



# THE CORNERSTONE



January 2023

## Our Vision

We envision a church that proclaims the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ by identifying itself as a church of and for our community.

We envision a church that, following the example of Jesus, prays, welcomes people of every race, class or human condition, and encourages everyone to fulfill his or her ministry.

## SESSION

Rev. Steven Andrews

Interim Pastor

Letha Chadiha,

Clerk of Session

Paul Backer

Lori Davis

Walt Grainger

Bob Krenz

Candi Moss

Ima Moss

Osric Reavis

Linda Scott

Jim Albers, Treasurer

## DEACONS

Anita Briggs

Orlandra Brown

Loretta Hill

Helen Hurst

Niki Krenz

Donna Lenhart

Paul Moss

Sylvia Payne

Glen Smith

## Pastor's Corner



This month, as I prepare to begin my ministry with you, I want to introduce myself a little more, and tell you about why I am excited to become a pastor at Covenant.

One of the things that makes Covenant special is its existence as a multiracial community. There are other communities where you will find people of more than one race, but most of them are not like Covenant: a place where people of different races get to know each other and truly embrace each other as family.

Given that, I'd like to tell you about some of the other multiracial communities I've been privileged to be a part of.

In college, I was a member of a fraternity where about a third of the members were international students. We had people from India, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Mexico, Rwanda, China, and Myanmar, as well as a rich racial and cultural tapestry from within the U.S. I was glad to be part of an organization that could create a sense of welcome and a simulacrum of home for so many people.

After college, I worked as a G.E.D. Prep and English as a Second Language instructor for adult ex-offenders on home detention, probation, and parole. Among both our staff and our clients, there were people of multiple races and backgrounds. When I worked there, there were moments when I thought about going to law school. I believed many of my clients were innocent and could have benefited from a good public defender, someone who really cared about them and would fight for them.

But rather than law school, God called me to seminary. I attended Columbia Theological Seminary in the greater Atlanta area, and while there, I was highly involved in homeless ministries and a domestic violence ministry. I also worked for a year and a half as a reading and writing tutor at a community college. After seminary, I worked as a chaplain resident at Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta's version of Truman: an urban, public, trauma hospital, with about three times more capacity than Truman. As you may imagine, there was some diversity there.

I met my wife at seminary, and we spent the first year and a half of our married lives living in an intentional Christian community in an economically-wounded neighborhood of Atlanta, a neighborhood that is pretty similar to Covenant's. There, I partnered with a Pentecostal minister, and we started a G.E.D. Prep ministry together.

The most important multiracial community I have been part of is my family. My sister's ex-husband is black, and their three kids are of mixed race. My niece, Tracey, was killed on the night of Thanksgiving, 2019. She left behind two siblings. Latrell is 26, and works as a line chef in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Antwon is 19, and he is an active-duty member of the Marine Corps, stationed in North Carolina. I'm proud of them both in different ways.

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## Session Snippets

November's Total Income was \$23,658.08. Total Expenses were \$12,485.35; Net Income was \$11,172.73. Pledged Income was 91.3% of budgeted pledged income. An anonymous 2023 designated donation (\$11,400) accounted for a large portion of Total Income.

Presbyterian Urban and Immigrant Ministry Network (PUIMN) has approved a 2023 grant (\$8,555) for Covenant's ministries.

Adult Sunday School (ADS) is studying what it means to be a Matthew 25 Church. Three new persons have joined ADS.

Church Safety Team recommends Rev. Steven Andrews, Interim Pastor starting January 1, begin a neighborhood engagement campaign this spring.

Approved a motion to receive the Interim Pastor Search Committee Report, to thank the IPSC, and to disband the committee. Approved a motion from Stewardship Committee to repay the remaining balance (~\$3,000) of the 2022 per capita funds. Approved a motion to use the Christmas Eve Offering to meet the needs of persons needing warm clothes.

Worship Committee's plans for Advent, Christmas, and January 2023:

- \* November 27 - Worship included the children's pageant;
- \* December 14 - Poinsettia order deadline
- \* December 18 and 25 - Poinsettias displayed December 18 and 25;
- \* December 18 - Choir presentation "Let There Be Light" on December 18
- \* December 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 5 P.M. with Communion and Paul Moss preaching
- \* December 25 - Christmas Day Service at 10:30 with video sermon and 10:00 A.M. fellowship time
- \* January 29 - Joint worship service with Second at Covenant



Received the December Pantry and Office Report from Orlandra Brown, Office Administrator.

Rev. Coulter expressed appreciation for serving as Session Moderator in the interim. Session thanked Rev. Coulter for exemplary service as Session Moderator, presenting him with a signed Thank-You Card and \$100 Panera Gift Card.

## Spiritual Life

At its December meeting, the Spiritual Life Committee discussed our presentation at the last Session meeting concerning our suggestions for possible placement of the Committee's functions under the direction of the Session, especially in light of our Matthew 25 Church focus. Additionally, the committee discussed areas which we feel are special priorities, and we will forward that information to the Session. Our next Zoom meeting will be at 10 A.M. on January 21. All are welcome.

## Food Pantry

Our Community Food Pantry was open 14 days in December. Covenant Church spent \$3,179 to feed 367 households, comprised of 513 adults, 414 children, and 128 seniors.

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

**JANUARY PANTRY REQUEST: Peanut Butter**

## Covenant Youth Events (6th-12th Grades)

Sunday, January 8,  
Noon-1:30 P.M., youth join and bring a friend as we eat lunch, talk about the meaning of **Epiphany**, and share a Kings Cake.



