dependent upon retaining current and attracting new members and families, taking advantage of the rapid new housing growth in our area.

Priority will be given to preparation for the continued operational and financial viability of the Church. Emphasis will be placed on succession planning for future generations of deacons, elders, and volunteers who serve the missions, church operations, and the needs of the members. Attention will also be given to creating greater equity in giving to reduce our financial dependence upon the age 60 and older members who contribute well over 70% of our annual financial giving.

New virtual Church capabilities will allow us to expand our reach. A strong digital and social media presence and improved search optimization were identified as imperative to our Church growth. We understand that streaming our worship service will provide increased access to members in remote locations and to those who may want to worship with us virtually and gain a sense of our Church community. Social media will provide a platform for sharing inspirational content, news, updates, and further sharing of Covenant's posts and increasing the impact of our ministry. Further, we will reach people across a greater geographic area.

EVANGELISM

Expanding the reach of our Church by regionalizing our Church community will assist in our desire for greater diversity among our members. We will increase efforts to encourage families who participate in Covenant's Children's ministries programs, Scouts, and the People's Pantry to join us as members of the Church.

Our congregation suggested that allowing use of the Church facilities by groups external to the Church but serving the community will provide exposure of our facilities and of our Church community to potential new members.

Our members have articulated a desire to improve and increase our evangelism opportunities through robust community outreach initiatives that will include bringing our word and access to our Church services to those in retirement communities and elder-care facilities, ethnic communities, and to young families.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Our Children's Ministry and Youth Group Program are core ministries of Covenant Presbyterian Church. We are committed to grow these ministries that nurture faith and discipleship in children, teens, and families. We strongly believe that there is a continued need for emphasis on these two ministries and that they remain a primary focus for the Church. Investment of resources and staff for these ministry programs is an investment in the future of our Church community.

MISSIONS

Covenant Presbyterian Church has a strong menu of missions in the community, regionally and internationally. Taking the Church outside the building and into the community to build a stronger faith community and increase membership is also identified as a priority for our future.

WORSHIP

We seek to provide a meaningful and accessible virtual and live Church community and faith experience. We recognize that new and returning members are coming to the Church from different points in their faith journey, and that the platforms for worship are evolving as are the needs of our members.

Our congregational conversations have brought to light the desire for adding an alternate service to meet the needs of young adults and families who, due to timing conflicts of work or children's sports, may not feel able to fully participate in services or the Church community.

Who Will Lead Us

Covenant Presbyterian Church Community looks forward to a Lead Pastor who will humbly seek divine guidance and work with our congregation, staff and leadership to discern God's specific mission for the future of this Church and lead us faithfully to fulfill this calling.

PREACHING AND WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Our Lead Pastor must embrace and project the identity and character of the congregation through a dynamic and engaging worship leadership presence. He or she must possess the ability to artfully deliver a well prepared biblically based sermon with a clear and consistent message that inspires from the pulpit, speaks to all age groups, touches us spiritually by making Christ real, and challenges us to live more faithfully.

COLLABORATION ON VISION

The Lead Pastor will be able to take a higher-level perspective of the Church Community to remain focused on the organization's larger picture. She or he must successfully work with session to collaborate on casting a compelling and inspired vision for a preferred future. This person must have the ability to lead change processes while anchoring them in the congregation's/organization's vision and mission; translating a vision into a strategic plan with goals, timeframes, and deliverables. The Lead Pastor must be able to analyze data and trends accurately and draw on those to predict future impacts and to anticipate consequences. This person must have the ability to effectively negotiate and navigate organizational and political landscapes on behalf of the Church's mission.

NURTURING SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF THE CONGREGATION

We seek a Lead Pastor who will embrace and cultivate our loving culture built on trust and respect. He or she must be exceptional at nurturing and maintaining solid relationships, encouraging teamwork, and leading by example to motivate, inspire, and complement others. She or he must have the skills and desire to nurture the spiritual growth of all those who worship with us.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Our next Lead Pastor will have refined administrative leadership skills to lead and work effectively and collaboratively with our Church leadership, congregation, and Pastoral and administrative staff to develop a true team approach that will produce an effective ministry. They must be fiscally and technologically competent and possess the ability to creatively and collaboratively work on models and systems to build a productive and effective operational and Pastoral infrastructure. The Lead Pastor must possess a consistent ability to build solid relationships of trust and respect inside and outside of the organization. They must have the leadership skills to engage people, organizations, and partners in developing goals, executing plans, and delivering results. They must have refined negotiation skills and adaptability to encourage recognition of joint concerns, collaboration, and to influence the success of outcomes.

PASTORAL COUNSELING FOR MEMBERS AND FAMILIES

Our next Lead Pastor must be welcoming, approachable, compassionate, empathetic, and be moved to minister to the spiritual and emotional needs of our Church members; including serving as advocate and advisor while simultaneously and responsibly stewarding the Church's time, talents, and treasures. They must be able to successfully teach, counsel, and

