

Morning Worship – 10:45 AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Please be seated by 10:45 for the announcements*

**Silent Preparation**

*During the few minutes before the service begins, the congregation is invited to a moment of silent and prayerful preparation for worship.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Visitors, please fill out the Visitor Card in the rack in front of you and place it in the offering plate during the Collection of Tithes and Offerings.*

**Musical Prelude**

ADORATION OF GOD

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 96:7–9

**\*Hymn of Praise**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!  
*(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #297)*

**\*Prayer of Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

**\*Confession of Faith**

Apostles’ Creed

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,  
and was buried; he descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and  
is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he  
will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the  
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THANKSGIVING

**Scripture Reading**

Acts 15:1–21  
*(Pew Bible Page 923)*

**Confession of Sin (Silent)**

**Assurance of God’s Pardoning Grace**

Psalm 130:3–4

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But  
with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

\* Congregation Standing

**\*Psalm of Thanksgiving**

Psalm 23  
*(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #23A)*

**Prayer of Intercession and Dedication**

**Collection of Tithes and Offerings**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #572)*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.  
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

PROVISION FOR LIFE AND GROWTH

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 50:4–51:8  
*(Pew Bible Page 611)*

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Sermon**

Rev. Jim Curtis  
*Associate Pastor*

“The Servant’s Way”  
*(Isaiah: Holiness By Grace, 35)*

**\*Hymn of Preparation**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded  
*(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #336, Verses 1–2)*

**The Lord’s Supper†**

*Invitation and Fencing of the Table  
Prayer of Consecration  
Words of Institution  
Distribution of the Elements  
Prayer of Thanksgiving*

RESPONSE AND BLESSING

**\*Hymn of Response**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded  
*(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #336, Verse 3)*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

† *The bread we serve for the Lord’s Supper is gluten-free  
The inner rings of cups are wine; the outer ring is juice*

\* Congregation Standing

**Why Attend a Midweek Service?**

This coming Wednesday we will resume our regular Wednesday night activities. We start at 6:00 pm with a meal, then around 6:40 pm we circle up to sing a psalm before dismissing the children to nursery, discipleship class, and Youth Group. One of our pastors then leads us in a brief devotion through a psalm, after which we devote the rest of the time to prayer, with the goal of wrapping up around 7:30 pm with everyone chipping in to clean up. That pretty much sums up what happens at the midweek gathering, but more important is to answer the question of why you should attend. Consider the following three reasons.

The central reason for a corporate prayer meeting is **to create a place for you to cry out to your God together**. The church has a rich history of prayer meetings - from Seth and the first believers calling on the name of the Lord (Genesis 4:26), to the early church gathering regularly for prayer (Acts 1:14; 2:42; 3:1; 4:24). Though prayer is a deeply personal and intimate act between a believer and their God, it not exclusively so. When Jesus teaches us to begin our prayers: “Our Father,” is he not instructing us to pray together? The midweek prayer meeting is where the church gathers as a family, praying in concert over the needs of the church with the promise of Christ’s blessing.

A second reason to gather is **to deepen your relationships and community**. Relationships take time: time to learn names and stories, time to share joys and sorrows, time to walk together through the mundane and the not-so-mundane seasons of life. As we break bread (the most basic form of fellowship) we make new connections, renew old ones, and take the steps necessary to move from social relationships to spiritual fellowship. At one level the midweek gathering simple carves out opportunities for small interactions and conversations to deepen our bonds of fellowship, while on a deeper level, sharing the personal experiences of eating and praying together cannot help but stimulate true spiritual fellowship.

A final reason to attend our midweek gathering is **to grow in your faith (and that of your children)**. Whenever we gather under God’s word, it is with the express hope that he will use his word to strengthen, grow, and mature his people. Our midweek children’s discipleship and Youth Group are structured to aid our parents in raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. And while the children are in class, the adults study the psalms to learn how to pray them. The psalms embody the lifeblood of the Christian experience of faith; and we learn to pray them by asking what they teach us about God, about our human experience, and about the provision supplied by Jesus Christ, our prophet, priest, and king.

With these reason in mind, come join us on Wednesday night, at least for a few weeks, to give it a try. I am aware of how busy life can get and how many activities we must choose from. The days are long gone when activities were often canceled on Wednesday afternoons and evenings so that people could go to church. However, I can’t help but think of how Jesus calls us in the Sermon on the Mount to prioritize the very things that our midweek meeting aims to promote. The basic needs of food and childcare are covered so that we can focus on the spiritual needs of our souls through prayer, fellowship, and discipleship. For as Jesus says, “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

**Welcome Visitors!** We extend a warm welcome to all who are worshiping with us today. We are delighted you are here and we are available to answer any questions you may have about our worship service, our church, or even the gospel of Jesus Christ. If you have children they are most welcome in our worship service, and we also provide a nursery for children up to 3 years of age. **Please fill out the Visitor Card located in the rack in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it comes by later in the service.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pastor Installation at Arden Presbyterian Church:** Pastor Sean is away this morning participating in the installation service for the new pastor at Arden Presbyterian. We are happy to welcome pastor Wes Strebeck into our Presbytery and pray for many faithful and fruitful years of ministry at Arden.

**Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting:** Join us this Wednesday at 6:00 pm for dinner, followed with a time of prayer, Bible study, youth group, children's classes, and nursery.

**Lord's Supper Next Week:** We will celebrate the Lord's Supper next week during the morning worship service.

**ESL Volunteers:** The English as a Second Language ministry is seeking prayers, teachers and volunteers as we approach the opening of our fall classes on September 9. We would love to have more volunteers join us as we reach out to our community through teaching basic English. If you are interested please contact Clay or Carol Dangerfield (828-280-2581).

**Women's Bible Study:** Beginning next Thursday, September 12, the Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study will be studying the book of Galatians. Mark your calendars and grab your scripture journal under the WMC bulletin board! There is no homework for week one. Contact Madeleine Curtis with questions.

**Back-to-School Youth Game Night:** Mark your calendars for the youth game night! Friday, Sept. 27 from 5:30pm-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a favorite board or card game and a competitive spirit! Dinner will be provided, so come hungry. If you have any questions, please contact Micaiah (micaiah@covenantreformed.net).

**Membership Matters Class:** If you have been visiting Covenant Reformed and are interested in pursuing church membership, or if you just want to find out more about our church and what we believe, you are invited to attend our Membership Matters Class, taught by Pastors Sean and Jim. The class will be taught on Sunday mornings beginning October 6. To register for the class, please get in touch with the church office (828-253-6578 | office@covenantreformed.net).

**Highlands Presbytery Women's Retreat:** Ladies, save the date! The Highlands Presbytery Women's Ministry 2024 Fall Retreat will be October 18-19 at Ridge Haven. Registration details will follow soon! The HPWM is also in need of more volunteers to help at the retreat. If you'd like to help, please reach out to Linda Dixon (gandldx2@gmail.com) to volunteer.

**Watering Seeds Podcast:** Be sure to check out our church's weekly podcast, *Watering Seeds*. Each week our pastors review, discuss, and apply the previous Sunday's sermon. You can find the podcast on any major podcast platform by searching for our church name or the title, "*Watering Seeds*," or by scanning the QR code printed to the left.



### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

#### Today, September 1

**12:15 pm:**  
Meiners' Shepherding Group  
in the Fellowship Hall

#### Tuesday, September 3

**9:30 am:**  
Women's sermon discussion and  
prayer at Gail Albee's home.

#### Wednesday, September 4

**6:00 pm:**  
Supper, Prayer, Bible Study, and  
Lessons for Children

#### Thursday, September 5

**7:30 am:**  
R.O.M.E.O.s at Cornerstone

**10:00 am:**  
Women's Bible Study

#### Sunday, September 8

**9:30 am:**  
Sunday School

**10:45 am:**  
Morning Worship

**6:00 pm:**  
Evening Worship



**COVENANT**  
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

### CURRENT AND UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS

#### Sunday, September 1

**Greeters:**  
Anne Moss & Lannae Graham

**Security:**  
Colin O'Brien

**Nursery:**  
**9:30 am:**  
Joy Voigt  
Cathy O'Brien

**10:45 am:**  
Danette Lowery  
Jim Lowery  
Fern Roper

#### Wednesday, September 4

**Nursery:**  
Rachel & Ben Badgley

**Security:**  
Gordon Meiners

#### Sunday, September 8

**Greeters:**  
Lesley & Adam Roper

**Security:**  
Mike Cate

**Nursery:**  
**9:30 am:**  
Anne Sprinkle  
Willy Woodard

**10:45 am:**  
Jennifer McHone  
Noe McHone  
Julian Eckley

**6:00 pm:**  
Suzanne & David McCullough

#### September Deacons on Duty:

David McCullough  
Jeff Greene  
Carl Tanenbaum (Usher)

# THE LORD'S DAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory;  
to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to whoever will come—  
this church opens wide her doors  
and offers her welcome  
in the name of the Lord Jesus*

Submit bulletin items to office@covenantreformed.net by noon on Thursdays.

*If you have a prayer request, please speak to a pastor or elder, call the church office at 828-253-6578, or e-mail ceb392@mac.com and it will be added to our church prayer list.*

**Senior Pastor:** Sean McCann  
**Associate Pastor:** Jim Curtis  
**Pastoral Interns:** Micaiah Liner, David Livernois  
**Administrative Assistant:** David Livernois  
*Office Hours: 9 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Tuesday—Friday*

**Elders:** Ben Badgely, Rob Cook, Clay Dangerfield, Gordon Meiners, Tom Voigt, Tim Wallace. *Emeritus: Mike Cate*

**Deacons:** Rich Bishop, Grey Dixon, Jeff Greene, Drew Lefevre, David McCullough, Noe McHone, Carl Tanenbaum

**Deacons' Helper:** Zach Voigt  
**Nursery Coordinator:** Rebekah Woodard

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