

LIVE-STREAM

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

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Communications Coordinator - Drew Bouché

drew@covenantcommunitypc.org

Traditional Music Director - Deb Perrin

deb@covenantcommunitypc.org

Contemporary Music Director - Orlando diValentin

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Accompanist & Bell Choir Director - JeHae Kim-Bixby

jehae@covenantcommunitypc.org

Organist - Les Fraaza

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Assistant to the Senior Pastor - Raissa Dupuis

raissa@covenantcommunitypc.org

Office Manager - Cyndi Schneider

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Church Office

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

WWW.COVENANTCOMMUNITYPC.ORG



GIVE US ... OUR DAILY BREAD:
THE GIVER OF THE LAW

Isaiah 29:13-21 & Mark 6:53-7:23

December 3, 2023

COVENANT COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...
Changing lives forever!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude: "Emmanuel Comes" JeHae Kim-Bixby

Quiet Reflection and Preparation for Worship:

Mark's account of Jesus' life closely parallels the Lord's Prayer. This section, Mark 6:7-8:30, is bracketed with the feeding of the 5,000 Israelites and the feeding of the 4,000 Gentiles. As Jesus literally gives the nations their daily bread, his identity as the Messiah is finally revealed to his disciples. In this season of Advent, how are you also receiving your daily bread from Jesus? What does it mean for you to discover his identity as Messiah, and as King of Kings, through his provision for you?

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Lighting of the Advent Candles: Birchwood Highlands Group Isaiah 29:18-19

The second candle of Advent is the candle of peace. God's Shalom, or peace, is a tangible union between God and all creation.

Jesus embodies shalom, as in his incarnation he unites the Creator and the created. Jesus is fully God and yet fully human.

God's peace spreads from Jesus throughout the kingdom of God. Isaiah spoke of this, saying,

On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a scroll, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see.

The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD,

And the neediest people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

***Hymn:** "People, Look East" (vs. 1,4,5) #105

***Call to Confession:** Isaiah 29:13
Isaiah writes, "These people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote." Our words on Sundays do not always match our hearts on Mondays. Recognizing this in ourselves, we make our prayer of confession today in humility and remorse.

***Prayer of Confession:**
Father God, we confess that we sometimes overstate our commitment to you with our words, and fall short in our actions. Even our worship is an unintentional act at times – a performance for others but not for you.

Today we want our offering to be more than songs and prayers; by your grace, help us to bring our entire selves as a living sacrifice to you. May our words and our hearts be united today, in Christ's name.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP 2024 - INFORMATIONAL MEETING — CCPC will be sending a team to Costa Rica June 22-29, 2024, in partnership with Praying Pelican Missions. This trip is open to rising 9th graders and older, and will be participating in homeless ministry, feeding programs, medical clinics, church projects, and one fun excursion! If you would like to learn more about this exciting opportunity, we invite you to attend an informational meeting NEXT Sunday, December 10 after worship.

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

ADVENT BIBLE APP STUDY — It is not too late to be a part of the Advent study utilizing the Bible App by YouVersion. The Bible App is available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. You can join the study and conversation by clicking the link provided in Monday's email, or contact Jim Gates to get involved.

TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY — Our women's Bible study will meet THIS Tuesday, December 5 at 12pm. The women meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. We are studying the Book of Isaiah. Join us and bring a friend!

ADULT L.I.F.E. — We will conclude our adult L.I.F.E. class, "The Angels of Christmas", THIS Wednesday, December 6. Join Deb Tice and Kari Kufahl for an interesting look at God's supernatural beings and the story of Christ's birth.

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

YOUTH GROUP — Middle School Youth meet from 6-7:30pm, and High School Youth meet from 6:30-8pm on Wednesday nights. This week we will play a culture clash game called "Bafá Bafá", which tries to make sense of an alien community.

KIDS L.I.F.E. — At Wednesday night L.I.F.E. (every Wednesday at 6pm) our first focus is a friendship with Jesus, and secondly, we encourage children to build relationships with other kids and adult leaders.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2023 — Christmas program practices will continue on Wednesday nights during Kids L.I.F.E. in December. We will also have a dress rehearsal on December 13, and a final practice on Saturday, December 16 in the morning. "A Stellar Christmas" will take place Sunday, December 17 at 2pm and will be livestreamed for family that cannot be there in person!

CCPC BUDGET/ATTENDANCE

THROUGH OCTOBER 2023:

Budgeted Operating Revenues: **\$465,449**

Actual Operating Revenues: **\$493,176**

Budgeted Operating Expenses: **\$453,141**

Actual Operating Expenses: **\$445,578**

NOVEMBER 26 ATTENDANCE:

AM In-Person Total: **203**

AM Livestream Total: **114**

PM In-Person Total: **36**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEXT MESSAGE COMMUNICATIONS — We are excited bring back text message communications! We want to make sure that this is a protected and hassle free experience for all of our faith family. To that end, we want to give you the chance to opt-in to this opportunity. You can do so by going to our website, checking the Monday emails, or marking your Connection Card on Sunday mornings.

