

## Education Hour

### Children's Education:

**Pre-K - 2nd Grade** - We are studying stories from the Bible through creative activities and crafts using The Season's of the Spirit curriculum. This class will meet in the Library (to the left of the Workroom.)

**3rd Grade - 5th Grade** - We are using The Seasons of the Spirit curriculum, music, and art projects to examine the stories of the Bible through the lectionary. This class will meet in the Classroom (to the right of the Workroom.)

**Youth Education:** We will start the year off with the problem of suffering by exploring "J.B." by Archibald MacLeish and the Biblical book of Job. The class will meet on the third floor of the Meeks House (across Caroline Street from the church).

### Adult Education:

**Bible Discussion:** Rick Caswell will lead Bible discussion in the Meeks House. The focus scripture is Mark 10:17-31.

**In The Sanctuary:** "The Current Status of Healthcare Reform" presented by Dr. Joe Bak. Please join us for this informative and timely hour as Joe updates us on the latest information regarding the Healthcare Reform struggle. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers. Dr. Joseph Bak, Covenant Friend, is a clinical psychologist in private practice. His interest in the area of healthcare system reform began in the early 1990's having become aware that tens of millions of people were either uninsured or underinsured at that time. Since then he has been a frequent presenter and author of various articles regarding the merits of single payer universal healthcare. He is a member of Physicians for a National Health Program, and he is Communications Director for Health Care for all Texas.

**Inquirers Class** - For those who want to develop a deeper understanding of Covenant's philosophy, history and governance, we offer an eight-week class in the Meeks House.

**Parents Forum** - We will have a Parent's Forum meeting every 3rd Sunday during Education Hour in Laura's office in Meeks House. Join us on October 18 as we share ideas about the holidays. Get tips for dealing with Halloween candy, travel, and family events.

## Calendar

Sunday 10/11	8:15 a.m.	Worship Service
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:30 a.m.	Education / Inquirers Class
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	12:15 p.m.	All Church Committee Meetings
Tuesday 10/13	5:00 p.m.	Covenant Book Discussion Group
	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 10/14	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
	7:00 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
Thursday 10/15	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 10/18	8:15 a.m.	Garden Workday

## Helpful Information

**Childcare** Childcare is provided in the nursery beginning 8:45 a.m.

**Communication Cards** If you're a visitor with us, please fill out a blue Communication Card and drop it in the Offering basket.

**Covenant Membership** Membership in Covenant Church is open to all persons who affirm the loving presence of God, the life and teachings of Jesus, and the revealed Spirit throughout the ages. Those interested in learning more about Covenant are encouraged to express that interest to one of the Ministers or the Worship Leader. Any person desiring membership first becomes an inquirer and is asked to attend an orientation class designed to acquaint inquirers with the church and its beliefs. After a period of eight weeks, the inquirer may indicate a desire to become a member.

**Celebrations and Concerns** If you would like to share a celebration or concern with the Covenant community, please post it on the announcements board in the Narthex or e-mail it to [prayer@covenanthouston.org](mailto:prayer@covenanthouston.org).

**Covenant Newsletter** There is a weekly Newsletter available online at [www.covenanthouston.org](http://www.covenanthouston.org). To have this Newsletter e-mailed to you, please send an e-mail request to [office@covenanthouston.org](mailto:office@covenanthouston.org).

**Covenant Recycles** If you do not wish to keep your bulletin this Sunday, please recycle it by placing it on the stand located in the Narthex on your way out.

Covenant Church affirms the sanctity, dignity, and equality of human beings and the value of all life in the universe. We welcome persons of all racial and ethnic heritages, all sexual orientations, and all faith perspectives to our Christian community. We stand for each individual's right to worship God and to respond to God's call to ministry in her or his own understanding of God's all-encompassing love.

We value a holistic approach to faith and seek to worship in ways that are intellectually credible, emotionally stimulating, spiritually engaging and contemporarily relevant.

We value music and art and ritual to express what we cannot ever fully say.

We value participation so that we might hear many approaches to our shared faith.

