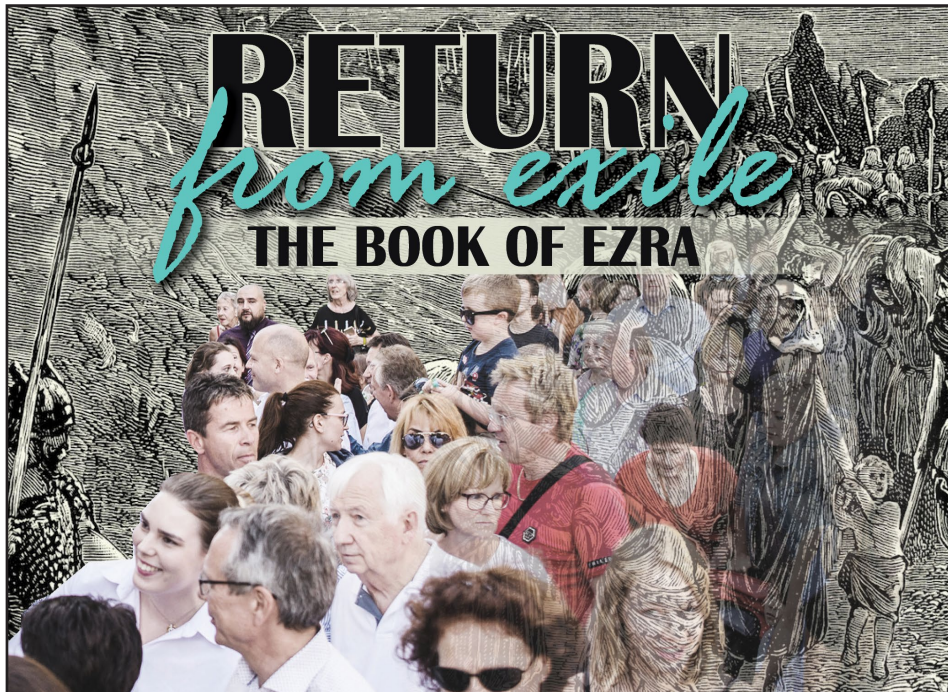




Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...
Changing lives forever!



SUNDAY, JULY 26TH, 2020 - 9 A.M. & 11 A.M.

RETURN FROM EXILE:
STARTS & STOPS

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

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

Director of Children & Family Ministries - Amanda Fuls

(715) 573-6296 or amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org

Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries - Dan Frost

(815) 262-5273 dan@covenantcommunitypc.org

Director of Music Ministries - Les Fraaza

(715) 574-2059 or les@covenantcommunitypc.org

Parish Visitor - Jess Wakefield

jess@covenantcommunitypc.org

Communications & Evangelism Coordinator - Drew Bouché

drew@covenantcommunitypc.org

Office Manager/Bookkeeper - John Jacobs

john@covenantcommunitypc.org

Choir Director - Deb Perrin

deb@covenantcommunitypc.org

Bell Choir Director - Ruth Wrynski

ruth@covenantcommunitypc.org

Housekeeper - Carol Anklam

Church Office

(715) 359-6467 or ccpc@covenantcommunitypc.org

1806 Weston Avenue, Schofield, WI 54476
www.covenantcommunitypc.org



Gathering Around the Word

Prelude: "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" Les Fraaza

Quiet Reflection and Preparation for Worship:

This summer we "Return from Exile" with the people in the Book of Ezra. This is a long journey, not merely a single event. Have you had an experience of exile? How are you called to return to a spiritual life? Return to church? Return to God? What first steps can you take today on that long journey home to Christ?

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 66:1-2, 5

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
Sing the glory of his name;
Give to him glorious praise.
Come and see what God has done:
He is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

***Hymn:** "Find Us Faithful" (Sing Twice)

***Call to Confession:** Hebrews 12:3-4

Scripture reminds us to "Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood." This week we have not fully turned to Christ and away from our sins. Therefore, let us confess our sins together. Please pray these words in your heart as I speak them aloud.

*Prayer of Confession:

Father God, we confess that we have not struggled against sin this week with all our hearts. In our own life, we have made only half-hearted efforts to abolish our selfish, sinful behaviors. In our world, we have opted to compromise with systems of injustice rather than to risk our comfort by opposing them.

Forgive us for our starts and stops of obedience. Fix our eyes on Jesus again today, and let us follow him faithfully, laying aside the weight and the sin that clings so closely, so that we can run with perseverance the race that is set before us. This we ask in Jesus' holy and precious name.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

***Assurance of Pardon:** Hebrews 12:2
"Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith ... for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." Believe the good news! In Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

The Sacrament of Baptism (11am):

Today we celebrate the baptisms of Aleekai Prescott, Mataya McCarron, Ellie McCarron, Izzabelle Prescott, Myah McCarron, and Ma'Kylynn Cox, daughters of Miranda McCarron.

