



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

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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*

Jonathan Kreamer, *Accompanist* Patti Mann, *Bell Choir Director*

James Looney, *Worship Technology Coordinator*

Sunday Worship Service

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Sunday, October 18, 2026

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

INTROIT.....**Salt & Light Ringers**

Tuya Es La Gloria (We Sing of His Glory) arr. by Susan T. Sylvester

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God has been with us through every season of life.

We gather to remember God's faithfulness and love.

God calls us to choose the way of life, justice, and compassion.

We come to renew our commitment to follow God together.

The Holy One who guided our ancestors still leads us today.

We open our hearts to worship and to God's transforming grace. Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN.....39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, you have walked with us through every chapter of our lives, yet we often forget your presence. You call us to choose the way of love and justice, yet we are distracted by competing loyalties. Forgive us when fear or complacency keeps us from fully following you. Forgive us when our choices harm our neighbors, our communities, or your creation. Help us to choose the path that leads to life: to serve with compassion, to act with justice, and to walk humbly with you. In Jesus' name we pray.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Proclaim God's Word

The God who speaks in Scripture addresses us now.

CHILDRENS' MESSAGE **Rev. Maggie Niles**

We welcome children and youth to stay for the entire worship service. Or, following the children's message, Children's Church is available upstairs (room 213) for kindergarten through grade 4, and Junior Church is available upstairs (room 208) (excluding communion Sundays) for grades 5-8. Parents, please pick up your children and youth after the benediction.

SCRIPTURE **Joshua 24:1-15**

SERMON **Rev. Maggie Niles**

When The Going Gets Tough

SPECIAL MUSIC **697**

Take My Life and Let It Be (vs., 1-3,6)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER **p. 35 in the hymnal**

THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

*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.***

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 HYMN** **733**

We All Are One in Mission

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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.
- The nursery/preschool (Rm. 114) is open for children birth up to age 5 during the service.
- A mother's nursing room is available at the end of the hallway past the bathrooms (Rm. 108).

New Members Class today! Please come if you are interested in becoming a member or just curious to learn more about Covenant immediately following worship, in the sanctuary. Meet with Church leaders and Pastor Alex to learn more about Covenant. Childcare will be available.

People's Pantry is in need of **cereal and oatmeal**. Donations may be dropped off at the church, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Come and be a part of our annual **Concert for the Christ Child!** This yearly worship service is something we all look forward to each and every year. **Worship Choir rehearsals** are held on **Thursdays at 6:45 p.m.** in the choir room. The time commitment is about an hour each week. You do not need to read music to participate. Our **Concert for the Christ Child will be held on Sunday December 20th** during the 10 a.m. worship hour. We are so excited to bring the sounds of the season to Covenant and hope you will consider being a part of this beautiful tradition.

Swing FORE Malawi. Join us for a day on the course to help villages in Malawi move from scarcity to sustainability through clean water, food security, and more. **Monday, October 19th** at Winters Run Golf Club, 1000 N Tollgate Rd, Bel Air, MD 21014. Go to covenantfrazer.org/announcements to find out more information and register.

St. John's Presbyterian Church (217 Berkley Road, Devon) is hosting a free lunch and a presentation from Rev. Dr. Jeff Smith with Love Justice International on **Tuesday, October 20th from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Dr. Smith will share the realities of human trafficking and how you or your church can pray, partner, and participate in this life-saving Mission. Go to covenantfrazer.org/announcements to RSVP.

Save the date for **Saturday, October 24 at 10 a.m.** to help **Days for Girls** break the stigma around menstruation by assembling hand-sewn, washable pad kits for local and international distribution. Everyone—sewers and non-sewers alike—is welcome, all materials are provided, and you can sign up at the welcome desk by **October 18th** or Go to covenantfrazer.org/announcements to find out more information and sign up.

While Covenant isn't hosting a Rise Against Hunger (RAH) event this fall, you can still get involved! Join **Westminster Presbyterian** (10 W. Pleasant Grove Rd, West Chester) for their **RAH event on Saturday, October 24th at 9 a.m.** Go to covenantfrazer.org/announcements to volunteer and help fight hunger.

God is at work at Covenant! Come hear updates on the work being done by different teams and committees after worship on **Sunday, October 25th.** (A Zoom option/link will be available in the Sunday morning email blast.)

Join us for a **Trunk or Treat** event on **Sunday, October 25th, from 4 to 6 p.m.** Want to get involved? There are plenty of ways, including hosting a trunk, running a game, donating bags of candy, or simply attending with your family. To host a trunk or run a game, please register using the sign-up link at covenantfrazer.org/trunkortreat. If you have any questions, feel free to see Dara or email her at dharris@covenantfrazer.org.

Join us for **Bingo** to support the People's Pantry at Church Road on **October 25th from 1 to 3 p.m.** at Marchwood Tavern (3 Marchwood Road, Exton). There will be three free games and two \$5 games that are 50/50 cash rounds that benefit the People's Pantry.

Covenant Church Annual Fall Clean-up Day is Saturday, October 31st, 9 a.m. We are partnering with our Boy Scout Troops. All are welcome to join us! Many hands make light work! Most of the clean-up will be outdoors. Contact Tony Kessler (akessler68@outlook.com) for more information.