Covenant Church  
an ecumenical liberal baptist  
congregation

Members of Covenant  
Ministers

Jeremy Rutledge  
Minister

Laura Mayo  
Associate Minister

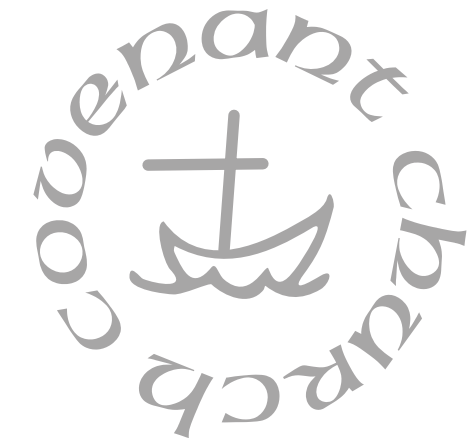
Fran Avera  
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley  
Organist

Pat Long  
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo  
Office Administrator

Covenant Church  
4949 Caroline  
Houston, TX 77004  
713.668.8830



*A Service of Worship  
for Sunday  
11 October 09*

*Pain makes theologians of us all.*

Barbara Brown Taylor

*please enter for worship in silence*

\* Prelude André Fleury  
Modéré et expressif (24 Pièces)  
Choral Introit (11:00) from the Iona Community  
“O God, My God”

Call to Worship  
\*+ Processional Hymn 206: Vineyard Haven  
“O Hear Our Cry, O Lord”

+ Opening Sentences  
We have come together today,  
not because we expect to find answers here,  
but rather because we expect to be encouraged in our questioning.

**We have come together today,  
not because we expect to find perfect people here,  
but rather because we expect to find authentic people here.**

We have come together today,  
not because we seek absolution for our sins and failures,  
but rather because we acknowledge our imperfections  
and seek the courage  
to make amends for those failures to ourselves and others.

**We have come together today  
not because we need to be told what to believe and how to act,  
but rather because we need each other’s encouragement  
to act according to our own best beliefs.**

We have come together today,  
not because we are hoping to find God in a scripture or a ritual,  
but rather because we are hoping to discover the divinity  
within our own hearts and within the hearts of others.

**We have come together today,  
not because we believe that holiness exists  
within these walls alone,  
but rather to have our hearts and minds directed  
to the holiness in the world.**

**For all of these reasons, we have come together today.**  
Scripture Lesson: Job 23  
These are our sacred stories.  
**Thanks be to God.**

A Time for Children

\*+ Response: Au Claire de la Lune  
*Jesus’ hands were kind hands, doing good to all,  
Healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,  
Let me watch you, Jesus, till I’m gentle too,  
Till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.*

Call to Confession  
Silent Confession  
Unison Confession

**Help us to let go  
of all that we hold too tightly  
and to be free  
of all that has held us.**

Words of Assurance

Music (8:15) from the Iona Community  
“O God, My God”  
(11:00) Arthur Honegger  
“Psalm of Penitence”

Time of Reflection

Proclamation: Holding Our Convictions

+ Hymn 452 St. Michael  
“O Day of God, Draw Nigh”

Invitation

Pastoral Prayer

Call to Stewardship

Offering  
Offertory: Maurice Duruflé  
Fugue on the Chimes of Soissons Cathedral

+ Prayer of Dedication  
**Enter with me the sacred space.  
Bring with you what is yours—  
a burdened heart, a joyous song,  
a wearied spirit, a seeking mind.  
Bring the gift of yourself to the altar.  
It is an honorable gift.**

+ Doxology Old Hundredth  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Sing praise all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Maker, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

+ Please stand if you are able

+ Affirmation of Faith  
**Coming back to the present moment evolves  
gradually, patiently, over time...  
It takes the rest of our lives.  
Basically, we’re continually opening further,  
learning more, connecting with the depths  
of human suffering and human wisdom,  
coming to know both those elements  
thoroughly and completely,  
and becoming more loving and compassionate people...  
And there’s always more to learn.**

+ Recessional Hymn 278 Was frag’ ich nach der Welt  
“Our God, to Whom We Turn”

Words of Dismissal

Choral Benediction (11:00) from the Iona Community  
“O God, My God”

Postlude William Walton  
Passacaglia (Henry V)



**Pledge dollars goal is \$340,000.**

**Pledged hours goal is 450.**



### Worship

The Acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the conclusion of the service. The acolyte for the second service is **Caroline Witten**.

This morning we are pleased to welcome Rev. Douglas Anders, Conference Minister for the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The Worship Leaders are **John Preston, Virginia Wells, and Jack Daggett**.

The Call to Worship is from *Gates of Prayer: The New Union Prayer Book* from the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

The Opening Sentences are from Suzanne Meyer in *Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations, and Other Readings*, edited by Helen Pickett.

The Unison Confession is by **Jeremy Rutledge**.

**Jim Avera** is the soloist at the early service.

**Chuck Fleming** gives the Call to Stewardship.

The Prayer of Dedication is by Amarette Callaway.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times* by Pema Chödrön.

\* Ushers will seat latecomers  
+ Please stand if you are able