

LEADERSHIP

Session

Jim Plunk, Moderator
Tim Chapman, Clerk
Chas Emerson, Treasurer
Bob Barber
Scott Sartor
Shaun Sipe*

*Sabbatical

**Emeritus

***Deacon on duty

Diaconate

Andrew Duff, Chairman
Chris Tingle, Secretary
Nick Manley***
Robert Massey
Charlie Smith

Chris Lyons*

David Wright*

Dick Brankstone**

Christ Covenant Church (PCA)

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Elijah Vaughn, Director of Youth Ministries, youth@christcovenantms.org

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Sue Tarver, Pianist

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*"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,
with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."*

2 Corinthians 4:5

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

11.16.25

Notes

If you are new to church, the notes in this margin are a way to help you understand and follow along through each aspect of today’s service. If you like, use the free space to take your own notes about anything you find interesting or thought provoking. If you have additional questions, you can talk with a church officer after the service.

Congregational Standing

Throughout the bulletin the asterisk * denotes congregation standing

We encourage you to use this bulletin during the week to reflect on what you have heard and experienced during worship. You can use the prayers, confessions, and scripture for personal worship and devotional time at home

WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us for worship today. Here at Christ Covenant, we seek to celebrate God’s grace through Jesus Christ, who came to give us life today and for eternity. We also seek to cultivate a safe environment for the convinced and unconvinced to hear the free offer of the gospel in Jesus Christ. Whether you are a follower of Jesus, or it has been a while since you’ve considered your relationship to Him, or you are exploring His claims for the first time, we are delighted to have you with us today. We would love to be able to connect with you and share with you more about the ministry of our church. We have a visitor bag for you in the lobby with a mug, coffee, pens and Dane Ortlund’s book, “Gentle and Lowly, The Heart of Christ for Sinner’s and Sufferers.”

Ushers: Nick Manley & Robert Massey

A/V Assistant: Bo Jones

Communion & Coffee: The Funderburk Family

Hosts: The Mills Family

Nursery Helpers:

Service—Claire Becker, Delena Beavers & Cora Bell Beavers

Sunday School—Britt Emerson

For Your Children: We welcome children to attend and participate in the corporate worship by singing, praying, and offering responses as they are able. A nursery is provided for infants through toddlers to age 4.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Be sure to sign up on our website to receive the weekly E-news which is sent every Wednesday with the latest up-to-date information.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST COVENANT CHURCH

Sunday—November 16th

9:00am—Preservice prayer

9:15am—Coffee & Conversation

9:30am—Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion

11:00am—Sunday school

Various times—Community groups

Wednesday—November 19th

6:30am—Men’s bible study

9:00am—Women’s bible study

6:00pm—Women’s bible study, Youth, Kids’ Club

Thursday—November 20th

No activities planned

Monday—November 17th

No activities planned

Friday—November 21st

Men’s Retreat

Tuesday—November 18th

5:30pm—Men’s bible study

Saturday—November 22nd

Men’s Retreat

Looking Ahead

- Kids’ Club sing at Wesley Meadows—12.3
- Holiday office closures—11.27-28, 12.25-26, 1.1.26
- Women’s winter retreat—1.30-31
- Missions Emphasis Week—2.22-3.1

PRAYER NEEDS

Praying for the families of Christ Covenant 11.15-11-23

Greg & Jill Karr • Chris & Denise Lyons

Illness/Medical Prayer Needs: Helen & Monte Morgan • Dick & Emily Brankstone • Conner & Makailey Newton, expecting their third child due early December • Foster Hale, recovering from surgery on 11.10

Prayer Requests: Land and Building Committee • Assistant Pastor search • Newton transition • Officer training • Elijah & Emma Vaughn, welcomed baby Eric on 11.11

OUR LOCAL & WORLD MISSIONS

Please pray for these local and world missions and our missionaries.

Peru Mission (Chimbote Church Plant) • Bill Berry (Christ Redeemer in Jonesboro) • RUF: John Craft (Rhodes College), John Crosby, Spencer Sipe (University of Memphis), Justin & Carey Helms (LSU) • Jermaine Van Buren Jr., (Jackson State) • Reclaimed Ministry • Ricky Kroeger (Wycliffe Bible Translators—Mexico)

YTD Giving	\$208,857
YTD Budget	\$177,659

Deacon's Fund	\$13,415
Land & Building Fund	\$70,864

Preparing for Worship
With so many distractions vying for our attention, this is a time to listen to the prelude music, read of Vision Statement on the front cover, and get ready for the service.

