



# COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2021 - 10 A.M.

FORWARD  
FROM COMFORTABLE TO AWAKENED:  
EXCLUSIVE CHURCH

## LIVE STREAMING

CCPC live streams our worship services every Sunday morning. Please join us in spirit by going to [www.covenantcommunitypc.org/live-stream](http://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](mailto:jim@covenantcommunitypc.org)

**Director of Children & Family Ministries** - Amanda Fuls

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**Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries** - Dan Frost

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**Director of Music Ministries** - Les Fraaza

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**Bell Choir Director** - Ruth Wrynski

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**Housekeeper** - Carol Anklam

### Church Office

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## Gathering Around the Word

**Prelude:** "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart/Trumpet Tune in C" Les Fraaza

### **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**

#### **Call to Worship:**

Awake, my soul!

**Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn.**

I will give thanks to you, O God, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.

**For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the clouds.**

**\*Hymn:** "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" (vs. 1,2,3) Leader: Herb Westlund

#### **\*Call to Confession:**

Jesus says that "no one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." But even this week, we have looked backwards to our old lives with longing, rather than striding forward with God. Let us therefore join in our prayer of confession.

#### **\*Prayer of Confession:**

Father God, you called us by Your Son and equipped us by Your Spirit, so that we could join you in the adventure of Your kingdom. But so much of our earthly lives hold our interest and our focus. Forgive us for our hesitation in following Jesus. Forgive us for imagining, even for a moment, the best of this world can compare to the least of your kingdom.

Give us the strength again today to adhere to the high calling of discipleship, that we might follow Jesus first, and filter everything else in our lives through our relationship with Him.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

#### **\*Assurance of Pardon:**

Matthew 9:13

Jesus also says, "Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." Believe the gospel; we have been called in Christ. We were not perfect when called; we were made perfect by the One who calls. Thanks be to God! Amen.

#### **\*Gloria Patri**

#### **Children's Message**

#### **Period of Fellowship**

## Proclaiming the Word

**Old Testament Reading:** Genesis 4:1-7 NRSV Bible

**Special Music:** "Each Step I Take" Herb Westlund

**New Testament Reading:** Luke 9:57-62 NRSV Bible

**Sermon:** Forward from Comfortable to Awakened: Jim Gates  
Exclusive Church

## Responding to the Word

**\*Hymn:** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (vs. 1,2,3) Leader: Herb Westlund

#### **The Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

#### **Offering**

**Offertory Music:** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Les Fraaza & Marcy Fehrman

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

#### **Doxology**

## Bearing and Following the Word into the World

#### **Announcements**

#### **\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction:** "Shine, Jesus, Shine" (Refrain)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**25TH ANNUAL MISSION AUCTION (ONLINE)**—This year's 25th Annual Mission Auction will be *ONLINE* from Sunday, March 7 through Sunday, March 14! Because of the different format, and the opportunity to reach a much larger audience, our church family has truly stepped up their game and put together some *AMAZING* items to bid on. Submissions continue to come in, so we invite you to get your creative juices flowing and contribute an item(s) to be bid on (minimum value of \$100). If you choose to do so, we will need specific information submitted electronically to Kari Kufahl at [Kari.Kufahl@gmail.com](mailto:Kari.Kufahl@gmail.com) no later than Friday, February 26, with items being at the church by February 28. You can call or text Kari with any questions at 715-870-6615. **Please note that we are not specifically targeting business donations directly this year, so we are relying on YOU and your contacts to help.** You can also learn more by going to our website at <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/ccpc-auction>.

