

Education

Children and Youth Education

Preschool: We are using the Preschool Seasons of the Spirit to help us learn stories from the Bible, sing songs, and create crafts. We meet in the Childcare room.

Kindergarten through 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. We will begin our time together in the library with choir and story time and then our class will divide for additional activities (depending on the number of children present).

Youth Education: Meets on the 3rd floor of the Meeks House. 1st Sunday is Mentor/Youth Sunday School; 2nd Sunday is Bible Study; 3rd Sunday is Check-in and Jam Session (bring your instruments); 4th Sunday is Practice (a time to learn about and practice things like yoga, poetry, art as prayer, labyrinth, meditation).

Adult Education

Today in the Sanctuary: “Self-Care” led by Brandy Mullins. In today’s busy world, tending to our personal well-being can be a challenge. However, self-care is a vital foundation for living whole and healthy lives. We will explore methods of self-care and ways to fit them into daily life.

Today in the Meeks House: Bible Study and Discussion. Margie Latham leads a discussion of Mark 1:29-39. Jesus begins his ministry: healing the sick, casting out demons, proclaiming the message, and taking time out to pray. What do *you* think is the message Jesus is proclaiming? Come share your ideas.

Next Sunday in the Sanctuary: A conversation with Jeremy about his time at Covenant, his future ministry, and the rich possibilities for this time of transition.

Helpful Information

Childcare: Childcare is provided in the nursery beginning at 8:15 a.m.

Communication Cards: If you’re a visitor with us, please fill out a blue card and place it in the offering plate or give it to the worship leader or one of our ministers after the service.

Celebrations and Concerns: If you would like to share a celebration or concern with the Covenant community, please complete a green celebration and concerns request card and place it in the offering plate or give it to the worship leader or one of our ministers after the service.

Covenant Membership: If you are interested in learning more about Covenant, we encourage you to talk with one of the ministers or the worship leader. Any person desiring membership first becomes an inquirer and is asked to attend a class designed to acquaint inquirers with the church and its beliefs.

Covenant Newsletter: To subscribe to the newsletter, please send an e-mail request to office@covenanthouston.org.

Covenant Recycles: If you do not wish to keep your order of worship, please recycle it by placing it on the stand located in the narthex.

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.

Calendar

Today	FIRST SUNDAY FOOD OFFERING
	8:30 a.m. Worship
	9:40 a.m. Education for All Ages Inquirers’ Class
	10:30 a.m. Fellowship
	11:00 a.m. Worship
Tue 2/7	6:30 p.m. Yoga
Wed 2/8	7:00 p.m. Deacons’ Meeting
Thu 2/9	7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Sun 2/12	8:30 a.m. Worship
	9:40 a.m. Education for Children/Youth Conversation with Jeremy
	10:30 a.m. Fellowship
	11:00 a.m. Worship
	12:15 p.m. Committee Meetings

Covenant Church
an ecumenical liberal baptist
congregation

Members of Covenant
Ministers

Jeremy Rutledge
Minister

Laura Mayo
Minister of Congregational Life

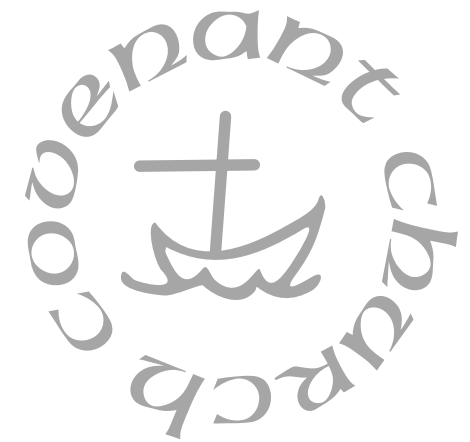
Fran Avera
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley
Organist

Margie Latham
Minister of Administration

Kathleen Yaeger
Financial Administrator

Covenant Church
4949 Caroline
Houston, TX 77004
713.668.8830
www.covenanthouston.org
office@covenanthouston.org



