

Dear Covenant Student,

We pray this note finds you enjoying the remainder of your summer. In the Chapel department, Rev. Aaron Messner, our chaplain, and Christiana Fitzpatrick, our mentoring coordinator, have been preparing for your arrival and for the year ahead. As you probably know by now, the Covenant community meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11am for chapel (with special chapel services held occasionally on Tuesday & Thursday). Chapel attendance is a required element of a Covenant education, with all students being required to attend 80% of the morning chapel services. We eagerly anticipate the challenges and growth the Lord will bring through the chapel program and we hope that you will see chapel not simply as a required duty, but as a regular and rich opportunity to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The primary activity of chapel will be the reading and preaching of the Word of God. As your chaplain, I will be preaching nearly every week of the academic year, taking our campus community through a year long series from Proverbs. You will also have the opportunity to sit under the ministry of preachers and speakers from the Covenant community, the Chattanooga area, the United States, and the world.

However, as nourishing as we hope chapel will be, we also want to remind you that it is not a replacement for involvement in a local church. At Covenant, we firmly believe that an active relationship with a multi-generational church is mutually beneficial to you and to the church as you worship and serve. You have gifts and talents to share with the body of Christ and the body has its gifts to share with you, that together you might glorify Christ. Membership in a local church provides you spiritual oversight and leadership as well as a community and fellowship outside of Covenant College. The PCA allows for college students to become associate members of a local church during their time away from their home church. Whether you belong to a church in the PCA or one of a different denomination, we encourage you to discuss this option of membership with your parents and pastor.

Before you leave for Covenant, we encourage you to identify a few churches that you would like to visit starting Sunday morning, August 22nd. In order to help you, we have posted information about local PCA churches at <http://www.covenant.edu/visit/location/churches>. Other church options may be found through various searches on the web, but one that has been reasonably helpful in the past is www.usachurch.com under Chattanooga, TN churches. Covenant will also have resources available when you arrive. Each residence hall welcome desk will have local church directories as well as directions to many of the churches our faculty, staff, and students attend. Our Residence Life staff, Orientation Team, and Student Discipleship Coordinators will make a special effort to encourage and assist you in getting to the church of your choice.

We are excited about your coming arrival and are actively praying for the Lord's blessing on your experience here at Covenant. Please stop by and visit us on the ground floor of Carter Hall (we're near the mailroom) when you get to campus. We look forward to getting to know each of you during the coming year.

In Christ,

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