



covenant.presbyterian.church

Gospel Centered
CHRIST EXALTING

The Lord's Day
August 9, 2026

Covenant's Mission Statement

"To build a faithful community of joyful disciples."

Covenant's Values

Covenant is **biblical** by affirming the Bible as the authoritative Word of God,
connectional by affiliating with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA),
confessional by adhering to the Westminster Standards,
missional by seeking to spread the Gospel worldwide, and
relational by encouraging the church family to build community.

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”
John 17:17

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship
by reflecting on John 17:17 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship

Psalm 119:89-94

[89] Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. [90] Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. [91] By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants. [92] If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. [93] I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life. [94] I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts.

Invocation

Hymn

“Hallelujah, Thine the Glory”

We praise Thee, O God! for the days of our youth,
for the bright lamp that shineth— the Word of Thy truth.

refrain: *Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Hallelujah we sing;
Hallelujah! Thine the glory, our praise now we bring.*

We praise Thee, O God! for the Son of Thy love,
for Jesus who died and is now gone above.

refrain

We praise Thee, O God! for Thy Spirit of light,
Who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night.

refrain

All glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain,
Who has borne all our sins and has cleansed ev'ry stain!

refrain

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Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:24-29

Carl Monroe, Ruling Elder

Congregational Prayer

Carl Monroe, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Bob Davis, Deacon

Corporate Profession of Faith

Responsive Reading of 2 Timothy 3:14-16, 3:16-17

Pastor: [14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15] and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Congregation: [16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Hymn

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,
free to all- a healing stream- flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.

refrain: *In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever;
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the Bright and Morning Star shed its beams around me.*

refrain

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o’er me.

refrain

Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.

refrain

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Corporate Confession of Sin

O God, You have shown us the way of life
through Your Son, Jesus Christ.
We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him,
our failure to follow Him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.
We confess the poverty of our worship,
our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace,
our hesitating witness for Christ,
our evasion of responsibilities in our service,
our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts.
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us. Amen.

Individual Prayer of Confession (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 130:7-8

*[7] O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with
him is plentiful redemption. [8] And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.*

Hymn

“God, in the Gospel of His Son”

God, in the Gospel of His Son, makes His eternal counsels known;
where love in all its glory shines, and truth is drawn in fairest lines.

Here sinners of a humble frame may taste His grace, and learn His name;
may read, in characters of blood, the wisdom, pow’r, and grace of God.

The pris’ner here may break his chains; the weary rest from all his pains;
the captive feel his bondage cease; the mourner find the way of peace.

Here faith reveals to mortal eyes a brighter world beyond the skies;
here shines the light which guides our way from earth to realms of endless day.

O grant us grace, almighty Lord, to read and mark Your holy Word;
Its truths with meekness to receive, and by Its holy precepts live.

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Sermon

“A People of Scripture”

Pastor Reed

Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and pow’r are great; and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,
and He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow’rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is for ever.

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline
“A People of Scripture”
Nehemiah 8

I. A People Who Long for Scripture.

II. A People Who Respond to Scripture.

III. A People Who Obey Scripture.

1. How would you characterize the perspective of “the people gathered” towards the Word of God in 8:1-8? Keep in mind to them the Word of God was the Toray or Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, and in particular the book of Deuteronomy. What is your perspective on the Word and how might you seek to long for it more?

2. The people who heard Ezra read the Law wept (8:9). Why do you think they responded in that way? How did Ezra and Nehemiah encourage them? Have you found a similar mix of responses to God’s Word?

3. What is significant about the people observing the Feast of Booths in 8:13-18? Verses 14 and 18 will guide you in answering this question.

RULING ELDERS

Class of 2026
Mr. William Fennell
Mr. Jeff Nissen
Mr. Bill Scholl

Class of 2027
Dr. Ken Knecht
Mr. Richard Long
Mr. Carl Monroe

Class of 2028
Mr. Jim Lewis
Dr. Tom Paulus

TEACHING ELDERS

Rev. Dr. Tim J. Reed, Senior Pastor
Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor (sabbatical)

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2026
Mr. Andrew Kinzler
Mr. Mike Lieblich
Dr. David Matlock

Class of 2027
Mr. Bob Davis
Mr. Scott Freydl
Mr. Jeff Rooker

Class of 2028
Mr. Steve Nielson
Mr. Zachary Wagers
Mr. Bryant Young

STAFF

Rev. Justin Hilliard, Assistant Pastor (Pinnacle Classical Academy)
Mr. David Linn, Intern
Mr. Ben Russ, Bookkeeper
Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Choir Director
Mrs. Anna Allen, Nursery Coordinator

MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS

Mr. Terry Allenbaugh, Guitarist
Mr. David Beuerman, Violinist
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

Mrs. Valerie Hilliard, Vocalist
Mrs. Katie Hughes, Pianist
Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Choir Director, Vocalist

COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES

Paul & Connie Backstrom	FamilyLife/Bentonville
Dan & Nancy Butkowski	CRU Arts & Culture/Little Rock
Gabriel & Olga Diaz	Church Planting - MTW/Mexico
Frank & Daisy Du	Church Planting/Little Rock
Roger & Laura Dye	FamilyLife/Latin America
Jamie & Jacki Gildard	MTW/France
Kevin & Annie Hale	Training Leaders International
Rob & Jenny Ilderton	MTW/England
Darlene Johnson	MTW/Japan
Pete Mitchell	MTW/France
Gama & Grace Pozos	Church Planting-MTW/US-Mexico Border
Ben & Kirstin Spivey	MTW & RUF/London
Raimo & Annemari Survo	MTW/Finland
Will & Martha	International
Wes & Kim	Undisclosed

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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