*A Service of Worship
5 February 2012*

*Life is available only in the present moment.
If you are distracted,
if your mind is not there with your body,
then you miss your appointment with life...
Thich Nhat Hanh*

please enter for worship in silence

*Prelude Denis Bédard
 “Entrée (Suite Liturgique)”
 Choral Introit (11:00) Sandon
 “God of Our Life”
 Call to Worship
 *+Processional Hymn #274 Leoni
 “O God of Earth and Space”

+Opening Sentences
We summon ourselves from the delights and demands of the daily round
from the dirty dishes and unwaxed floors,
from unmowed grass and untrimmed bushes,
from all incompleteness and not-yet-startedness,
from the unholy and the unresolved.
We summon ourselves to attend our vision
of peace and justice,
of happiness and health,
of delight and devotion,
of the lovely and the holy,
of who we are and what we can do.
We would open our eyes,
our ears,
our minds,
our hearts,
to the amplest dimensions of life.
We rejoice in the manifold possibilities.

Scripture Lesson Mark 1:29-39
 These are our sacred stories.
Thanks be to God.

A Time for Children
 *+Response: Madrid
Come children, join to sing “Alleluia! Amen!”
Loud praise to Christ we sing; “Alleluia! Amen!”
Let all, with heart and voice, now on this day rejoice;
Praise is God’s gracious choice; “Alleluia! Amen!”

Call to Confession
 Silent Confession

*Ushers will seat latecomers
 +Please stand in body or spirit

Unison Confession
We confess
that we are
terribly,
awkwardly,
ridiculously,
irrevocably,
thankfully,
human.

Words of Assurance
 Music (8:30) Ralph Vaughan Williams
 “Whither I Must Wander?”
 (11:00) Randall Thompson
 “The Best of Rooms”
 Proclamation: Let Us Not Look Past this Moment
 +Hymn #192 Michael
 “God, Our Help and Constant Refuge”

Invitation
 Pastoral Prayer
 Offering
 Offertory Jean Langlais
 “Prière”

First Sunday Food Offering
 +Prayer of Dedication

Amid all the noise in our lives,
we take this moment to sit in silence —
to give thanks for another day,
to give thanks for all those in our lives
who have brought us warmth and love,
to give thanks for the gift of life.
Let us open ourselves, here, now,
to the process of becoming more whole—
of living more fully,
of giving and forgiving more freely,
of understanding more completely
the meaning of our lives here on this earth.

+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.

+Please stand in body or spirit

+Affirmation of Faith
Listen to your life.
See it for the fathomless mystery that it is.
In the boredom and pain of it no less
than in the excitement and gladness:
touch, taste, smell your way
to the holy and hidden heart of it
because in the last analysis
all moments are key moments
and life itself is grace.
 +Recessional Hymn #285 Austrian Hymn
 “God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”
 Words of Dismissal
 Choral Benediction (11:00) Sandon
 “God of the Coming Years”
 Postlude Josef Rheinberger
 “Fughetta in C Minor”

Worship

Blakeley Kress is the acolyte at 11:00 a.m. worship.
Jeff Nobles is the worship leader.
 The Call to Worship is from “Song of the Open Road” by Walt Whitman.
 The Opening Sentences are adapted from Gordon McKeeman in *Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations, and Other Readings*, edited by Helen Pickett.
 The Unison Confession is by **Jeremy Rutledge**.
Susan Wegner plays the cello at the 8:30 a.m. worship.
 The Prayer of Dedication is from Timothy Haley in *Rejoice Together*.
 The Affirmation of Faith is from *Now and Then: A Memoir of Vocation* by Frederick Buechner.

Four-Week Series of Inquirers’ Classes Offered in February

A four-week series of classes for visitors and people considering membership in Covenant begins this Sunday, February 5 during the education hour which starts at 9:40 a.m. (Class meets in Meeks House dining room.) Classes explore how Covenant embraces liberal Christianity and our Baptist heritage, the church’s history and worship traditions and how Covenant operates today. Presenters include our ministers and other church leaders. If you are interested in learning more about Covenant Church and its people, come and join us! (If you can’t attend the February classes, the classes will be offered again in April.)

+Please stand in body or spirit