



Covenant Presbyterian Church

...a spiritual home where 'God's love has the run of the house'...

400 Lancaster Avenue, Malvern (Frazer), Pennsylvania 19355

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Rev. Alex Becker, *Lead Pastor*

Rev. Maggie Niles, *Associate Pastor*

Dara Harris, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*

Amy McLoughlin, *Director of Music*

Bonnie Sumerfield, *Pianist* Patti Mann, *Bell Choir Director*

James Looney, *Worship Technology Coordinator*

Sunday Worship Service

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Sunday, March 17, 2024

10 a.m.

To our guests: Welcome! We invite you to respond with bolded words during prayers and readings.

**All those who are able, please stand*

Assemble in God's Name

The church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus bids welcome to our Lord's house.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE.....**Salt & Light Ringers**

For the Beauty of the Earth

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Why are we here?

**We are seeking God with our whole hearts,
with our entire minds,
with a fire burning in our bones.**

You're in the right place!

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Let us worship God.

Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

***OPENING HYMN.....435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.

Instead, we often live as if we know best.

We forget that the disciples called you "Teacher."

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.

Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.

Forgive us for the moments when we imagine

that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.

Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters.

With hope and humility we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Proclaim God's Word

The God who speaks in Scripture addresses us now.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**Rev. Maggie Niles**

Children are always welcome to remain in worship! Or, after the children's message, children ages 3 - gr. 5 are invited upstairs for Children's Church during the service. Please pick up your children after the benediction.

SCRIPTURE**Matthew 18:15-22**

SERMON**Rev. Maggie Niles**
Teach Me

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION.....***Columcille and County Down*** by Iona Community/Keesecker

MOMENT FOR MISSION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (p.35)

THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE***O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*** by Praetorius

Offerings may also be given online at www.covenantfrazer.org/give.

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

BLESSING OF THE OFFERING

Go in God's Name

*The Holy Spirit sends us forth to be instruments of God's peace:
To do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with our God.*

*SENDING SONG**692**
Spirit, Open My Heart

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE***I Bind Unto Myself Today*** – St. Patrick/traditional Irish

* This worship service is livestreamed and recorded (covenantfrazer.org/live)

Thank you for worshipping with us! We are working together to create comfortable worship spaces for all our members and visitors.

- Join us in the sanctuary. Children's activities for the pew are located through the back doors of the sanctuary or on the windowsill near the front of the sanctuary.
- Adults and children are also invited to the Gathering Space for worship. A children's table with quiet activities and a rack with children's books are available for little ones.
- If you need a quieter worship space, the parlor is available.
- The nursery is open for children birth through age 3 during the service.
- A mother's nursing room is available at the end of the hallway past the bathrooms (Rm. 108).
- Please join us in the Gathering Space following the service for Covenant Connect, a time of food & fellowship.

Adult Christian Education will NOT meet on Palm Sunday nor on Easter. The class will resume on **April 7th**.

All women are welcome at **Presbyterian Women's monthly Bible study** on **Wed., March 20th at 1 p.m.** for inspiration, fellowship, and service. Lesson #6 will be discussed. In-person in the parlor with Zoom option Contact: Mary Decker; marydecker02@comcast.net.

The pantry is accepting both ham donations and ham coupons from Giant. If you have coupons, you can give them to Dolly Hatton, Mary Decker, or drop them off at the church office. For those who wish to donate hams, you can do so on the following mornings at the pantry: Sat., March 23rd, Tues., March 26th, and Wed., March 27th. Or hams can be brought directly to the church on Sundays or to the church office during office hours.

If you would like to purchase tulips for our Easter Worship Services in honor of loved ones, please fill out the form at covenantfrazer.org/easterflowers or call the church office. The cost is \$8/pot. You may pay online through the form or choose "pay later" on the form and submit a check or cash to the church office. **The deadline to order flowers is March 22nd. Payment is also due by March 22nd. Tulips may be taken home from the windowsills after either of the Easter Sunday Services on March 31st.**

Women's Retreat Saturday - May 11th Looking for a way to relax and take care of yourself? Want to treat yourself this Mother's Day? Come hang out with your fellow congregants and Pastor Maggie for a Women's retreat on Sat. May 11th. This retreat, "Spirituality in Daily Life; Encountering God in Ordinary Ways" is for any woman of any age who wishes to discover God in our daily rhythms of life. This will be a day of spending time in nature, reflecting, journaling, and getting in touch with our spirituality. We will be meeting offsite, and a catered lunch will be provided. This is a great opportunity to invite friends - no religious affiliation needed! **The location is TBD and based on interested. Please RSVP to Pastor Maggie as soon as possible to let her know you are interested!** mniles@covenantfrazer.org

Volunteers and donations are needed for the **Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event in the CCLC on May 18th**. 10-15 people are needed for set-up from 8:30-10 a.m. and 65 people for packing from 10 a.m.-12 noon with clean up immediately following. Sign up to volunteer at the welcome desk or volunteer/donate online at covenantfrazer.org/RAH.

Camp Firelight (Vacation Bible School) will be taking place June 24-28, 2024! Sign up on the board in the Gathering Space or contact Dara Harris (dharris@covenantfrazer.org) if you are interested in volunteering to help. Many hands are needed to provide this event to the community.

