



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, April 28, 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..... *Hymns of Creation* arr. Phillip Keveren

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Who made this beautiful day?

We believe that God the Creator made this day.

God made this day so we can rest, and reflect, and delight;

God made this day so we can open our eyes and see beauty,

and see pain, and see opportunity,

and see hope.

So let us go into this day with our eyes and hearts wide open,

and let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN.....712

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (From the United Nations Environmental Sabbath)

We have forgotten who we are.

We have forgotten who we are

We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos

We have become estranged from the movements of the earth

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

We have forgotten who we are.

We ask forgiveness

We ask for the gift of remembering

We ask for the strength to change.

We have forgotten who we are.

Help us to remember, we pray.

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. Alex Becker**

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 **Luke 6:27-38**

SERMON **Rev. Alex Becker**

Enough to Share

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION

THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE ***King Jesus Hath a Garden*** - Traditional Dutch

Offerings may also be given online at covenantfrazer.org/give or in the offering box in the Gathering Space.

*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 **611**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE ***How Great Thou Art*** arr. Jerry Ray

* 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.

Youth Plant Sale! Order forms are available on the information wall across from the welcome desk. Orders are due today! Drop your form through the slot in the office door or scan and email to office@covenantfrazer.org. Annuals, perennials, vegetables, and herbs are available. Plant pick-up will be **May 4th, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.** All proceeds benefit youth summer trips.

Adult Christian Education will meet on May 5th, 9 - 9:45 in Rm. 207 and begin a four-week study of "Cross Borders". In this unit borders are considered as points of separation from others in our society - the lines, imagined or real, that separate *us* from *them*. Often what separates us from one another stems from fear and ignorance. These are the borders we need to learn to navigate and cross. The lesson for Week One will be "Leave Your Comfort Zone". All are welcome! If you have any questions, contact Jim Godbold (JHGodbold@gmail.com).

Adult Christian Education will meet on April 28 at 9 - 9:45 in Rm. 207 and continue a four-week study of "Care for Creation". The lesson for Week FOUR will be "Restore Creation". All are welcome! If you have any questions, contact Jim Godbold (JHGodbold@gmail.com).

Covenant softball is back for the 2024 season! Come join us for intergenerational fun under the sun on Sundays from mid-April to early July. The Upper Main Line Church softball league is a co-ed league for all ages (14 and up). If you can only make one or two games, that's ok! If you haven't played much, that's ok too! The team's first games are part of a double-header on Sunday, May 5th at 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm at the field in Berwyn. If you are interested in learning more or participating, please contact Noel Langlois at 267-264-7007 or langnoel93@gmail.com.

Women's Retreat, Saturday, May 11th, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley, \$20 suggested donation, includes breakfast and lunch. The theme of the retreat is "Spirituality in Daily Life; Encountering God in Ordinary Ways" and 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. Please RSVP to Pastor Maggie at mniles@covenantfrazer.org or by calling the church.

Volunteers 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 online at covenantfrazer.org/RAH. We have fully raised the funds needed for this event! Thank you for your donations!

Camp Firelight (Vacation Bible School) will be taking place June 24-28, 2024! Online registration is open at covenantfrazer.org/vbs.

VBS Volunteers are needed! We are specifically in need of four guides for the different age groups. Your job is to guide and support, no prep or teaching required. We are also looking for someone who would take photos and videos during the week (phone camera/video is fine!). Sign up on the board in the Gathering Space or contact Dara (dharris@covenantfrazer.org).

May 12th is our own Edna Reese's 100th birthday! Please join us in celebrating her by signing the greeting card on the counter in the Gathering Space. Thank you!

This Week at Covenant

Sun. April 28

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

Mon. April 29

- 10 a.m.** – LIFT
- 6:30 p.m.** - Promise Keepers

Tues. April 30

- 10 a.m.** - Covenant Quilters
- 6:15 p.m.** – Unity Handbell Choir

Wed. May 1

- 7 p.m.** – Taizé Service

Thurs. May 2

- 7 p.m.** – Chancel Choir
- 7 p.m.** – Women's Bible Study

Fri. May 3

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

Sat. May 4

- 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.** - Plant Sale Pick up at CCLC

