



COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...
Changing lives forever!



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND, 2020 - 10 A.M.

FORWARD
FROM CAREFREE TO COMMITMENT:
GOAL ORIENTED

LIVE STREAMING

CCPC live streams our worship services every Sunday morning. Please join us in spirit by going to www.covenantcommunitypc.org/live-stream. You can give, fill out a Connection Card, and also view archives of past services and sermons all from the comfort of your home.

Ministers - All members of the congregation

Staff:

Pastor - Jim Gates

(757) 615-1799 or jim@covenantcommunitypc.org

Director of Children & Family Ministries - Amanda Fuls

(715) 573-6296 or amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org

Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries - Dan Frost

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Director of Music Ministries - Les Fraaza

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Communications & Evangelism Coordinator - Drew Bouché

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Bell Choir Director - Ruth Wrynski

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Housekeeper - Carol Anklam

Church Office

(715) 359-6467 or ccpc@covenantcommunitypc.org

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Gathering Around the Word

Prelude: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" Lynn Theilig

Quiet Reflection and Preparation for Worship:

What if God's call is not to go "back to normal" but to go forward with Christ? In what direction is your life moving? Are you going backwards to your old life, or forward into the Spirit's new adventure? Consider this morning what your next step towards God might be, and commit to strain forward to what lies ahead.

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship: Isaiah 32:1-2

See, a king will reign in righteousness,
And princes will rule with justice.

Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a covert from the tempest,
Like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land.

Jesus is our king of righteousness,
And we are his royal family carrying forth his justice.

***Hymn:** "You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim" (vs. 1,2) Herb Westlund

***Call to Confession:** Isaiah 32:6

Isaiah rebukes the wicked of his day, saying, "Fools speak folly, and their minds plot iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink." Neither in our actions, words or thoughts do we wish to be counted as such. Therefore, we now confess our sins, turning away from them and back to God. Let us pray.

***Prayer of Confession:**

Forgive us, O Lord, for often living a directionless faith without a clear purpose in you. Like Christian castaways, we drift closer or further from you according to the wind and the waves of our lives. We float into troubled waters and sin in action, words and thoughts, and then are surprised to discover our own behavior. This is not the way you call us to live.

Father, your word is our compass; point us towards true north. Jesus, your grace is our rudder; equip us to steer into your seas. Holy Spirit, you are the wind in our sails; breathe on us and give us strength.

Grant us a vision of your Kingdom, O God, that we might pursue it relentlessly, not drifting but sailing forward with you, until your kingdom comes, and your will is done, on earth as it is in heaven.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

***Assurance of Pardon:** Colossians 1:13

Believe the good news! "The Father has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Children's Message

Period of Fellowship

Proclaiming the Word

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 32:1-8 NRSV Bible

Special Music: "Run to the Father" Jay St. Clair

New Testament Reading: Matthew 13:24-33 NRSV Bible

Sermon: Forward from Carefree to Commitment: Goal Oriented Jim Gates

Responding to the Word

***Hymn:** "Seek Ye First" (vs. 1,2) Herb Westlund

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Offering & Stewardship Update

Offertory Music: "Day by Day" Lynn Theilig

Connection Card and giving are available on the live stream web page.

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Announcements

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction:** "Standing on the Promises" (vs. 3) Herb Westlund

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONLINE WORSHIP ONLY IN NOVEMBER—After our most recent Session meeting on Monday night, our elders decided to return to an online only service for the remaining weeks of November. This is a response to the surging cases in our community and the Wausau area. We plan to meet again on Monday, November 30 to discuss the situation in our area and make decisions for December. Most important in our decision making will be the ratio of positive results to number of cases in our county, and the available capacity for treatment in our local hospitals.

COVENANT NEIGHBORS—We are launching a new idea at CCPC called “Covenant Neighbors.” In a nutshell, this will connect everyone in our church to two or three other members/families who live nearby. These connections will be *VERY* simple and will function similarly to a phone tree. Once every other month, you will receive an email called “Neighborhood News.” This will be a short list of questions or information to share with each other by phone. This will be designed to never require more than a brief, 2-3 minute conversation (of course, if you get to chatting, that’s a-ok). Before we create these neighborhood groups, we want to give everyone the opportunity to “opt out.” So, if you’d rather not be a part of our little phone tree system, just reply to this email or call the church and let us know. No worries whatsoever! Otherwise, stay tuned for more information right after Thanksgiving to discover who will be your Covenant Neighbors!