Monday, January 16, 9:00 A.M.- 4:30 P.M., our youth and friends will attend the **Heartland Presbytery Winter Youth Event 2023!** We will begin our time together with mixers, worship, a service project, and lunch at First Presbyterian Church. We will conclude with tubing fun at Snow Creek Ski Area. Please let Lori know if you plan to attend because registration is required for this event.

## JANUARY 2023

*This calendar is also on our website.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Osric Reavis III</b> <b>Montel Williams</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> <b>COMMUNION</b> <b>SUNDAY</b> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>2</b> <b>OFFICE &amp;</b> <b>PANTRY CLOSED</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 10:30am VPC Delivery 7:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>4</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm We Are Recovery N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	<b>5</b> 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>6</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	<b>7</b> 11:00am Stewardship 12:00pm Esoke Dance
<b>8</b> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Meet Our Pastor Sunday Potluck 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>9</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	<b>10</b> 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>11</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm We Are Recovery N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	<b>12</b> 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>13</b> 8:30am Harvesters 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	<b>14</b> <b>Chuck Eklund</b> 11:00am Session 12:00pm Esoke Dance
<b>15</b> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>16</b> <b>Andrew Krenzel</b> <b>MARTIN LUTHER</b> <b>KING JR. DAY</b> <b>OFFICE &amp;</b> <b>PANTRY CLOSED</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	<b>17</b> 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 10:30am VPC Delivery 7:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>18</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm We Are Recovery N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	<b>19</b> 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>20</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	<b>21</b> 10:00am Spiritual Life 11:00am Gunter Memorial 12:00pm Esoke Dance
<b>22</b> <b>Candi Moss</b> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>23</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	<b>24</b> <b>Cathy Hill</b> 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>25</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm We Are Recovery N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	<b>26</b> 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>27</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	<b>28</b> 12:00pm Esoke Dance
<b>29</b> 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Joint Worship with Second 12:00pm Karate Class 1:30pm Esoke Dance 5:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>30</b> <b>Paul Maddox</b> <b>Sherry Templeton</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Boy Scouts 1027	<b>31</b> 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>FEBRUARY 1</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:30pm We Are Recovery N.A. 7:15pm Bible Study	<b>FEBRUARY 2</b> 9:00am Price Chopper 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm New Fellowship AA	<b>FEBRUARY 3</b> 10:00am Food Pantry 6:00pm Esoke Dance	<b>FEBRUARY 4</b> 11:00am Stewardship 12:00pm Esoke Dance

## Pastor's Corner cont'd

*(Continued from page 1)*

For the past eight years, I've been a suburban pastor in Parkville, but my background is in urban ministry, and I've always had a heart to be at a place like Covenant. As we engage in ministry together, I look forward to getting to know you better. I have more stories to share, but what I'd like to do more than anything is learn yours.

I look forward to getting to know you in the new year.

## Sunday Worship Leadership

### Worship Leader

January 01	Paul Backer
January 08	Walt Grainger
January 15	TBA
January 22	Lori Davis
January 29	Letha Chadiha



### Church Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 641 472 5608 Passcode: Q6fy0G

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6414725608?pwd=bWhFL1JkWFhTSghjZG1SaVo2SkZHQT09>

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

## Boy Scouts Troop 1027



### UPCOMING EVENTS

January 20 - 22, Three Trails District Klondike  
February 4, Three Trails District Merit Badge Academy  
February 25, Three Trails District Awards Dinner

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Scoutmaster Andre Sidney for the recognition of the Silver Beaver Award. Below explains why the local Heart of America Scouts BSA Council recognizes Andre for this prestigious award.

*The Silver Beaver is the highest award that a council can present to its volunteers. The Silver Beaver Award is presented upon action of a Council Executive Board of one of the BSA's local Councils or the Direct Service Council for outstanding service to youth within the Council or for outstanding longtime service to youth by a registered Scouter residing within that Council. The average tenure for Silver Beaver candidates is ten years or longer. Career members of the Boy Scouts of America may receive this award upon concurrence of the Council Scout Executive and the Director of Operations at the National office, BSA.*

## Community Programs

### **Community Food Pantry**

Monday-Friday 10:00 A.M. - Noon

### **Boy Scouts Troop 1027**

Monday 7:00 P.M.

### **New Fellowship A.A.**

Sunday 5:00 P.M.

Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 P.M.

### **We are Recovery N.A.**

Wednesday 6:30 P.M.

### **Esoke Cultural Arts**

Friday 6:00 P.M.

Saturday 12:00 P.M.; Sunday 1:30 P.M.

### **Martial Arts**

Sunday 12:00 P.M.



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## Prayers

**Please include these members and friends in your prayers:**

Ed Albers  
Bryan Durant  
Lewis Fairchild  
Roy Mae Fitzpatrick  
Jean and Chuck Eklund  
Willa Ingram  
Sam Johnson  
Donna Lenhart  
Martha Lewis  
Jerry Malone  
Jerry & Regina Parrish  
Jack Raney  
Kirk Reavis  
Doug Tilton



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

## Covenant Presbyterian Church

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**Adult Sunday School 9:30 A.M.**

**Sunday Worship & Children's**

**Sunday School 10:30 A.M.**

**Wednesday Bible Study 7:15 P.M.**

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

Rev. Steven Andrews, Interim Pastor  
Orlandra Brown, Office Administrator

Bobby & Flo Houston, Custodians

Doug Tilton, R.L., South Africa

Lindsay Dunn, Nursery

Paul Backer, Choir Director

Osric K. Reavis, III, Organist

Greg Richter, Drums

Tom Pender, Guitar

Joseph Straws Jr., Bass

Sam Johnson, Drummer Emeritus