

LIVE STREAMING

CCPC live streams 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

Parish Visitor - Jess Wakefield

(715) 573-4648 or jess@covenantcommunitypc.org

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Contemporary Music Director - Orlando diValentin

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Accompanist & Bell Choir Director - JeHae Kim-Bixby

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Housekeeper - Carol Anklam

Church Office

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

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www.covenantcommunitypc.org



COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 2022 - 10 A.M.

A FRESH START: REASSESS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude: "He is Lord/O Come, Let Us Adore Him" JeHae Kim-Bixby

Quiet Reflection and Preparation for Worship:

The first words of the Bible are "in the beginning." We know that God was there at the beginning of all things; and that even today, God is the source of new beginnings. As we prepare for worship, consider where Christ has already been the source of blessing in your life, and in what parts of your life you hope the Spirit will inspire something new to spring forth.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Doescher/Hurd Families

The third Advent candle is the candle of joy. The pink candle stands out as a symbol of our celebration, even in the long wait for Messiah's coming.

For the story of Jesus is good news of great joy for all people.

Joy is not primarily an emotion; it is the decision to believe and experience God's goodness even in hard times. Jesus says,

"So you have pain now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

We respond to the promise of Christ's coming by choosing joy this Advent. As Paul writes,

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice!"

***Hymn:** "Lift Up Your Heads" (vs. 1,2,3) #93

***Call to Confession:**

In this season of Advent, we are reminded of the great conflict between the values of the world, and the values of the kingdom of God. We are still tempted to live according to the world's values; but today we renounce them, and turn instead to the renewed relationships offered through our Lord Jesus. Let us pray.

***Prayer of Confession:**

Lord Jesus, you promise us that we will find hope, peace, and joy through you. This week, however, we have at times sought to attain those same goals outside of our relationship with you. We have pursued short-term, physical ends instead of long-term spiritual ones.

We know that you and you alone can satisfy our hearts. Forgive us for looking elsewhere. Let our lives be so intertwined with yours that all of our ordinary moments, touched by your presence, become sacred. Like Mary your mother, let us always carry your life with us.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

WEDNESDAY ADULT L.I.F.E. — Our adult L.I.F.E. class discussing "Three Things that Terrify Christians" will conclude *THIS* Wednesday, December 14. We've been talking about *praying in public, sharing the gospel, and will finish with "finding it in the Bible."* If you've ever worried about any of these, you're in good company. Join us this Wednesday from 6-7pm to conquer your fears and become an instant expert in all three areas!

ADVENT STUDY GUIDE 2022 — This year's Advent Study Guide, craft project, and candles can be found in the Narthex between the two red chairs. You can also print a version of the booklet by going to our website.

ADVENT STUDY ON THE BIBLE APP — We are continuing an Advent-themed daily devotional together utilizing the free Bible app (available on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store). Use the link in tomorrow's Covenant Connection email.

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

SALT & LIGHT YOUTH GROUP — Students who are 6th through 12th are invited to Salt & Light Youth Group on Wednesday nights from 6-7:30pm, including this week, December 14! *NOTE: There will be no Youth Group on December 21.*

KID'S MINISTRY WEEKLY PROGRAMMING — Kid's I.D. (Sundays at 9am), Kid's Worship/Wiggles (during the morning/evening service), and Kid's L.I.F.E. (Wednesdays at 6pm) share the same Bible story each week, but with different emphasis. Contact Amanda Fuls (amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org) with any questions. *NOTE: There will be no Kid's L.I.F.E. on December 21 or Kid's I.D. on December 25.*

CCPC KID'S CHRISTMAS SHOW — CCPC Kids presents "Twas the Night Before" *NEXT* Sunday, December 18 at 2pm! Our kids and family members are working hard to bring us this amazing story of the anticipation of the coming of our Savior. Let's show our kids and families some support by coming and enjoying the show! This show will be live streamed for those parents/grandparents who are out of town.

YOUTH GROUP CONFERENCES 2023 — Salt & Light Youth is thrilled to offer an amazing experience for our rising 6th-12th grade students! In the summer of 2023, we will be attending two separate conferences as a group! The Quest Conference, taking place June 18-23, is for our high school students entering 9-12 grades, while The Great Escape Conference, July 10-15, is for our middle school students entering 6-8 grades. These conferences are way more than just a "summer Bible camp." This is a unique opportunity for our church youngsters to grow closer to Christ *TOGETHER* and bring that experience home to our church. To learn more, please pick up a brochure at the Hub or go to: <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/youth-conferences>

CCPC BUDGET/ATTENDANCE

THROUGH OCTOBER 2022:

Budgeted Operating Revenues: **\$460,634**
Actual Operating Revenues: **\$480,254**
Budgeted Operating Expenses: **\$456,993**
Actual Operating Expenses: **\$450,648**

DECEMBER 4 ATTENDANCE:

AM In-Person Total: **229**
AM Livestream Total: **92**
PM In-Person Total: **48**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS SCAVENGER HUNT— Using the Goosechase App., our church will be having a scavenger hunt to be held over a week's time, December 14 (starting at 7:30am) to the 21st (ending at 5pm)! Download the app on your device today to setup your account, then join the game by using the code: **3M947Z** and create your team name. See how many challenges you can complete over the seven days. On Wednesday, December 21 at 6pm, we will come together to celebrate the season and winners at our award ceremony! If you have any questions or issues, please contact Dan Frost. *NOTE: There will be no L.I.F.E. or Youth Group that evening.*

CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY SERVICES— Come celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve with a family-focused service at 4pm and a traditional service at 6pm. We will have a Christmas morning service (10am) to include Scripture readings and carols (no I.D. or Fellowship Hour). There will not be a 6pm service that day.