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE—Thank you to everyone who submitted a Commitment Card with your 2021 pledge! If you have not done so yet, you can mail those to the church or complete them online here: <https://covenantcommunitypc.org/people/forms/179281>. Our current totals as of this morning are **99 pledges for \$338,471**.

COVENANT ADVENT CELEBRATION—CCPC will be celebrating the kickoff of Advent with a celebration of our faith family’s many talents! On Sunday, November 29 from 4-5:30pm, we will be showing a production of folks singing, dancing, playing an instrument, or sharing any other entertaining skills! Simply go to our live stream page at www.covenantcommunitypc.org/live-stream to view the performances. Those who wish to perform should contact Dan Frost (dan@covenantcommunitypc.org). *The deadline to register a talent is TODAY*, as we will need pre-recorded performances early this week.

ENDOWMENT PANEL DISCUSSION—Following worship *TODAY*, we will have a panel discussion about our new Endowment Fund. If you would like to learn answers to common questions regarding the fund, please continue watching after worship.

ONLINE DIRECTORY—We now have an online directory which includes both pictures and contact information! Go to <https://covenantcommunitypc.churchcenter.com/directory/people> to get started. Call or email the church office with questions.

MISSIONS

HEARTS OF HOPE 2020—Hearts of Hope adoptions and donations continue! Hearts are available for adoption on our website! To register for hearts, go to <https://covenantcommunitypc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/603189>. All gifts are due back to church by December 13. There are printable heart tags

available on the registration page. Simply print out in color, fill in, cut, and attach to the appropriate gifts before delivering to the church at The Hub located at the Bouldin Hall entrance. There will be paper hearts available if you are not able to print at home, or if you have forgotten your tags. If you have any questions, on the online registration, contact the church at 715-359-6467.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING—CCPC will be manning the Salvation Army bells and donation bucket on Saturday, December 5 at Pick N Save (Cedar Creek). The church is covering from 10am-6pm. If you would like to volunteer your time (we’re asking for 1 hour commitments), please go to <https://www.registertoring.com/> and enter our group code: CCPC. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Frost (dan@covenantcommunitypc.org).

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM—We continue our new Bible study on the first six “minor” prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, and Nahum *THIS* Tuesday, November 24, at noon via Zoom. All men are welcome! Contact Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org) for the Zoom information.

PRAYER MEETINGS—Our weekly Prayer Meeting has resumed via Zoom every Wednesday night at 6pm, continuing *THIS* Wednesday, November 25. All are welcome! To join the Zoom meeting, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82054635060?pwd=MTkzOGJqMFRWamxrMy9CSHBwcUMrUT09> Meeting ID: 820 5463 5060 Passcode: 711155

A CONVERSATION ON RACE STUDY GROUP—Our Conversation on Race group will meet via Zoom on Thursday, December 3 at 6pm to discuss the book, “Under Our Skin” by Benjamin Watson. All are welcome to join the group and are invited to read the book before the discussion takes place. If you have any questions, contact Krista Gates at gatkri@gmail.com or Amanda Fuls at amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org.

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

YOUTH GROUP VIA ZOOM—All students grades 6th-12th grade are invited to join us online, using Zoom, *THIS* coming Wednesday at 6pm. If you would like to see video messages and materials from previous weeks, please go to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/youth-group>. If you have any questions, contact Dan Frost (dan@covenantcommunitypc.org).

YOUTH I.D. VIA ZOOM—Youth Institute of Discipleship has *THREE* classes (6th & 7th; Confirmation; 9th & 12th) via Zoom at 9am every Sunday morning. For more information, please visit <http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/sunday-school-2> for more information, or contact Dan Frost (dan@covenantcommunitypc.org).

KIDS I.D. VIA ZOOM—Kids I.D. is all about growing closer to God through Bible knowledge. We have special plans for the kiddos so that they are not just sitting in front of a screen! All kids start in a large group via Zoom and then breakout into two groups (PreK-1st & 2nd-5th grades). Each group will need their own device. Join us every Sunday at 9am. Learn more at <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/sunday-school-1>.