

LIVE STREAMING

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.



COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Ministers - All members of the congregation

Staff

Pastor - Jim Gates

(757) 615-1799 or jim@covenantcommunitypc.org

Parish Visitor - Jess Wakefield

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Director of Children & Family Ministries - Amanda Fuls

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Traditional Music Director - Deb Perrin

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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

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Office Manager - Cyndi Schneider

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Bookkeeper - John Jacobs

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Housekeeper - Carol Anklam

Church Office

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PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND, 2023 - 10 A.M.

THE NEXT GENERATIONS:
COVENANT CONQUERORS

Prelude: "Open the Gates to the Temple" JeHae Kim-Bixby & Les Fraaza

Quiet Reflection and Preparation for Worship:

The first words of the Bible are "in the beginning." We know that God was there at the beginning of all things; and that even today, God is the source of new beginnings. As we prepare for worship, consider where Christ has already been the source of blessing in your life, and in what parts of your life you hope the Spirit will inspire something new to spring forth.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Candles: "Sing Hosanna!" Handbell Choir & Children

Call to Worship: John 12:12-15

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,
"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – the King of Israel!"

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:
"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

***Hymn:** "All Glory, Laud and Honor" (vs. 1,2) #196

***Call to Confession:**

Jesus instructs us to love our enemies, pray for those who persecute us, and to be perfect, as our heavenly Father is perfect. Clearly we have fallen far short of these expectations. Aware of our shortcomings, we gather to make our prayer of confession.

***Prayer of Confession:**

Lord Jesus, we confess that we long for a king who conquers our enemies, who turns our persecutions upon the heads of our persecutors, and who is great because of his capacity for violence and power. Instead, we received a king who died for his enemies, who was persecuted for their sake, who was the recipient of terrible violence and who refrained from power.

You were not what we expected. Forgive us for our earthly idea of kingship, and for believing that the world's concepts of power, enemies, and judgment hold any merit compared with yours. Give us hearts that trust that your palm-strewn path is the only way to peace.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY— Our study on the Gospel of John continues! Come join us for an exploration of the Gospel written by the beloved disciple. Women meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, including *THIS* Tuesday, April 4 at noon. All women, including newcomers, are welcome!

HOLY WEEK BIBLE APP STUDY— We have concluded a study of the Gospels on the Bible app from YouVersion, available for free in the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. We are now doing short reading plan for Holy Week. To join, see the Monday email for a link, or contact Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org). We will start a new reading plan after Easter, as well.

RETIRED SINGLES SMALL GROUP— Our retired singles small group meets *THIS Wednesday, April 5 at 11:30am at 319 Bistro* for food and fellowship. Contact Bonnie Rogers (rogersski1@gmail.com or 715-370-7618) with any questions.

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

CCPC YOUTH GROUP— Students who are in 6th through 8th grades gather on Wednesdays at 6pm (including this week) for CCPC Youth Group. All 9th-12th graders will meet Sunday evenings from 4pm-5:30pm (including *TODAY*), prior to our evening service. **Please note that M.S. will not meet THIS Wednesday, April 5, and H.S. Youth Group will not meet NEXT Sunday, April 9.** Contact Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org) with any questions.

KID'S MINISTRY PROGRAMMING— CCPC Kids continue our journey by looking at the life of Jesus in the Gospels. April's theme is "Rise and Shine", a look at how Jesus conquered death and rose again! This theme is included in I.D. at 9am Sunday mornings, during Kid's Worship and "Wiggles" (evening service), and during Wednesday night L.I.F.E. at 6pm. Contact Amanda Fuls (amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org) with any questions.

YOUTH GROUP CONFERENCES 2023— CCPC Youth Ministry is thrilled to offer an amazing experience for our rising 6th-12th grade students! The Quest Conference, taking place June 18-23, is for our high school students entering 9-12 grades, while The Great Escape Conference, July 10-15, is for our middle school students entering 6-8 grades. Pick up a brochure at the Hub or go to: <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/youth-conferences>. **Deadline for registration and the initial deposit is TODAY!**

SAVE-THE-DATE - VBS 2023— As summer approaches and plans need to be made, mark off Sunday, June 25 through Thursday, June 29 from 6-8pm for CCPC's Vacation Bible School 2023! Registration will open May 7!

