



# COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



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

FORWARD  
FROM COMFORTABLE TO AWAKENED:  
THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN

## 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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**Housekeeper** - Carol Anklam

### Church Office

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## Gathering Around the Word

**Prelude:** "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" 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:** Matthew 24:42,25:13,26:41, Mark 13:37

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

**Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.**

Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

**And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.**

**\*Hymn:** "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" (vs. 1,4) Leader: Sandy May

**\*Call to Confession:** Mark 3:28-29

Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin." As we desire forgiveness for our sins, let us join together in our prayer of confession.

**\*Prayer of Confession:**

Lord Jesus, you overpowered our ancient enemy and set us free from the chains which once restrained us. As you set people free in your earthly ministry, so much more you have set us free through your death and resurrection. Yet we struggle to accept this good news. We longingly remember our chains and doubt that you truly have the power to release us. We question whether the price of freedom is worth the cost to us.

Your gospel, however, IS good news. Strengthen us by the Holy Spirit so that in both our hearts and our actions, we can accept your victory on our behalf. We gather with you today, for you are our strong fortress, our Rock, and our Redeemer.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

**\*Assurance of Pardon:**

Romans 10:9

Paul encourages us, saying, "if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Believe the good news – through faith in Jesus Christ, we are saved! Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Children's Message**

**Period of Fellowship**

## Proclaiming the Word

**Old Testament Reading:** Exodus 20:1-6 NRSV Bible

**Special Music:** "Footsteps of Jesus" Sandy May

**New Testament Reading:** Matthew 12:22-32 NRSV Bible

**Sermon:** Forward from Comfortable to Awakened: Jim Gates  
The Unforgivable Sin

## Responding to the Word

**\*Hymn:** "Spirit of the Living God" (2x) Leader: Sandy May

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

**Offering**

**Offertory Music:** "Spirit Song" JeHae Kim-Bixby

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 THANK YOU AND PICKUP**—As our 25th Annual Mission Auction comes to an amazing close, we are humbled by the outpouring of your love and generosity. You worked as a faith community, came together to create baskets, used your arts and talents to craft beautiful items, applied creativity to securing donations, shared your bounty, and lovingly committed yourselves to providing goods to others over the next year. Through your combined efforts, we raised \$25,994. **Please note that if you won an item, you will need to have picked it up by TODAY at noon (unless you have communicated other arrangements with Kari Kufahl or church staff).** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kari at 715-212-9159.

**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 concluding *THIS* Wednesday, March 24 at 6pm. 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=RzZyT09rcTNoVWVja09FOXYWVGZEU09>  
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.

**SCRIP TABLE HAS RESUMED**—With Sunday morning attendance increasing, we are happy to announce that the Scrip Committee will be 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

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM**—We conclude our Bible study on the first six “minor” prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, and Nahum *THIS* Tuesday, March 23, at noon via Zoom. All men are welcome! **The men's and women's studies will be starting on the Book of Hebrews on April 6 (women) and 13 (men). Books are available at The Hub for \$10.** Contact Jim Gates ([jim@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:jim@covenantcommunitypc.org)) for the Zoom information.

**READING THE GOSPELS TOGETHER: THE BOOK OF JOHN**—Join Jim Gates in reading through the the Gospels and beginning the Book of John *TODAY*. 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 John 1**, 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 folks to 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 24, from 6-7:30pm. We will be wearing masks and social distancing. Contact Dan Frost ([dan@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:dan@covenantcommunitypc.org)) with any questions.

**YOUTH SPRING BREAK EVENTS**—The CCPC Youth Ministry will be having fun events for gathering and spending time together during spring break the week of March 29-April 2. Stay tuned for more information to come.

**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!