



COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2020 - 10 A.M.

FORWARD
FROM ME TO WE:
ONE NEW HUMANITY

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

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Director of Children & Family Ministries - Amanda Fuls

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Office Manager/Bookkeeper - John Jacobs

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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:

JeHae Kim-Bixby

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 Kim-Bixby Family

***Family will respond first in Korean*

The second candle of Advent is the candle of peace. Jesus comes as the Prince of Peace to usher in God's Shalom.

***"He comes to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (in Korean)*

"He comes to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

We light this candle in recognition that even now, Christ brings peace, uniting tribes and languages and peoples and nations.

***The LORD says "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." (in Korean)*

The LORD says "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

The message of the angels to the shepherds is still God's word to us today:

***"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Come, Lord Jesus!

***Hymn:** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vs. 1,6) Hymn Leader: Deb Perrin

***Call to Confession:**

Ephesians 2:1-3

We were once "dead through the trespasses and sins in which we once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of the flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else." But now that we have begun a new life in Christ, we confess our sins to each other and so avoid re-living our history. Let us pray.

***Prayer of Confession:**

Father, Son and Spirit – You have already redeemed us from the sins of our

past, present and future. Yet we do not always act as a redeemed people. When desires of our flesh and senses work to isolate us from you, let our repentance and your grace draw us back.

We not only draw away from you; we also divide from one another. Forgive us for discounting or dismissing others, especially our Christian sisters and brothers, over differences that are human-made distinctions – race, politics, denomination, nationality, etc. As you abolish the power of sin, so too abolish the sin of division, and make us one again in Christ our Lord.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

***Assurance of Pardon:**

Ephesians 2:4-6

This is the gospel: "God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Children's Message

Period of Fellowship

Proclaiming the Word

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10 NRSV Bible

Special Music: "Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)" Judy Dorn

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 2 NRSV Bible

Sermon: Forward from Me to We: One New Humanity Jim Gates

Responding to the Word

Hymn: "Prepare the Way, O Zion" (vs. 1,2) Hymn Leader: Deb Perrin

The Sacrament of Communion

Offering

Offertory Music: "Noel Festival" Marcy Fehrman & JeHae Kim-Bixby

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

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Announcements

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction:** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vs. 7) Deb Perrin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S COMMUNION—Today we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion. To participate at home, please have your juice and bread ready and available for today's live stream service. In-person worshippers will have prepackaged elements available to them.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE—At the moment, our plan is to offer one service at 6pm on Christmas Eve. However, to ensure we have sufficient space for everyone, and to determine if we will need to offer more than one worship service (based on our limit of 100 people in the sanctuary at a time), we are opening registrations for Christmas Eve *VERY* early. This registration will remain open for the next few weeks, but if you know you plan to attend in person, letting us know early is helpful! Please go to the following address to signup for in-person worship on Christmas Eve: <http://covenantcommunitypc.churchcenter.com/registrations>. Of course, we will live-stream our service at 6pm as well, and we invite you to worship with us that way as well!

NATIVITY SCENE FAMILY PHOTOS—In the spirit of our Advent season theme, *snapshots*, we are delighted to provide a Nativity scene backdrop for family photos, located outside of the main entrance by the water fountain. We invite your family to swing by at *ANY TIME* through Christmas Day to take a photo. Additionally, we will be scheduling a photographer from 12-1pm each Sunday through December 20. You can share your photo on social media using #ccpcadventsnapshots.

COVENANT NEIGHBORS—We're so excited that our new Covenant Neighbors ministry has gone live! Remember, this is an every-other month phone call ministry with CCPC members in your neighborhood. 2-3 calls, for 2-3 minutes each, every 2 months - that's it! You should have received an email informing you that you've been added to a group. Remember that some of the folks in your group might not have email - so they aren't getting the instructions *AND* they don't know who is in their group. That means *YOU* need to make the first calls. If you, or anyone you call, wishes to opt out of this ministry, that's fine - just let Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org) know and he'll remove them from our call lists!

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 December 3 are **110 pledges for \$367,551**.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESERVATIONS—Reservations for next Sunday, December 13 will open *TOMORROW* (Monday) December 7 at 9am. Please go to www.covenantcommunitypc.org/reservations for the 10am service. You can also call the church office at 715-359-6467.

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, as well as paper hearts available at The Hub 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.

If you would like to volunteer your time to help with Hearts of Hope, we have two needs:

1. Taking Gift Inventory on Monday, December 14 and Tuesday, December 15 from 9-11am. *To help, email Sarah Luedtke at sluedtke@sluedtke.com.*
2. Loading Gifts and Food into Cars on Saturday, December 19 from 8:30am-12pm. *To help, email Dan Frost at 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, December 8, at noon via Zoom. All women 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, 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

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

ADVENT SNAPSHOT DEVOTIONAL—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! Hard copies are also available at The Hub desk, along with Advent candles and family photo books!

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>.