



# COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



SUNDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 - 10 A.M.

FORWARD  
FROM COMFORTABLE TO AWAKENED:  
IN DEFENSE OF MIRACLES

## 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

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

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

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**Parish Visitor** - Jess Wakefield

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**Office Manager/Bookkeeper** - John Jacobs

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**Choir Director** - Deb Perrin

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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:** "In the Name of the Lord" 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

**Call to Worship:** Ephesians 5:13-14

Everything exposed by the light becomes visible,  
**For everything that becomes visible is light.**

Therefore it says,  
**"Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."**

**\*Hymn:** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (vs. 1,4) Leaders:  
Kent & Deb Perrin

**\*Call to Confession:** Ephesians 5:11,15

Paul writes, "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them," and "be careful how you live, no as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil." Although we have been tempted this week to live unwisely, we have the privilege to start fresh with God each time we confess our sins. Let us do so now together.

### \*Prayer of Confession:

Father, you are the worker of miracles and the author of Creation. The heavens are telling of your glory, and the firmament proclaims your handiwork. Your fingerprints stand out on all that you have made and done. And yet, we doubt your activity in our lives. We imagine your days of working wonders are merely a thing of the past, and we wonder if praying for the miraculous is merely a waste of our time.

Forgive us for our unbelief, Lord God, as you patiently have for generations. Help us to have eyes to see what your spirit is doing in our midst, and to step out in faith, believing in your good plan. In the name of Jesus, we ask for mountains to be moved and hearts to be changed ... beginning with our own.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

### \*Assurance of Pardon:

Ephesians 5:8

"For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light." Believe the good news; Jesus has secured forgiveness for us, and invites us to stand with Him in the light, fully known, fully forgiven, fully loved. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

### \*Gloria Patri

**The Sacrament of Baptism:** Today we celebrate the baptism of Madison Marie Banholzer, daughter of Hans and Jennifer Banholzer.

**Affirmation of Faith:** The Apostle's Creed

### Children's Message

### Period of Fellowship

## Proclaiming the Word

**Old Testament Reading:** Exodus 15:1-18 NRSV Bible

**Special Music:** "How Great Thou Art" Kent & Deb Perrin

**New Testament Reading:** John 14:8-14 NRSV Bible

**Sermon:** Forward from Comfortable to Awakened: Jim Gates  
In Defense of Miracles

## Responding to the Word

**\*Hymn:** "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" (vs. 1,6) Leaders:  
Kent & Deb Perrin

### Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

### Offering

**Offertory Music:** "The Stranger of Galilee" Herb Westlund

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 is *ONLINE* continuing through 7pm *TONIGHT!* Go to <https://www.32auctions.com/ccpc2021> to bid on items, as well as purchase our "Non-Dinner Dinner" tickets, which will pay for a meal for those who need it most. You can also buy tickets to JeHae Kim-Bixby's concert taking place on Saturday, September 18 at 6pm here at CCPC. All proceeds go to our missions fund. Finally, join us this evening from 6-7pm for a live-stream presentation to close out this year's bidding. Join CCPC staff as we share stories of our church's servant heart, play games, and have a little fun. Go to our live-stream page at <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/live-stream> to join us.

**EASTER SUNDAY REGISTRATION**—We are so excited for the opportunity to be in-person for our Easter services this year! Because our numbers have been climbing in recent weeks, and due to more and more folks being comfortable to join us in person, we are expecting a larger number for our *TWO* Easter services on April 4, at 8am and 10am. So that we can continue to be wise and safe in our interactions, we'd like to have a sense of how many will be joining us (roughly). Thus, we'd ask that you please go to <https://covenantcommunitypc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/759363> to register your family for either of the two services. Of course, both services will be live-streamed. Let's rejoice together... for He Has Risen!

**MAUNDY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY**—Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held on April 1 and 2, respectively, at 6pm (both). These services will be in-person and live streamed. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Gates ([jim@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:jim@covenantcommunitypc.org)).

**EASTER LILIES**—With the return of in-person worship for our Easter services this year, we are excited to offer lilies to honor or remember loved ones! With a \$12 donation to the Worship and Fellowship, we will display the flowers during the services, as well as display the names you share with us. Go to <https://covenantcommunitypc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/227022> to submit your names and pay. We will need *ALL* submissions by Palm Sunday, March 28.

**WINTER L.I.F.E. SERIES (KIDS & ADULTS)**—L.I.F.E. Kids and L.I.F.E. Adults have come together for a multi-generational experience continuing *THIS* Wednesday, March 17 at 6pm, through Wednesday, March 24. We are studying Passover and the celebratory meal called a Seder. This class is for all to participate in! Join us for a Lenten Seder experience either in person or virtually via Zoom. The following is the Zoom login information:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84792922837?pwd=RzZyT09rcTNoVWVja09FOXYrWGZEUT09MeetingID:84792922837Passcode:SEDER>  
Contact Amanda Fuls ([amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org)) or Jim Gates ([jim@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:jim@covenantcommunitypc.org)) with any questions.

**SCRIP TABLE TO RESUME**—With Sunday morning attendance increasing, we are happy to announce that the Scrip Committee will start manning the table in the Narthex again. To ease back into it, we will be available at the table every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Be sure to stop by and check out our quick pick inventory... or to pick up an order form. Please contact Ken Zblewski (715-393-5885) or Kate Lillie (715-581-9666) if you have any questions or inquiries.

## BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

**WOMEN'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, March 16, at noon via Zoom. All women are welcome! Contact Jim Gates ([jim@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:jim@covenantcommunitypc.org)) for the Zoom information.

**READING THE GOSPELS TOGETHER: THE BOOK OF LUKE**—Join Jim Gates in reading through the the Gospels and currently in the Book of Luke. 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). **As of today, we are in Luke 18**, so feel free to join us!

## YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

**EGGSTRAVAGANZA MOBILE 2021**—Eggstravaganza 2021 is going *MOBILE!* Pile your family in the car (and invite others to do the same) and go on an adventure in our community looking for eggs on Saturday, March 27! These large colorful eggs will be hidden all over the area for you to find, take a picture of, and document via an interactive app called GooseChase. Race back to the church to collect EGGstra cool prizes. We will have two start times at 9am and 10am, so please go to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/eggstravaganza> to register your family! We are looking for items to put in gift bags, as well as folks to help stuff eggs and help hand out gift bags on the 27th. If you would like to help or have any questions about the event, please contact Amanda Fuls at [amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org).

**SECRET A.G.E.N.T.S.**—The fun is continuing for one more month! We hope that you are all enjoying getting to know your partner during this year's mission. Keep your correspondence going through April and collect more clues, as we approach the Reveal Party that is planned for Sunday, April 18 following worship. There will be more information to come.

**YOUTH GROUP**—All students grades 6th-12th grade are invited to join us in person (or online via Zoom), *THIS* coming Wednesday, March 17, from 6-7:30pm. We will be wearing masks and social distancing. Also, if you are an adult who can volunteer your time to be with us those evenings as a chaperone, contact Dan Frost ([dan@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:dan@covenantcommunitypc.org)). If you would like to see video messages and materials from previous weeks, please go to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/youth-group>.

**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!