

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

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 or dan@covenantcommunitypc.org

Communications Coordinator - Drew Bouché

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Bookkeeper - John Jacobs

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Traditional Music Director & Choir Director - Deb Perrin

deb@covenantcommunitypc.org

Contemporary Music Director - Orlando diValentin

orlando@covenantcommunitypc.org

Accompanist & Bell Choir Director - JeHae Kim-Bixby

jehae@covenantcommunitypc.org

Organist - Les Fraaza

(715) 574-2059 or les@covenantcommunitypc.org

Housekeeper - Carol Anklam

Church Office

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

1806 Weston Avenue, Schofield, WI 54476

www.covenantcommunitypc.org



COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 2022 - 10 A.M.

A FRESH START: REGROUP

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude: "O How Joyfully" Marcy Fehrman & Les Fraaza

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 McCarron Family

The fourth Advent candle is the candle of love. Love is, quite simply, wanting good for another at some expense to ourselves.

God demonstrates his own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; **Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

We love because he first loved us.

***Hymn:** "Love Has Come" (vs. 1,2,3) #110

*Call to Confession:

God invites us into a community defined by the self-sacrificing love that Jesus embodied. But we have sought identity in other communities and from other sources this week. Now we return to God and offer our prayer of confession.

*Prayer of Confession:

Father, we long to live as your united family. Yet our earthly divisions continue to separate us from one another and from you.

Jesus, we confess that we have participated in actions that bring division; in our heads and with our hands, we have forgotten to love our neighbor as ourselves. We have neglected to love you with our whole selves.

Spirit, we ask that you again equip us for the work of the church; hope, peace, joy and love. Give us such a knowledge of your love for us that we cannot help but overflow into the lives of those around us.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

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.

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS — Our Tuesday Bible studies for men and women will not take place this week and next. We will resume our study of the Book of John with the women on January 3 at 12pm. Wednesday Night L.I.F.E. for kids and adults will be off for two weeks, with a return date of January 4 at 6pm (same for Youth Group as well). There will be no I.D. **NEXT** Sunday, December 25 or January 1. It will return Sunday, January 8 at 9am.

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

CCPC KID'S CHRISTMAS SHOW — CCPC Kids presents "Twas the Night Before" **TODAY** at 2pm! Our kids and family members have worked 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 NOVEMBER 2022:

Budgeted Operating Revenues: **\$502,862**
Actual Operating Revenues: **\$520,327**
Budgeted Operating Expenses: **\$496,338**
Actual Operating Expenses: **\$495,290**

DECEMBER 11 ATTENDANCE:

AM In-Person Total: **268**
AM Livestream Total: **86**
PM In-Person Total: **37**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS SCAVENGER HUNT— Using the Goosechase App., our church is currently doing a scavenger hunt through *THIS* Wednesday the 21st (ending at 5pm)! It is not too late to download the app on your device, setup your account, then join the game by using the code: **3M947Z** and create your team name. See how many challenges you can complete. On the 21st 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.

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. Both services will be livestreamed. 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.

EPIPHANY OPEN HOUSE— The Women of First Presbyterian Church invite the Women of CCPC to celebrate an Epiphany Open House with them on Friday, January 6 at 5:30pm. This will be held Judy North's home at 903 Hamilton St. in Wausau. FPC has been celebrating Epiphany with a gathering of wise women enjoying time of fellowship, refreshments and practical gifts for the baby Jesus. This year, items will be gathered for the Babies Place, a mission of the Neighbors Place. They are in need of diapers, pull ups, baby wipes, baby hygiene supplies and unopened formula. Checks may be made to The Babies Place in lieu of bringing an item. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to dvdjnrth@mac.com or 715-845-3613 by January 2.

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

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>. Please see today's insert for this amazing opportunity!

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. The deadline for RSVPs will be **THIS** Tuesday, December 20. **(PLEASE NOTE: This meal is for our greater community, not specifically for our church family. However, if you will be eating with us that day, please sign up at The Hub so that we have a rough estimate)** 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— Thank you to *EVERYONE* that adopted hearts, contributed monetarily, or gave of their time and energy to support all of our Hearts of Hope families this year. This does not happen without the generosity of our church family, and the community at large. Please continue to pray for all of our families. Specifically that they would come to know their Savior, pursue him, and share His love with their children.

*Assurance of Pardon:

Luke 2:10

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'" Believe the good news of great joy – Jesus the Savior has come, and through him, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Gloria Patri

CCPC's Live Nativity

Period of Fellowship

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Old Testament Reading:	Genesis 11:1-9	Page 9
Special Music:	"One Candle Lights the Way"	CCPC Choir
New Testament Reading:	Luke 2:1-20	Page 58
Sermon:	"A Fresh Start: Regroup"	Jim Gates

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn:	"Once in Royal David's City" (vs. 1,2,4)	#140
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer		See page 4

Offering

Offertory Music:	"The Greatest Story Ever Told"	Brett Kim-Bixby & Ric Thompson
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*Doxology

Welcome of New Members: Stephanie Smith - Stephanie Smith is a native of Washington state but has deep roots in Central Wisconsin – including her parents, CCPC members Dave and Kay Smith. She lives in Wausau, and is the mother of three adult children, Anna, Joshua, and Jacob. Stephanie oversees the marketing department, charitable foundation and corporate golf relationships at Sentry Insurance.

*Affirmation of Faith

See page 4

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction:	"Prepare the Way, O Zion" (vs. 3)	#106
Postlude:		Les Fraaza

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!

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|---|--|
| Worship Leader: Lauren Bouffleur | Slides: Craig Spangler |
| Acolytes: Allie VanSlyke & LJ Martin | Livestream: Derek Nelson |
| Elder Greeter: Bob Warner & Lynda Reis | Usher Lead: Craig Briggs |
| The Hub: Dianne Abel | Fellowship: Calvin Fraaza & Emily Furlano |
| Gatekeeper: Gregg James | |

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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|---|---|--|
| Mary Zuidema
<i>(Renaissance in Wisconsin Rapids)</i> | Joyce Michna
<i>(Fond du Lac)</i> | Mike Petterson
<i>(Home)</i> |
| Stella Lamping
<i>(Home)</i> | Cheryl Lenz
<i>(Colonial Center in Colby)</i> | Mike Johnson
<i>(Rennes)</i> |

THIS WEEK AT CCPC

SERVICE... DISCIPLESHIP... ENGAGEMENT!

<u>TODAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
9AM I.D./CONFIRM. 9AM KID'S MUSIC 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM WOMEN'S SM. GRP. 2PM KID'S PROGRAM 4PM BAND REHEARSAL 6PM WORSHIP		6PM CELEBRATE RECOVERY	1PM RETIRED SINGLES SMALL GROUP 6PM SCAVENGER HUNT PARTY 6PM BELL CHOIR PRACTICE 7PM ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE
<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
2PM SHEEPSHEAD 4:30PM FAITH & FITNESS		4PM FAMILY-FOCUSED CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6PM TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	10AM WORSHIP 11AM CHRISTMAS DINNER & DELIVERIES

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.