

The Church of the Covenant

TUESDAY ORGAN \sharp PLUS CONCERTS

NOON

June 2, 2026

Steven Kuerbitz
Organ

THE CHANCEL ORGAN

Concerto in D minor, BWV 596

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

- I. [Allegro]
- II. Grave
- III. Fuga
- IV. Largo e spiccato
- V. [Allegro]

Prélude, Fugue et Variation, Op. 18

César Franck
(1822-1890)

THE NEWBERRY ORGAN

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, BWV, BWV 654

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Nun komm der heiden Heiland, BWV 659

Nun komm der heiden Heiland, BWV 661

TODAY'S PROGRAM IS PRESENTED IN PART THROUGH THE GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP OF THE CHARLES TEARE AND CLIFFORD KERN FUND OF THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION AND THE COVENANT FRIENDS OF MUSIC FUND.

*All free will offerings support Tuesday Noon Organ Plus Concerts and its artists.
Please join us for cookies in the narthex of the sanctuary where you can greet today's artist.*

Scan for online donations:



The Church of the Covenant, 11205 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106, Phone: 216-421-0482

www.CovenantWeb.org

OUR INSTRUMENTS

The Newberry Organ that resides in the sanctuary's rear gallery was named the Newberry Organ as a memorial to the generosity and artistic vision of Elizabeth "Betty" Hitchcock Rose (1915-2013). The instrument was built by Richards & Fowkes Organ Company in Ooltewah, Tennessee and is modeled after the historic organs of 17th century northern Germany and the Netherlands. Its unique tuning, pitch, and timbre enable the performer to recreate both solo organ repertoire and collaborative instrumental works from the baroque and renaissance eras with astonishing authenticity.

The Chancel Organ was built by the Ernest M. Skinner Organ Company from Boston in 1931. It was later renovated by the Aeolian Skinner Organ Company in 1959 in keeping with the tenets of the organ reform movement that was sweeping across the United States. In 1996, the console was replaced by the Holtkamp Organ Company (Cleveland).

The Chapel Positive Organ was constructed by Flentrop Orgelbouw, The Netherlands, for Oberlin College and Conservatory in the 1960's. It consists of three ranks of pipes behind a decorative façade of non-speaking wooden pipes.

The Sanctuary Steinway Piano was donated to the church by Kristina Baker Sole in memory of her late husband.

THE ARTISTS

Steven Kuerbitz began study on the organ at age 15 as a student of the late Mr. Thomas Wegener at St. John's Lutheran Church, Midland, MI. He continued studies with Dr. Albert Bolitho at Albion College, Albion, MI. With the beginning of medical school, time for playing became scarce, and playing remained sporadic for 20 years while he pursued his MD degree, served a residency in Pediatrics, a fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, and held faculty positions at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Case Western Reserve University/ Rainbow Babies and Childrens' Hospital, and Akron Children's Hospital. He practiced at Akron Children's for 23 years, and served there as medical director of the Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation Program and Director of Research Programs. Until his retirement in 2024 he held the Jeffrey A. Barbour Chair for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Research and Healing. He found his way back to semi-regular playing around 2000 when he joined the music ministry at his parish church. His re-entry was curtailed in October, 2006 when he suffered a stroke that left him with a dense left hemiparesis, from which he continues to recover. When Steve stepped back from full time medicine in October, 2022 he sought the opportunity to resume formal study of the organ. Shortly thereafter he was fortunate to have the opportunity to begin studying with Dr. Jonathan Moyer, organist at The Church of the Covenant in Cleveland and The David S. Boe Associate Professor and Chair of the Organ Department at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Jonathan very graciously agreed to take Steve on as a very non-traditional student. Throughout his life, Steve has nurtured a deep love for the music that evolved around the Lutheran chorale and the liturgical traditions of the Lutheran Church. He looks forward to continued exploration of this music as well as many other organ traditions and voices. Steve and his wife Carolyn live in Highland Heights and have 4 adult children. Steve would like to thank Mr. Clint Fowler for facilitating an introduction to Dr. Moyer.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 9 and 16

Jonathan Moyer
organ

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