Support Troop 76B Sea Base 2027 Crew! Treat your family to Capt'n Chucky's signature Smith Island Crab Cakes (at a discount!) and help our Scouts gear up for an unforgettable high-adventure trip to Sea Base in St. Thomas. **Order by Nov. 15th.** Crab Cake pick up is on Friday, Nov. 20th at Covenant in the lower level from 5 - 7 p.m. (The same night as an upcoming Parents Night Out event- stay tuned for details on that!). Go to covenantfrazer.org/announcements to find out more information and place your order.

Please join the faithful folks of our area as we celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving in a **Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 22nd, 2026 at 7 p.m.** at the Foundation for Islamic Education (201 Sharp Lane, Exton PA 19341). The evening will include music, thoughts, and prayers from varied faith traditions with a time of fellowship afterwards. Please bring a nonperishable food donation for the Chester County Food Bank.

Christmas carolers wanted! Come bring some holiday cheer to local assisted living facilities. Sign up online at covenantfrazier.org/caroling or at the welcome desk. Date and time TBD to work best with the schedules of those interested.

Save the date! Join us for the **Women's Retreat on January 16th, 2027**, featuring keynote speaker Becca Bateman. Stay tuned - more exciting details are coming soon!

Covenant is partnering with **Bridge of Hope** to support a local family in need! We are currently looking for a **donated vehicle**, as well as **new or gently used clothing** for a baby boy (size 3–6 months) and a young girl (size 6T). If you or someone you know can help, please contact Linda Smith at lmsmith1624@gmail.com.

Invest in our kids and youth for the 2026–2027 school year! We are looking for **volunteers** for our children and youth programs. (Background check required.) Go to covenantfrazier.org/announcements to find out more information and sign up. Have questions? Reach out to Dara at dharris@covenantfrazier.org.

This Week at Covenant

Sunday, October 18

- 10 a.m.** – Worship Service/Children's & Junior Church/Confirmation class
- 11:15 a.m.** – New Members Class
- 11:15 a.m.** – Covenant Connect
- 11:15 a.m.** – Adult Christian Education
- 11:15 a.m.** – Salt & Lift Ringers rehearsal
- 4:30 p.m.** – Youth Group

Monday, October 19

- 10 a.m.** – Lift
- 6:30 p.m.** – Promise Keepers
- 7 p.m.** – Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesday, October 20

- 10 a.m.** – Quilters
- 6 p.m.** – Unity Handbell Choir
- 7 p.m.** – Brandywine Singers
- 7 p.m.** – Book Club

Wednesday, October 21

- 1 p.m.** – Presbyterian Women
- 7 p.m.** – Women's Bible Study

Thursday, October 22

- 12 p.m.** – Senior Friendsgiving Luncheon
- 6:45 p.m.** – Worship Choir

Friday, October 23

- 6:30 a.m.** – Promise Keepers
- 10 a.m.** – Meditations with Maggie

Saturday, October 24

- 10 a.m.** – Days for Girls Service Project

Sunday, October 25

- 9 a.m.** – New Members Class
- 10 a.m.** – Worship Service/Children's & Junior Church/Confirmation class
- 11:15 a.m.** – Congregational Forum
- 11:15 a.m.** – Covenant Connect
- 11:15 a.m.** – Salt & Light Ringers
- 4 p.m.** – Trunk or Treat



Scan to give



Connect Card

OCTOBER 18TH, 2026

The Still Voice

LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT WITHIN OUR BUSY LIVES
Being busy and living in a chaotic world is not new. Scripture reminds us that we can find God's voice despite all that is going on in our lives if only we are listening for it. This RESOURCE is designed to help you as individuals and as families ask yourself QUESTIONS that will deepen your faith when time is scarce.



[Joshua 24:1-15](#)



Joshua doesn't force people to recommit to God- he gives them a choice and encourages them to think about it. Why does God give us the freedom to decide who we worship?

What led you to start worshipping God in the first place? How old were you and why did you believe in God?

Having lived your life in faith, why would you continue to worship God? What has believing in God done for you and your life?

Joshua recounts many of the hardships the Israelites have went through. What hardships have you gone through and how has your relationship with God effected those times?

Joshua speaks for his entire household when he says they will serve the Lord- what do we think about that today? What would be a modern understanding of this?

Practically speaking what does it look like to worship or serve God? How might this have changed over the years for you?

OCTOBER 18TH, 2026

The Still Voice

LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT WITHIN OUR BUSY LIVES

But the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.



I've been married three times to the same person

"But looking back now, to when we first got married, my values and concerns are very different. I no longer care about tattoos; I care about making my house payment. I no longer care about seeing this or that punk band; I care about making it to my son's soccer practice. I used to worry about looking cool; now I drive a minivan because it's practical. To think that the person you marry is some unchanging, ever-consistent thing is a joke. It's a fallacy. In many ways, I think it's the worst thing you can do for your early marriage."

We are not married to God but we are in relationship with God. You may not think that God doesn't change but as humans we do change and that would mean our relationship changes with God over time. How has your relationship with God changed. Would you say that you and God have had many "marriages?"



I encourage you to journal this next week about the ways your faith has changed throughout your life? How has your relationship with God changed over the years?

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