**WINTER L.I.F.E.SERIES (KIDS & ADULTS)**—L.I.F.E. Kids and L.I.F.E. Adults are coming together for a multi-generational experience occurring every Wednesday from February 24 through March 24 at 6pm. We will be studying Passover and the celebratory meal called a Seder. Jesus and his disciples were partaking in the Seder during what we refer to as "The Last Supper." Passover was traditionally the only Jewish holiday observed in the home and not at the temple. This class is for all to participate in! If you have kids in your home, this is designed for your household to do together. Join us for a Lenten Seder experience either in person or virtually via Zoom. Registration is required, so please go to the following web address to do so: <https://covenantcommunitypc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/720244>  
The following is the Zoom login information:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84792922837?pwd=RzZyT09rcTNoVWVja09FOXYrWGZEU09>  
Meeting ID: 847 9292 2837 Passcode: SEDER  
Contact Amanda Fuls ([amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org)) or Jim Gates ([jim@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:jim@covenantcommunitypc.org)) with any questions.

**CCPC ENDOWMENT GIFTS/MATCHING GIFTS**—Join us in kicking off our CCPC Endowment Fund this year! We invite you to consider a "Founder's Gift" of \$500. We are also blessed to have been given a matching gift donation of \$25,000 towards the fund! The minimum gift to be matched must be no less than \$2,500. Pledges for this matching gift must be made by April 15, 2021, with payment deadline set for December 31, 2021. For more information about giving to the endowment fund, please go to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/endowment>.

**YOUNG ADULT OUTING**—The CCPC Young Adults will be heading to Cracked Escape Room on Sunday, March 7 at 6pm. The cost will be \$15 per person with a limit of 10. If you would like to attend, please contact Dan Frost ([dan@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:dan@covenantcommunitypc.org)).

## BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM**—We continue our Bible study on the first six "minor" prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, and Nahum *THIS* Tuesday, February 23, at noon via Zoom. All men are welcome! Contact Jim Gates ([jim@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:jim@covenantcommunitypc.org)) for the Zoom information.

**READING THE GOSPELS TOGETHER: THE BOOK OF MARK**—Join Jim Gates in reading through the the Gospels and currently in the Book of Mark. The group is using the Bible app from YouVersion (find in the Apple or Google app store). You do not have to download the app to join the group. Simply go to <https://bible.com/p/37068274/03789ac0ed2773f940795764f2ec0718> and get started via your web browser (or simply read a chapter-a-day in your hardcopy Bible). **We are currently in Mark 13**, so feel free to join us!

**PRAYER MEETINGS**—Our weekly Prayer Meeting continues via Zoom every Wednesday night at 6pm, including *THIS* Wednesday, February 24. 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

**BOOK CLUB**—The Book Club invites you to join them! The discussion will be about "Forever Changed" by Jim Servi and will take place Monday, February 22 at 6:30pm. Terry Geurink will host with the author in person at his home and online via Zoom. If you would like to participate, please contact Judy Dorn ([jajudom@charter.net](mailto:jajudom@charter.net)) for more information.

## YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

**NURSERY IS OPEN!**—The nursery in the Narthex is now open! Please note that we are not providing an attendant, so a parent must be with their child. Adults are expected to wear a mask and social distance; however, the children do not need to do so. By using the nursery, parents must understand and assume all risks for your child and family.

**YOUTH GROUP THIS WEEK**—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>. We are also looking for adults to volunteer their time to be with us on those evenings. If you would like to do so, or if you have any questions, contact Dan Frost ([dan@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:dan@covenantcommunitypc.org)).

**YOUTH GROUP RETURNING TO IN PERSON MARCH 10!**—We are excited to announce that Wednesday Youth Group will be returning to IN-PERSON gatherings beginning March 10. An online option will still be available. We will also be expanding our time together on that date, as we will meet from 6-7:30pm. Of course, masks will be required and social distancing will be followed. Contact Dan Frost ([dan@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:dan@covenantcommunitypc.org)) with any questions.

**YOUTH I.D.**—Youth Institute of Discipleship has *THREE* classes (6th & 7th; Confirmation; 9th & 12th) via Zoom *AND* in person at 9am every Sunday morning.

**KIDS I.D.**—Kids ID starts in a large group via Zoom and in person, followed by a breakout into two groups (PreK-1st & 2nd-5th grades). Each group will need their own device if you are with us from home. Join us every Sunday at 9am!