Reflections

Pride. Gluttony. Sloth. Lust. Greed. Envy. Wrath. The so-called seven deadly sins, identified centuries ago by monks living in the desert, are all over pop culture these days: on an episode of the TED radio hour, in a report on the "5 Most Sinful Cities in America" which was based on how often the locals commit the seven deadly sins, the movie Seven in which Brad Pitt is a detective tracking a serial killer whose murders each attempt to illustrate a deadly sin.

It seems the only place we don't hear much about the seven deadly sins is in church. But during the season of Lent, through a sermon series, we will take a closer look at each sin and ask what they have to teach us about our relationship with God. In Lent, the season leading up to Easter, we are invited to slow down, take stock of our deepest desires and temptations, and be honest with ourselves -- and with God -- about our failures. We begin on Ash Wednesday with the sin of pride, and continue through Palm Sunday. I hope you’ll join us.

Covenant News

We are streamlining our Covenant News. In this edition you will find a snapshot of Lent at Church of the Covenant and details on Holy Week, as well as stories of interest. We are emailing the newsletter as a PDF to those who have email and mailing to those who do not use email. We will continue to have copies available throughout the church.

Online Giving is Here!

Online giving is available on our website or accessed through our QR code. You can set up recurring gifts, such as pledges, or make one-time gifts. Go to Covenant-Web.org and click on the "Give"

Wondrous Encounters Daily Lenten Study

A limited number of Father Richard Rohr’s scriptural reflections for daily Lenten study are available in the office for $8.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has been in the process of hiring a new associate pastor for several months now. We have written and produced a Ministry Information Form that reflects the spirit of the Church of the Covenant, and that we believe will be attractive to promising candidates.

We have already received several applications, and are beginning the process of discerning which candidates we would like to learn more about. We’re looking forward to making personal contact by phone and Skype to get to know them better. Amy has been a great representative of our church in her recent travels, and we expect to be busy with a diverse group of applicants from many parts of the country.

While our applicants’ information needs to be confidential, our process is not; we work as trusted servants of the congregation. We will post regular progress reports in the e-news and on our website APNC page and share them personally in worship. Please feel free to check with any member of the Committee about the progress we’re making. We sincerely appreciate your encouragement and prayers.

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, co-chaired by Chris Langmack and Sybil Marsh, includes Kayla Clint, Tom Denbow, Will Klein, Debbie Rorick, and Mindy Stewart.
PACT + FAMILY PROMISE = IMPACT  
**Saturday, February 28, 6PM**  
**FAMILY PROMISE OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

On Saturday, February 28, those who participate in PACT events are invited to meet with Tiffani Roberts, Program Director, to learn more about Family Promise and explore ways PACT and Family Promise families might partner. This will be the kick off for our every-other-month rotation of hanging out with, sharing, serving, and learning from one of Covenant’s many ministry partners within the Cleveland community. Stay tuned for more information about how PACT is IMPACTing and being IMPACTed. Original PACT gatherings will continue occurring on Friday nights during the months we’re not with Family Promise.

**HINT to remember our new schedule.**  
**Odd months = Friday night PACT; Even months = Saturday IMPACT.**

Please contact Mindy Stewart at MStewart@CovenantWeb.org with any questions or to learn more.

Family Promise of Greater Cleveland provides emergency and interim housing and services at no charge to inspire and empower families who are homeless to transform their lives, become self-sufficient, and fulfill their promise. Learn more at familypromisecle.org.

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**MUSIC DURING LENT**

Each year we try to set apart the Lenten season with special musical and liturgical elements that will move us to reflection. One of the special moments in our services is the closing choral recessional. This year the choir will sing a moving Irish prayer, *Ag Criost an Siol* or "To Christ the Seed." Additional elements will include responsorial Psalms and vocal solos for the introits. We kick off our Lenten Journey on February 22 with the soul-inspiring jazz of Dave Kasper and friends followed by a very special Baroque Vespers that evening featuring J.S. Bach's *Cantata* No. 35.