ELDER AND DEACON NOMINATIONS — The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for Elder and Deacon! If you would like to submit someone's name for either role, please contact Tom Wrynski (chair) or Jim Gates.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON/POTLUCK — All are invited to the Annual Luncheon/Potluck, a Christmas tradition at CCPC, hosted by the Lunch Bunch and Old Guys Rule. Join us for wonderful food and Christmas Carols (led by Ron Pufall) on Thursday, December 14 at 12pm (punch at 11:30am). There is a signup at The Hub and we ask for a \$2 contribution per person to cover the cost (paid to Bob Warner or Ruth Wrynski).

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE — While Christmas is ordinarily a time of joy and celebration, many challenges can make facing the holiday season difficult. To support those for whom this season brings complex feelings, we will offer a special service on December 21 - the longest night of the year - at 6pm. If you know someone in need of encouragement this holiday season, please invite them to join you for this special worship service. All are invited and welcome.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES — Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will only have two evening services (no a.m.). At 4pm we will have a family-focused service, with traditional worship to follow at 6pm. Invite friends and family!

MISSIONS & VOLUNTEERING

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING — We are still looking to fill hour-long slots (or more if you'd like) to bell ring for the Salvation Army at the Schofield Pick 'N Save (2806 Schofield Ave.) on December 9 (10am-2pm). To register, visit (www.registertoring.com) and go to "I'm Ringing with a Group." Then enter our church's code: ccpcringers. You can then pick a time within our church's scheduled hours. Make sure to set up an account first!

HEARTS OF HOPE — The Hearts of Hope heart adoptions have been a wonderful success! Remember that if you have gifts for the kids and families, the drop off is December 10, and the pickup date for families is December 16. You can also contribute monetarily by dropping a red envelope (in the Narthex or at the Hub) in the offering plates Sunday morning, or by going to our website. We are still looking for volunteers to help us on pickup day! Contact Sue Thompson to get involved (smthomp313@gmail.com).

CHRISTMAS DINNER 2023 — CCPC continues its tradition of providing a free meal on Christmas Day for our community. We will have an in-person meal as well as deliveries to folks all over the Wausau area. Deadline to reserve meals is December 20. If you would like to help in any way, including deliveries, please contact Sharon Maltbey (sharon.maltbey@gmail.com).

*Assurance of Pardon:

Isaiah 30:18

Isaiah writes, "The LORD waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you." Believe the good news; Christ has risen with mercy in his wings, and in Christ, God's grace is present for us today. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

***Congregational Response:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Refrain) #113

Children's Message

(Children may come forward and be seated on the stage.)

Period of Fellowship

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

New Testament Reading: Isaiah 29:13-21 Page 657

Special Music: "The Gift of Love" Handbell Choir

New Testament Reading: Mark 6:53-7:23 Page 41

Sermon: "Give Us ... Our Daily Bread: The Giver of the Law" Jim Gates

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

The Sacrament of Communion

Ministry Celebration: Family Mission Camp Food Packaging

Offering

Offertory Music: "Oh, How He Loves You and Me" JeHae Kim-Bixby

*Doxology

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Benediction

***Choral Benediction:** "Love Has Come" (vs. 1) #110

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 across from the sanctuary
- † Activity bags for children are available in the Narthex.
- † Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for donuts, cookies, juice, coffee, and fellowship!

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 Leaders: Stephanie Finamore,
Kent Perrin,
& Raissa Dupuis

Acolytes: Lucas & Paige Mathies

Greeters: Rick & Paula Barnes

Elder Greeters: Sheldon Rouse
& Sue Thompson

The Hub: Deb Wakefield

Livestream: Jack Dupuis

Slides: Luke Coenen

Usher Lead: Bobby Dupuis

Gatekeeper: Rick Barnes

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)

Dave Vachowiak
(Forest Park Village)

Howie Pries
(Home)

Tom Scott
(Home)

Joyce Michna
(Fond du Lac)

THIS WEEK AT CCPC

SERVICE... DISCIPLESHIP... ENGAGEMENT!

TODAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
9AM	ID FOR ALL AGES/ CONFIRMATION	7PM	DARTBALL AT PEACE PANTHERS	12PM	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	1PM	RETIRED SINGLES SMALL GROUP
10AM	WORSHIP			6PM	CELEBRATE RECOVERY	6PM	BELL CHOIR PRACTICE
11:15AM	WOMEN'S STUDY					6PM	ADULT/KIDS LIFE
4PM	BAND REHEARSAL					6PM	MS YOUTH GROUP
6PM	WORSHIP					6:30PM	HS YOUTH GROUP
						7PM	CHOIR PRACTICE
THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
2PM	SHEEPSHEAD			10AM-2PM	SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING	9AM	ID FOR ALL AGES/ CONFIRMATION
						10AM	WORSHIP
						11:15AM	COSTA RICA TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING
						11:15AM	WOMEN'S STUDY
						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.