HIRING AT CCPC— CCPC is hiring a 20 hr/week Office Manager. This is a Monday-Friday position, and involves both office management and administrative support. To find out more, visit our website. If you are interested in applying, send your resume to Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org), or contact him with questions.

MISSIONS & VOLUNTEERING

CHRISTMAS DINNER— We are excited to once again provide a Christmas Day meal for folks in our community. There will be an in-person meal in our Fellowship Hall on the 25th, from 11am-12pm, as well as deliveries! If you know people who might be interested, have them call the church to RSVP for either in-person or deliveries. (**PLEASE NOTE: This meal is for our greater community, not specifically for our church family.**) If you would like to make cookies for the meal or deliver, contact Sharon Maltbey (715-573-7427 or sharon.maltbey@gmail.com)

HEARTS OF HOPE— Our Hearts of Hope gifts are due **TODAY!** Please make sure that they are turned in to the Fellowship Hall and that they have a color-coded heart with number attached to it (these are available in the Fellowship Hall). If you are interested in preparing for, or helping distribute on December 17 pickup day, or if you would like to contribute cookies for the families, please sign up at The Hub. Finally, we are also looking for donations of holiday tins to package the cookies in.

2023 AUCTION PHONE CALL VOLUNTEERS— We are in the beginning phase of our 2023 Mission Auction, which includes distributing information and contacting local businesses and individuals for the purpose of item donations. If you would like to help call businesses, please sign up at the counter by the name tags or mark your interest on today's Connection Card.

FAMILY MISSION CAMP 2023— The 2023 Family Mission Camp will be at Spencer Lake Christian Center in Waupaca. We have partnered with local and global organizations to make an impact at home, and around the world. This will take place August 18-20. For more details and to register your family, go to: <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/all-family-mission-trip>.

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY— Our study of the Gospel of John continues **THIS** Tuesday, December 13 for the men (meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month). All men are welcome!

*Assurance of Pardon:

Luke 1:58

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David." Believe the good news – in Jesus our Savior we are redeemed! Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

The Sacrament of Baptism: Today we celebrate the baptisms of Aspen James Barnes, son of Alex and Amy Barnes, and Krew Markus Body, son of Cailin Hargraves and Kaden Body.

Children's Message

Period of Fellowship

*Hymn: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (vs. 1,3) #108

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 10 Page 8

Special Music: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" CCPC Bell Choir

New Testament Reading: Luke 1:67-79 Page 58

Sermon: "A Fresh Start: Reassess" Jim Gates

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn: "Go to the World" (vs. 1,2,4) #295

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory Music: "Gesu, Bambino" JeHae Kim-Bixby & Marcy Fehrman

*Doxology

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction: "Prepare the Way, O Zion" (vs. 2) #106

WELCOME TO COVENANT COMMUNITY!

We consider it a privilege to have you worship with us and sincerely hope you get a blessing from the service. Some notes to help you be more comfortable during the service:

- † Please participate in congregational responses (bold)
- † Please stand as able, as marked with an asterisk *
- † Please fill out the Connection Card insert.
- † Feel free to use the Cry Room (you will be able to see & hear the service) and/or Nursery located across from the sanctuary
- † Activity bags for children are available in the Narthex.

HOW TO JOIN THIS CHURCH

The officers and members of CCPC welcome all persons who wish to respond to the Lordship of Jesus Christ by confessing or reaffirming their Christian Faith or by transferring their membership. We invite you to accept this invitation if you do not have a church home. Please speak with Jim Gates, note your interest on the Connection Card, or phone the church office (715) 359-6467. You are welcome here!

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all who serve the church on Sunday mornings!

Worship Leader: Deb Tice

The Hub: Barb Lamping

Acolytes: LJ Martin & Victoria Anderson

Gatekeeper: Jerry Trebus

Elder Greeter: Bob Gebauer &
Shelby Waraksa

Slides: Josh Werner

Usher Lead: Jesse Lawton

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following folks who were recently in the hospital or reside in an assisted-care facility.

Mary Zuidema
(Renaissance in Wisconsin Rapids)

Joyce Michna
(Fond du Lac)

Mike Petterson
(Home)

Stella Lamping
(Home)

Cheryl Lenz
(Colonial Center in Colby)

Mike Johnson
(Rennes)

THIS WEEK AT CCPC

SERVICE... DISCIPLESHIP... ENGAGEMENT!

<u>TODAY</u>		<u>MONDAY</u>		<u>TUESDAY</u>		<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	
9AM	I.D./CONFIRM.			12PM	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY	3PM	FOOD PANTRY
9AM	KID'S MUSIC			6PM	CELEBRATE RECOVERY	6PM	YOUTH GROUP
10AM	WORSHIP					6PM	KID'S/ADULT L.I.F.E.
11:15AM	WOMEN'S SM. GRP.					6PM	BELL CHOIR PRACTICE
1PM	MUSIC RECITAL					7PM	ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE
4PM	BAND REHEARSAL						
6PM	WORSHIP						
<u>THURSDAY</u>		<u>FRIDAY</u>		<u>SATURDAY</u>		<u>SUNDAY</u>	
2PM	SHEEPSHEAD			8:30AM	HEARTS OF HOPE PICKUP DAY	9AM	I.D./CONFIRM.
4:30PM	FAITH & FITNESS			9AM	KID'S PROGRAM DRESS REHEARSAL	9AM	KID'S MUSIC
						10AM	WORSHIP
						11:15AM	WOMEN'S SM. GRP.
						2PM	KID'S PROGRAM
						4PM	BAND REHEARSAL
						6PM	WORSHIP

For more details about CCPC programming, refer to the next couple of pages in this bulletin, go to www.covenantcommunitypc.org, or call the church office at 715-359-6467.