Our Lenten season culminates in the grand story of Holy Week. On Palm Sunday the choir will present movements from J.S. Bach’s *St. John Passion*, both in the morning service and evening Vespers, when the entire Passion story will be read. Maundy Thursday will feature many of the musical highlights of the choral season concluding with the spiritual "Were You There.” On Good Friday, organ students from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music will present Marcel Dupré’s powerful *Stations of the Cross* with readings by Paul Claudel. Our Easter celebration will feature music of the 18th century, featuring Franz Joseph Haydn’s *Te Deum* and other selections by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

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**STUDENTS AT COVENANT**

**LEADING WORSHIP AND RAISING SONG**

She spoke with clarity, sincerity, breadth of response and depth of feeling. Sunday, January 25, greeted the first Lay Worship Leader from our college student community. Writing prayers of confession and dedication of the offering can seem a daunting task for some, as well as delivering the first scripture lesson of the day. But not for Susan McKay, first year student from West Lafayette, Indiana. Susan has been worshiping with us and participating in SCC since her arrival, “happy to find faith fellows in class as well as in church.” Susan is pictured here with a fellow member of Voices of Glory, campus gospel choir, who will present a benefit concert at Covenant on April 18 at 7:30pm.

Susan also has enjoyed our theater outings and Student Brunches. The next one is March 22. Join in this welcome to our nearest neighbors, the students!

Contact Rev. Eileen efviz@yahoo.com or 216-421-0482 ext 237.
Lent at Church of the Covenant

Ash Wednesday Supper & Service Wednesday, February 18

6pm dinner in the Dining Room
7pm service in the Sanctuary

Mark the beginning of the Lenten season by sharing a light supper and the sacrament of the Lord’s supper. To help cover the expense of the meal, a $5 donation per person is suggested.

If you plan to come to supper, please sign up in the church office, call 216.421.0482, or email Covenant@CovenantWeb.org by Sunday, February 15.

Sponsored by the Worship & Music Committee.

Lenten Sunday Adult Forums
The Aesthetics of Worship
Sundays, February 15–March 22
11:30am in Beckwith Hall

Five lectures explore the historical relationship between the arts and the Christian Church, focusing on visual art, architecture, pipe organs, corporate singing, J.S. Bach’s musical masterpiece, the St. Matthew Passion, and the future of the arts in the Church.

A flyer with full lecture descriptions is available at CovenantWeb.org and throughout the church.

“Out to Lunch”
Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday

Enjoy a lunch out in the neighborhood. Watch for details.

Easter Breakfast

Beginning at 8:15AM

A wonderful way to begin the celebration of Easter. Prepared by Chef Willie Parker & his faithful assistants. $5 per person suggested donation.

Walk-in's welcome; sign-ups helpful in planning.

Sign up for Out to Lunch and Breakfast in the church office or email Covenant@CovenantWeb.org.

Calling All Singers
Join the Covenant Choir for a Journey through Lent and Holy Week

There is no better time to join than now! If you have a voice, an ear, and willingness to learn, we would love to have you.

Contact Dr. Jonathan Moyer, JMoyer@CovenantWeb.org or Dr. Matthew Garrett, MGarrett@CovenantWeb.org.

2015 One Great Hour of Sharing
FAITH ENDURES . . . Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts.
~ Romans 5.5

The 2015 One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received Palm Sunday, March 29 and through Eastertide.

Easter Flowers
The lilies and other flowers that decorate our church on Easter are presented to the glory of God and in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Call Mildred Russin at 216.421.0482 or go to CovenantWeb.org for an order form.

Please reserve by Sunday, March 22.

PWR Hunger Action Day
Saturday, February 21: 9–3:30
Lyndhurst Community Presbyterian Church
5312 Mayfield Road, Cleveland 44124
Keynote: Ruth Farrell, Director
Presbyterian Hunger Program
Contact Laura VanDale at lvandale@preswesres.org.
Holy Week at Covenant
...take a journey of faith.

Palm Sunday: March 29, 10:00am
Children’s procession of palms.
Movements from J.S. Bach’s *St. John Passion*.
Sermon talk-back. Lunch at a local restaurant.

Holy Week Vespers: March 29, 5:00pm
Featuring J.S. Bach’s *St. John Passion*.

Maundy Thursday: April 2, 7:30pm
Holy Communion & Service of Tenebrae.
Experience Jesus’ journey from betrayal to crucifixion.

Good Friday: April 3, 12noon
Organ students from Oberlin Conservatory present Marcel Dupré’s *Stations of the Cross* interspersed with readings by Paul Claudel.

Easter Sunday: April 5, 10am Worship
Choir, organ, brass, and percussion proclaim the enduring message of Jesus’ resurrection, featuring Franz Joseph Haydn’s *Te Deum* and selections by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.
Breakfast at 8:30. Easter egg hunt following the service.
Join others for lunch at a local restaurant.