

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



-sunday, november 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 10 a.m.— FORWARD FROM ME TO WE: WE + JESUS

# 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 (815) 262-5273 dan@covenantcommunitypc.org

> Director of Music Ministries - Les Fraaza (715) 574-2059 or les@covenantcommunitypc.org

> > Parish Visitor - Jess Wakefield jess@covenantcommunitypc.org

Communications & Evangelism Coordinator - Drew Bouché drew@covenantcommunitypc.org

> Office Manager/Bookkeeper- John Jacobs john@covenantcommunitypc.org

> > Choir Director - Deb Perrin deb@covenantcommunitypc.org

Bell Choir Director - Ruth Wrysinski ruth@covenantcommunitypc.org

Housekeeper - Carol Anklam

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

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# Gathering Around the Word

#### Prelude:

#### Chriss Altis

### **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

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

The Baumann Family

Advent means coming. The first candle of Advent is the candle of hope.

At his birth, Jesus came as Light in the darkness, an answer to the hope of human hearts.

Today we hope to reflect Christ's light and to change lives forever.

God spent generations preparing the people Israel for the Advent of Messiah.

Now God prepares us, the church, for the fulfillment of our great hope – the return of our King.

Come, Lord Jesus!

\*Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (vs. 1,2) Kent & Deb Perrin

## \*Call to Confession:

Ephesians 1:7

In Jesus, "we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us." Confident of God's forgiveness, we make our prayer of confession together.

## \*Prayer of Confession:

Father of grace and glory, forgive us for our sins, and for the self-focus which creeps into so many aspects of our daily lives - even into our faith in you. Lift our eyes from ourselves to you and to each other, as we anticipate the return of Jesus in this Advent season.

Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we come to know you, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know what is the hope to which you have called us, what are the riches of your glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of your power for us who believe.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

Ephesians 1:20-23

Believe the good news! "God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." Thanks be to God! **Amen.** 

### Children's Message

Period of Fellowship

Proclaiming the Word		
Old Testament Readin	<b>g:</b> Isaiah 35:1-10	NRSV Bible
Special Music:	"How Many Kings"	Kent & Deb Perrin
New Testament Reading	<b>ig:</b> Ephesians 1	NRSV Bible
Sermon:	Forward from Me to We: We +	Jesus Jim Gates

# Responding to the Word

\*Hymn: "People, Look East" (vs. 1,4) Kent & Deb Perrin

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Offering & Stewardship Update

Offertory Music:

Chriss Altis

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

# Bearing and Following the Word into the World

### Announcements

### \*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction: "Pe

"People, Look East" (vs. 5) Kent & Deb Perrin

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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. If you don't hear about your group in the coming week (and you haven't opted out), contact Jim Gates!

**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 November 25 are **103 pledges for \$349,371**.

**<u>COVENANT ADVENT CELEBRATION</u>**—CCPC will be celebrating the kickoff of Advent with a celebration of our faith family's many talents, *TONIGHT*, from 4-5:30pm. Simply go to our live stream page at

*www.covenantcommunitypc.org/live-stream* to view the performances at that time. Tune in and be entertained!

<u>ONLINE DIRECTORY</u>—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 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 *THIS* 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 guestions, please contact Dan Frost (dan@covenantcommunitypc.org).

## **BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS**

**WOMEN'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, December 1, at noon via Zoom. All women are welcome! Contact Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org) for the Zoom information.

**BOOK CLUB**—The Book Club invites you to join them via Zoom (Hosted by Jean Rogers)! The discussion will be about "Girl Wash Your Face" by Rachel Hollis and will take place *THIS* Tuesday, December 1 at 6:30pm. If you would like to participate, please contact Kari Kufahl (kari.kufahl@gmail.com) for the Zoom information, and Jean Rogers (hdncv1307@gmail.com) to RSVP.

**PRAYER MEETINGS**—Our weekly Prayer Meeting has resumed via Zoom every Wednesday night at 6pm, continuing *THIS* Wednesday, December 2. 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

<u>A CONVERSATION ON RACE STUDY GROUP</u>—Our Conversation on Race group will meet via Zoom *THIS* 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

**ADVENT SNAPSHOT DEVOTIONAL**—In the spirit of a "Me to We" faith family celebration, we have created an Advent devotional to connect us all! We invite you to go to our website, www.covenantcommunitypc.org, and download this booklet that is filled with daily scripture readings and holiday activities. Document those activities with a picture at any time during Advent and share them at *#ccpcadventsnapshots* for all to see! In this season of separation, let's come together in spirit and joy!

**SAVE-THE-DATE: KIDS CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION 2020**—Join us online for this year's CCPC Kids presentation: "Christmas Snapshots." This wonderful production will be in short-film format and presented on our live stream page (www.covenantcommunitypc.org/live-stream) on Sunday, December 20 at 4:30pm. Tune in and watch our youngsters share a message of community, love, and joy in this season of Advent!

**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.