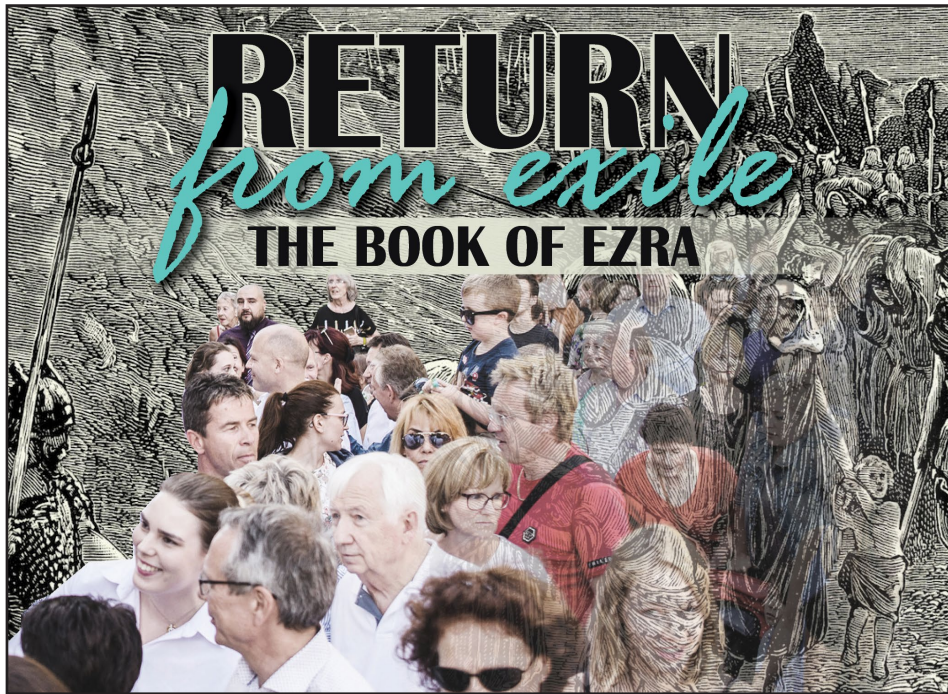




Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...
Changing lives forever!



SUNDAY, JULY 5TH, 2020 - 9 A.M. & 11 A.M.

RETURN FROM EXILE:
WHY BUILDINGS?

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: "Praise Him with Trumpets" 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: Ezra 1:2-3

(Responses are for those watching the live stream at home)

The LORD, the God of Heaven, has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of those of you who are of his people

May our God be with us!

We are now permitted to go up to Jerusalem in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel

He is the God who is in Jerusalem!

***Hymn:** "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" (vs. 1,3) #354

***Call to Confession:** 1 Peter 2:1

Here this challenge from holy Scripture: "Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander." As we together confess our sins, let us also rid ourselves of all that hinders our pursuit of Christ. Please speak these words in your heart as I speak them aloud.

*Prayer of Confession:

Eternal God, you are pure and good, and so you desire purity and goodness from us, your children. Too many times, however, we choose to cling to our sins rather than rid ourselves of them. We struggle to believe that we can change; we struggle to even want to change.

Forgive us, Lord. Let us start afresh, as new creations craving pure spiritual milk. Then may we not only know about your goodness, but also taste and see for ourselves that you are good. Let our encounter with you, Father, so change our hearts and desires, that others might say of us, "the old has gone; behold, something new has come!" In Christ's name, we pray.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

*Assurance of Pardon:

1 Peter 2:9

Peter reminds us, "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." Believe the good news; in Jesus, all our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to Christ!

Amen!

Children's Message

Period of Fellowship:

Proclaiming the Word

Old Testament Reading: Ezra 1 NRSV Bible

Special Music: "There Was Jesus" Deb & Kent Perrin

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 2:1-10 NRSV Bible

Sermon: Return from Exile: Why Buildings? Jim Gates

Responding to the Word

***Hymn:** "Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining" (vs. 1, Chorus) #192

Offering

Offertory Music: "Statue of Liberty" Herb Westlund

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. 1) #394

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESERVATIONS—Reservations for next Sunday, July 12 will open TOMORROW (Monday) July 6 at 9am. Please go to www.covenantcommunitypc.org/reservations to secure your family's spot for either the 9am or 11am service. You can also call the church office at 715-359-6467. We ask that you have your reservation completed by Thursday, July 9 at noon.

EPIC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020—Our Epic VBS 2020 continues in July with "Rocky Railway!" Register your kids 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 to talk about what we're learning through this experience. This week will be extra special as we bring our friends from the Rocky Railway! Sign up *TODAY!*

SYMBOLIC BRICKS AVAILABLE—In the spirit of today's sermon message (we are spiritual stones and the true temple of God), we invite you to pickup a brick leftover from the construction of our current Sanctuary, which will be located on a table outside the Bouldin Hall entrance. Stop by at your convenience this week and take one as a reminder that it is not the building that defines us as the Church.

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_shdHmuqVCmYvhftOBU). 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).

GATEKEEPERS NEEDED—We are looking for folks interested in serving our faith community as a Gatekeeper during our worship services. This role is a critical component of our safety and security as we gather together. Gatekeepers keep an eye on all the doorways of the church, as well as the parking lot, and are a primary respondent in an emergency during service. If you are interested in this important means of serving, please contact Bill Rhodes at 715-803-0025 or billrhodes6514@gmail.com.

THE HERO TREE AT CCPC—CCPC invites you to honor the heroes in our community, and in your personal life, by acknowledging them on our "Hero Tree," located outside the west entrance of our building. From healthcare workers and grocery store clerks, to parents and neighbors, this recognition is open to anyone that has impacted you in a positive way during this pandemic. Their first name and last initial, along with the person honoring them will be written on a ribbon and

hung on the tree. We will also alert your hero that they have been honored in this way. To have your hero ribbon placed on the tree, please go to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/hero-tree>.

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM—The women's Bible study will be meeting *THIS* Tuesday, July 7 at 12pm via Zoom, as well as every 1st and 3rd 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 8 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=WEU3MzBQdjE5UEovcDEwT2pNS29Pd09>

Meeting ID: 876 4004 0134

Password: 470996

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

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).

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today	9:00 p.m.	CCPC Men's Softball (Kelly Club)
Monday	9:00 a.m.	Reservations for Service Open
	6:00 p.m.	W&F Committee Meeting via Zoom
	6:30 p.m.	CE Committee Meeting via Zoom Deacon's Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday	12:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study via Zoom
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	VBS via Zoom
	3:00 p.m.	Food Pantry
	6:00 p.m.	Salt & Light Youth Group via Zoom Prayer Meeting via Zoom
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Masks Required Worship Service (Live-Stream Worship)
	11:00 a.m.	Masks Optional Worship Service (Live Stream Worship)