Youth Plant Sale is coming soon! Order forms will be available beginning **March 31st**. Annuals, perennials, vegetables, and herbs are available. Plant pick-up will be **May 4th**. All proceeds benefit youth summer trips.

Every year Covenant partners with Presbyterians worldwide in **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Please give this Palm Sunday or Easter by writing a check to Covenant Presbyterian Church (memo: OGHS), giving online through our website (choose One Great Hour of Sharing from the fund menu), or by giving online at pcusa.org/give-oghs.

This Week at Covenant

Sun. March 17

- 9 a.m.** - Adult Christian Education
- 9 a.m.** - New Member's Class
- 10 a.m.** - Worship Service
- 11: 15 a.m.** - Covenant Connect
- 4:30 p.m.** - Youth Group
- 7 p.m.** - Overeater's Anonymous

Mon. March 18

- 10 a.m.** - LIFT
- 6:30 p.m.** - Promise Keepers
- 7:30 p.m.** - Session Meeting

Tues. March 19

- 10 a.m.** - Covenant Quilters
- 6:15 p.m.** - Unity Handbells
- 7 p.m.** - Book Club

Wed. March 20

- 1 p.m.** - Presbyterian Women

Thurs. March 21

- 9 a.m.** - Broad St. Ministry
- 6:45 p.m.** - Worship & Chancel Choir
- 7 p.m.** - Women's Bible Study

Fri. March 22

- 6:30 a.m.** - Promise Keepers

Sat. March 23

- 8:45 a.m.** - People's Pantry

Sun. March 24 - Palm Sunday

- 10 a.m.** - Worship Service/Concert
- 11: 15 a.m.** - Covenant Connect
- 11:15 a.m.** - Salt & Light Ringers
- 4:30 p.m.** - Youth Group
- 7 p.m.** - Overeater's Anonymous

See more events and find meeting Zoom links at covenantfrazer.org/events and subscribe to our emails at covenantfrazer.org/newsletter. For more information, call the church office at 610-648-0707, Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT Wandering Heart: *"Teach me"*

Read | Matthew 18:15-22

From the Artist | Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

When I'm creating a mandala inspired by a text, I'm able to zoom out and see the bigger picture, and the image itself ends up looking like a bird's eye view, which I think is a helpful perspective sometimes. In this mandala, I wanted to follow a person through the process of reproof, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration as Jesus describes in Matthew 18. In the center, a person is standing alone, isolated, with their arms crossed in a closed-off posture. If you're sinned against, Jesus says to go and "point out the fault when the two of you are alone" (Matthew 18:15). When you move to the second ring of the mandala, there are pairs of people shaking hands and finding common ground—or at least attempting to. If this doesn't work, then you are to bring more people (one or two more) together to provide counsel and witness. In the third ring of the mandala, two people are engaging with the closed-off person, sharing a way forward. In the next ring hyacinth flowers—which represent sorrow, regret, and forgiveness—stretch, bloom, and grow, bringing beauty into the now open arms of the people in the last ring of the mandala, who are embraced and woven into the community. The person from the center goes from being alone and closed-off to embraced and open.

When I was drawing the figures from the center out, it began to look like a dance. Is this the picture that grace paints? Forgiveness cannot happen in isolation and certainly neither can reconciliation nor restoration. The movement toward wholeness is the movement toward one another.

Perhaps craving more tangibility and practicality, Peter asks how many times he should forgive someone who has wronged him, and Jesus says, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times" (Matthew 18:22). This piece contains seventy-seven people and flowers to represent the abundance of grace that Jesus calls us into. The gold represents the divine presence of empathy, compassion, grace, and love throughout this dance from isolation toward community, from brokenness toward wholeness, and from guilt and shame toward freedom.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AT COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Holy Week is a time to reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Remembering Jesus' actions, reflecting on his messages and recommitting to living as his disciples in the world today, we gather as a community to worship Christ together.

We hope this schedule helps you plan to observe these important days, both on your own and with others. May you have a blessed Holy Week and Easter.

Palm Sunday, March 24th

10 a.m. Worship Concert - Celebrate the Shadow: Exploring the Darkness before the Dawn. Come and hear scripture and music combined as we journey together from Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and onward to the solemn events of Holy Week. This special time of worship is a cherished Covenant tradition and calls upon singers, instrumentalists, and handbells to share the incredible story of Jesus' love for all. There will be no Children's Church this Sunday.

Maundy Thursday, March 28th

6:30 p.m. Communion Worship Service - At this service of remembrance of the Last Supper, we will offer our thanks for Jesus' willingness to give his life for us, anticipating the cross of Good Friday, the grave of Holy Saturday, and looking towards the resurrection of Easter Sunday.

Good Friday, March 29th

12 - 3 p.m. - Prayer Service/Stations of the Cross - Short prayer service at noon, followed by open house stations of the cross.

6:30 p.m. - Good Friday Worship Service - Join us for this intergenerational service, honoring the life and ministry of Jesus in the shadow of the cross.

Easter Sunday, March 31st

Join us for a joyful celebration of the amazing love of Jesus and his victory over sin and death! There will be no Children's Church this Sunday but there will be Easter Egg Hunts after each service!

9 a.m. — Traditional service with choir and handbells

11 a.m. — Family-friendly service of the hope of Jesus' resurrection.

All services, except the noon prayer service on Good Friday, will be available through our livestream at covenantfrazier.org/live