Sun. May 5 - Communion

- 9 a.m.** – Adult Christian Education
- 9 a.m.** – 2nd Grade Bibles Class
- 10 a.m.** – Worship Service
- 11:15 a.m.** – Covenant Connect
- 11:15 a.m.** – Salt & Light Ringers rehearsal
- 3 p.m.** – Softball Game #1
- 4:30 p.m.** – Softball Game #2
- 4:30 p.m.** – Youth Group
- 7 p.m.** - Overeater's Anonymous

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



Scan to give



Connect Card

Share the Planet

LEVITICUS 23:22; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-26

1 As you gather, read the other side of this page about the topic for today. Once gathered, spend a few minutes introducing everyone. Say this prayer or one of your choosing:

*Dear God,
The problem of climate change seems overwhelming. Melt the hearts of those who turn their backs on the problem and lead us all to find solutions together. Give us courage to speak out and change our own lives when we need to, in big ways and small.
Amen.*

2 Watch the YouTube video “Self Sustainable Zero Waste Productive Home in Melbourne Demonstrates Future—Gardening Australia” (bit.ly/FMZerowaste, 8:54). Discuss:

- The interviewer says the place gives us a glimpse of what is possible. What did you see that you wish were more possible?
- The owner said that the world has reached a place where we have to do something. What do you think that something is?

3 Read “Summary of the Practice” on the other side of this page and discuss how this session title “Share the Planet” is both a statement of fact and a plea to those with resources to do something.

4 Read “Finding the Practice in the Bible” on the other side of this page. Read Leviticus 23:22 and 1 Corinthians 12:14-26. Spend a few minutes in silence and write ways your life and actions impact people in other parts of the world in positive and negative ways.

My Impact on the World	
Negative	Positive

5 Many denominations have programs like the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s Earth Care Congregations. Read “Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches” (bit.ly/FMEarthCareCongregations), and discuss actions your community might take or already do.

Note: bit.ly addresses are case-sensitive.

SUMMARY OF THE PRACTICE

As far as we know, there is only one planet like earth in the universe. God provided it with precious but limited resources. That may seem like common knowledge to us today, but it was not in the minds of previous generations. We now know that some resources, like coal and gas, are nonrenewable, or finite, and will run out. In addition, when we burn them, we have known for some time that air quality deteriorates, affecting everyone.

This third aspect—Share the Planet—is a statement and also either a plea or a challenge, depending on where one sits in terms of access to resources and power. It is a statement because it is fact. We all share one planet, one creation. We can decide to live together in harmony or fight each other to our peril. For most of the world, it is a plea to those with power—governments, businesses, those with wealth—to use resources wisely and share rather than hoard and misuse them. For those with resources, it is a challenge in multiple ways. It is a challenge to take only what they need, to share what they have, and to make policies so that a more equitable and sustainable lifestyle may be enjoyed by all God’s children.

FINDING THE PRACTICE IN THE BIBLE

The book of Leviticus has some very specific instructions about sharing land and resources. Leviticus 23:22 was very practical for those living in previous times when most people with land were farmers and rural life was the norm for most people. The larger structural practice of Jubilee described in Leviticus 25 was impactful in that it regularly freed those enslaved, forgave debt accumulated, and returned property to those who lost it, so that, theoretically, no one would be permanently relegated to poverty. This sharing of resources on a societal level was designed to help prevent massive income inequality.

In 1 Corinthians 12:14–26, Paul reflects on the nature of the body of Christ. There is one body, he says, but many members, each with an important role to play and gifts to offer. When we recognize that we are all connected because we are all part of God’s creation, we think differently about how our actions impact people in other parts of the world. If we are all part of one body, everything we do has implications for the rest of the body.

FINDING THE PRACTICE THEN AND NOW

- Church World Service (cwsglobal.org) responds to communities devastated by natural disasters all over the world, an occurrence that happens more frequently as climate change worsens. They also work with refugee resettlement, an increasing need as more and more people are displaced due to a changing climate.
- Wesley United Methodist Church in Phoenix, Arizona, converted an unused preschool into a place where local people and their pets who are struggling with homelessness and poverty can come and get food, shower, do laundry, and get connected with social services.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THIS GUIDE

If possible, distribute this sheet to participants before gathering. Be prepared to summarize the information on this page. Bring extra copies, some pens, and a Bible.

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CLOSING PRAYER

Close with this prayer or one of your choosing:

*Mighty God,
guide us with wisdom and love,
so that we may better share this planet with others. Amen.*