Call to Worship If worship is offering all that we are to all that God is, then this call is a way to proclaim this movement, while also challenging us on what we worship daily.

Why we sing
We sing in order to remember the stories of how God has worked in our loves. Singing takes the truth of who God is and what He is doing, and applies it into our lives.

Prayer of Invocation
Is from the Latin *invocare*, meaning “to call on.” God has called us to worship—and now, in grateful response, we cry out for His presence among us.

The Lord’s Prayer
Jesus gave this example in the New Testament (Matthew 6:9-13) to show us how to pray. We use this prayer corporately each week as a reminder.

ORDER FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Gospel Welcome

Prelude

*Call to Worship Rev. Jim Plunk

PASTOR: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

PEOPLE: For he is the Maker of Heaven and earth!

PASTOR: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

PEOPLE: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

ALL: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Psalm 29:2, 10-11; Psalm 124:8

*Song of Adoration Let Us Love & Sing & Wonder

*Invocation (concluded by the Lord’s Prayer)

ALL: 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 is the time when we are honest about ourselves with each other and with God. As we admit our misplaced affections, we are called to reorder our lives. Only by being honest will the good news of grace be significant and needed.

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort are encouraging words which is what we need to hear after the honesty of our confession

Confession of Sin

PASTOR: Let us confess our sins together:

ALL: O Lord, we confess that we are ready to fall, and our pain is ever before us. We confess our iniquity; we are sorry for our sin. Make haste to help us, O Lord, our salvation.

Psalm 38

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

PASTOR: The Lord will not forsake those who call upon his name! He will not be far from us!

Psalm 38:21

ALL: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation! The old has passed away, behold, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

***Song of Renewal**

There Is A Fountain #253

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School: Adults meet in the Sanctuary, youth in the south end, kids in the classroom and toddlers in the nursery. Today is the last meeting for this semester.

Hanging of the Greens: Sunday, 11.30 after service, all are encouraged to stay for festive and fun fellowship as we hang some simple decorations as a church family. Kids will meet for Sunday school and join the adults at the end to hang the crafts they’ve been creating.

Welcome Baby Vaughn: Join us in welcoming Eric Alfred who was born to Elijah and Emma at 3:10am Tuesday morning! Baby Eric weighed 7 pounds 8 ounces and measured 19 inches. Visit the member page of our website if you can provide a meal for the new parents: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

2025 Interfaith Council on Poverty Thanksgiving Food Drive: Christ Covenant Church is once again partnering with the Hernando/Nesbit Interfaith Council on Poverty to serve the senior adults in our area this Thanksgiving. Non-perishable items can be dropped off at Christ Covenant Church from now until Friday, 11.21. See Wednesdays newsletter for a list of needed items.

Men’s Events: This years men’s retreat will be held 11.21 – 11.22 at Pinecrest Retreat Center in LaGrange, TN. Register using the sign up page on our website.

Community Groups: Meet at the homes of various members based on location. This is a great way to get to know more people in the church and grow together. Groups are based geographically and meet in member homes. Please see an elder to be placed in a group. The last meeting for this semester is this afternoon.

Women’s Christmas Tea: Women's Christmas Tea is Sunday, 12.14 from 4-6 PM. We're looking for ladies to host or co-host a table! Contact Hillary or Jill if interested. Tickets available for purchase on our app or website: www.christcovenantms.org/signup

Youth Christmas Party: Youth, join us for our annual Christmas party at the home of Chas & Jennifer Emerson, 3200 Bolin Road, Hernando, from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Bring a friend!

Christmas Services: We will have a Lessons and Carols service Sunday evening, 12.21 at 5:00pm. Christmas Eve candlelight service will be Wednesday, 12.24 at 5:00pm.

COMMUNION GUIDELINES AND PRAYERS

Bread: Each tray contains gluten-free bread in the brown cup.