Children's Message

Period of Fellowship

Proclaiming the Word

Old Testament Reading: Ezra 4 NRSV Bible

Special Music: Emily Johnson (9AM)

"Amazing Grace" Autumn Frost (11AM)

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 12:1-13 NRSV Bible

Sermon: Return from Exile: Starts and Stops Jim Gates

Responding to the Word

***Hymn:** "Fight the Good Fight" (vs. 1,2) #846

Welcoming of New Members (11am): Jerry & Charmaine Whitburn

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory Music: "Change My Heart/Lord, Be Glorified" CCPC Choir

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

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Announcements

*Benediction

***Choral Benediction:** "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" (vs. 4) #394

Gerald (Jerry) & Charmaine Whitburn

Jerry is a retired CEO and Chairman of Church Mutual Insurance in Merrill, while Charmaine has finished her career as a social worker and county administrator for senior citizen programs. They are Florida "snow birds" for four months out of the year and fill their time with a number of interests (Jerry is an avid golfer in constant pursuit of his second hole in one, while Charmaine is an accomplished photographer and gardener). Their son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter (5-years-old), live in Waunakee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP RETURNING TO ONE SERVICE—On August 2, we will return to our 10am worship hour for both online and in-person worship. This will be our format for at least August and September. For our in-person worshippers, we will maintain our current precautions (making reservations, social distancing in the Sanctuary, and refraining from congregational singing) with one change. **Starting August 2, we will ask that everyone who attends in person wear a mask.** This is becoming more and more commonplace (even Wal-Mart requires masks!) and increasingly feels essential given our higher-risk population and hour-long service. If you would like to attend in person but have medical conditions that prevent you from mask wearing, please contact Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org). Children and Youth programming will remain online-only for August and September (except for outside youth programming, which may occur in-person provided social distancing is maintained). Beginning in August, adult programming (Bible Studies, Committees, etc) may opt to meet in person in the building provided that participants wear masks and social distance. Zoom options must be offered for all such programming for those who would prefer to remain at home. Each adult group may make their own decisions whether to offer online-only options, or a blended in-person and online option.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESERVATIONS—Reservations for next Sunday, August 2 will open TOMORROW (Monday) July 27 at 9am. Please go to www.covenantcommunitypc.org/reservations to secure your family's spot for the 10am service. You can also call the church office at 715-359-6467. We ask that you have your reservation completed by Thursday, July 30 at noon.

CCPC COOKBOOK PROJECT—It has been 30 years since our church published a cookbook. Several of our volunteers working at the Warming Shelter this winter decided it is time we publish another! We hope all of you will be willing to share your yummy recipes with us!

You can submit recipes in three different ways:

1. A printable, hand-written form that we will include in the Covenant Connection weekly email.
2. A Google form (https://drive.google.com/open?id=1nJxRyjD8PqvAVR-l0Z-peWUq_shdHmuqVCmYvhfbtOBU). Just complete the form and hit "submit".
3. A Word form included in the Covenant Connection weekly email. Simply double-click on the shaded portions, type in your recipe, save and email to cgeurink@charter.net.

If you are interested in helping, please let contact Colleen Geurink (cgeurink@charter.net or 715-359-6038).

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM—The men's Bible study will be meeting *THIS* Tuesday, July 28 at 12pm via Zoom, as well as every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. You can learn more about that Zoom program on our website at <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/using-zoom>. If you have not been a part of these studies in the past but would like to join us now, simply contact Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org).

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING VIA ZOOM—Prayer is the most powerful tool/weapon that the Church possesses. And when this practice is done by many, in one voice, so much beyond our comprehension is possible. In light of this, we will be starting a weekly prayer meeting via Zoom beginning *THIS* Wednesday, July 29 at 6pm. All are welcome! To participate, please go to the address below and enter the meeting I.D. and password:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87640040134?pwd=WEU3MzBQdjE5UEovcDEwT2pNS29Pdz09>

Meeting ID: 876 4004 0134

Password: 470996

CONVERSATION ON RACE DISCUSSION GROUP VIA ZOOM—Join us every Thursday continuing *THIS* week through August 27 at 6pm, via Zoom, as we continue our conversation about race and the Church. This group discussion will be guided by a book study by Latasha Morrison entitled, "Be the Bridge." Books are available for purchase (\$13). If you would like to learn more, or to RSVP, please contact Krista Gates (757-615-1992) or Amanda Fuls (715-573-6296).

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

EPIC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020—Our Epic VBS 2020 continues in July with "Rocky Railway!" You can still get your kids involved today by going to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/vbs> as we climb aboard and discover how Jesus' power pulls us through. Remember that we connect every Wednesday at 9am, via Zoom, to talk about what we're learning through this experience.

YOUTH GROUP VIA ZOOM—All students grades 6th-12th grade are invited to join us online, using Zoom, *THIS* coming Wednesday at 6pm. There will be more information to come via emails and texts, so be on the lookout! If you would like to see video messages from previous weeks, please go to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/youth-group>. If you have any questions, contact Dan Frost (dan@covenantcommunitypc.org).