CCPC BUDGET/ATTENDANCE

THROUGH FEBRUARY 2023:

Budgeted Operating Revenues: **\$92,535**
 Actual Operating Revenues: **\$90,637**
 Budgeted Operating Expenses: **\$94,493**
 Actual Operating Expenses: **\$89,331**

MARCH 26 ATTENDANCE:

AM In-Person Total: **206**
 AM Livestream Total: **84**
 PM In-Person Total: **31**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAUNDY THURSDAY PASSOVER SEDER — Join us on *THIS* Thursday, April 6 at 6pm for a Seder Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. This is a full meal, with all the special ceremony surrounding the observance of the Passover. It was a meal like this, celebrating the Passover, that Jesus shared with his disciples on the night he was betrayed. This service will include communion. *TODAY* is the last day to sign up at the Hub if you plan to attend. **Suggested donation (at the Hub): \$10/adults, \$5/children.**

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE — Our Good Friday service will be on April 7 at 6pm in the Sanctuary. We will remember the death of Christ with the Tenebrae Service, or Service of Shadows, as we recall the last seven words of Christ on the cross.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES — Join us on Easter morning (April 9) for either of our traditional services at 8am or 10am (also livestreamed), or for our contemporary service at 6pm. All three services will include the Sacrament of Communion. Invite a friend to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

3 FOR 3 SUPPER CLUBS — Signup online or at the Hub for our 3 for 3 Supper Clubs! These clubs will be groups of 3 individuals/families that meet 3 times to share a meal together. This is simply an opportunity to fellowship and connect with members of our church family. You can meet in homes, at restaurants, or even have a picnic together. We will publish all the supper clubs after Easter, and then you can schedule your own events!

DOOR HANG DISTRIBUTION CONTEST — Every door hang that you distribute through Easter Sunday will be added to a tally for your "family." This could be your middle school youth group "family", Bible Study "family", Lunch Bunch "family", Softball team "family", your *ACTUAL* family, or even a couple of "families" that you are a part of! Note: Kid's Ministry "families" will be divided into 3rd grade and younger and 4th/5th grades. **The top 3 "families" with the most ads distributed will have dinner and a movie (together) here at the church sometime after Easter!** Please see Drew Bouché or Raissa Dupuis to get your cards and mark the map!

SPIRITUAL GIFT INVENTORY — We invite *ALL* members of our faith family to participate in a Spiritual Gift Inventory. This is a wonderful opportunity to identify your spiritual strengths/gifts and see how they can be applied to serving within our community! You can fill out a hard copy version located in the Narthex and at The Hub, or feel free to do it digitally on our website. If you have any questions, please speak with Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org).

MISSIONS & VOLUNTEERING

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT DONATIONS — The Mission Committee would like to take a collection of personal care items for families that have come to Wausau through the ECDC refugee resettlement program. Items needed include body wash/ soap, shampoo, conditioner, and other personal items, as well as household cleaning supplies, paper products, garbage bags, etc. Monetary donations will also be accepted (drop off at the church office). There are two baskets in the Narthex for a donation drop off. Contact Kari Kufahl (kari.kufahl@gmail.com) with any questions.

SEEKING MISSION TRIP CONNECTIONS — CCPC's mission team is looking for mission trip connections for an intergenerational distance-mission trip in 2024. If you have a mission partner you'd like to recommend, please let Jim Gates know!

***Assurance of Pardon:** Romans 5:10
Paul writes, "For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life." Believe the good news – thanks to the grace and mercy of King Jesus, we are reconciled and we are saved! Amen.

***Congregational Response:** "The Lord is My Salvation" See Screens

Children's Message

[Children may come forward and be seated on the stage.]

Period of Fellowship

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 31:22-32:2 Page 28

Special Music: "In the Name of the Lord" CCPC Choir

New Testament Reading: Matthew 5:38-48 Page 5

Sermon: "The Next Generations: Covenant Conquerors" Jim Gates

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn:** "A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd" (vs. 1,2,3) #200

The Sacrament of Communion

Offering

Offertory Music: "Higher Ground" JeHae Kim-Bixby

*Doxology

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Benediction

***Choral Benediction:** "A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd" (vs. 4,5) #200