Cup: Each tray has wine in the outer rim. The pink cups in the center are filled with grape juice.

When we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we are gathering around the table of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, we invite all followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this wonderful sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his church.

Parents, your children are welcome to partake, if they have been baptized and been received as a communing member of the church to which you belong. If you think your child is ready to become a member, please speak to one of the elders.

Prayer for Covenant Children (not yet a communing member)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. I now resolve in humble reliance on the Holy Spirit to seek to walk in a manner pleasing to you. Amen.

Prayer of Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

We confess our faith as an act of worship, together with Christians in all times and places. “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Offertory is a time for prayerful reflection and response by considering how to be generous with your time, talents and resources. If you are new to our church, or exploring Christianity, please don’t feel obligated to give. Instead, please be sure to fill out a visitors card which can be found in the lobby. Also, you can give securely on our website : <https://christcovenantms.org/online-giving/>

Doxology We sing this short hymn of praise to thank and adore our God of glory.

The Sermon is a teaching based on the passage from the reading of God’s Word. The role of the sermon is to make real truths of the Gospel. It is not just an intellectual function. Rather, using the imagination, our hearts are to be affected by the text.

COMMITTING TO GOD’S KINGDOM

***Confession of Faith** Elder Chas Emerson

LEADER: What is repentance unto life?

ALL: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience. *Westminster Confession of Faith 87*

Kingdom Prayers of the People

Offertory *Yet Not I, But Christ In Me*

***Doxology** (*Children under 4 dismissed at this time*)

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

***Prayer for Illumination**

The Reading of God’s Word *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (p 761)*

READER: The grass withers, the flowers fade

ALL: But the word of our God will stand forever. *Isaiah 40:8*

The Sermon Rev. Jim Plunk

“Living in the Kingdom: Private Righteousness”

COMMUNING WITH GOD

The Great Thanksgiving:
Following the pattern of Jesus, this prayer of thanksgiving reminds us this is a meal offering thanks to God for all he has done as we bring our whole selves to him with the communion of the saints.

Words of Institution: These words recorded in the synoptic gospels and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 are words from Jesus setting this meal apart from every other meal as a holy sacrament for God’s people.

The Memorial Acclamation reminds us of the center of history and our lives; the death, resurrection, and return of Jesus.

The Lord’s supper: God meets us not only in hearing the Word, but also in visible, tangible form—uniting us with himself spiritually by faith in Christ

The Great Thanksgiving

PASTOR: The Lord be with you

PEOPLE: **And with your spirit**

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts

PEOPLE: **We lift them up to the Lord**

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

PEOPLE: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise**

PASTOR: You formed the universe in your wisdom, and created all things by your power. You set us in families on earth to live with you in faith. We praise you for good gifts of bread and wine, and for the table you spread in the world as a sign of your love for all people in Christ. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and saying...

ALL: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

PASTOR: Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us!

PEOPLE: **Hallelujah!**

PASTOR: Christ is the bread of life:

PEOPLE: **When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

PASTOR: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

Holy Communion

Prayer of Dedication

GOING OUT WITH GOD’S BLESSING

*Song of Sending Across The Lands

*Benediction

PASTOR: Peace be to you, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.

Ephesians 6:23-24

ALL: **Amen**

*Gloria Patri

Sermon Notes

Continuing the series: The Mission of Jesus in the Kingdom of God:
Studies in the Gospel of Matthew
“Living in the Kingdom: Private Righteousness ”
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (p. 761)

The allure of public righteousness

The authenticity of private righteousness

The award of private righteousness

The Benediction
is how we close our time of worship. It is not a prayer but rather a blessing with a charge to go beyond our church into the world carrying the hope, joy and love of the Gospel.

Gloria Patri
We have heard and witnessed God’s glory. Now we leave singing His glory that others might know His glory.

Sermon Audio
If you want to listen to any archived sermons, please visit the sermon page on our website
www.christcovenantms.org
or on our app on your smartphone. All music used by permission. CCLI License #3258262

Practical Needs and Prayer
If you have questions or would like to pray with someone, our officers can be available after the worship service, or you may call the church office and leave a message for a deacon at 662.469.9330 and someone will get in touch with you. You can also send prayer requests to office@christcovenantms.org.