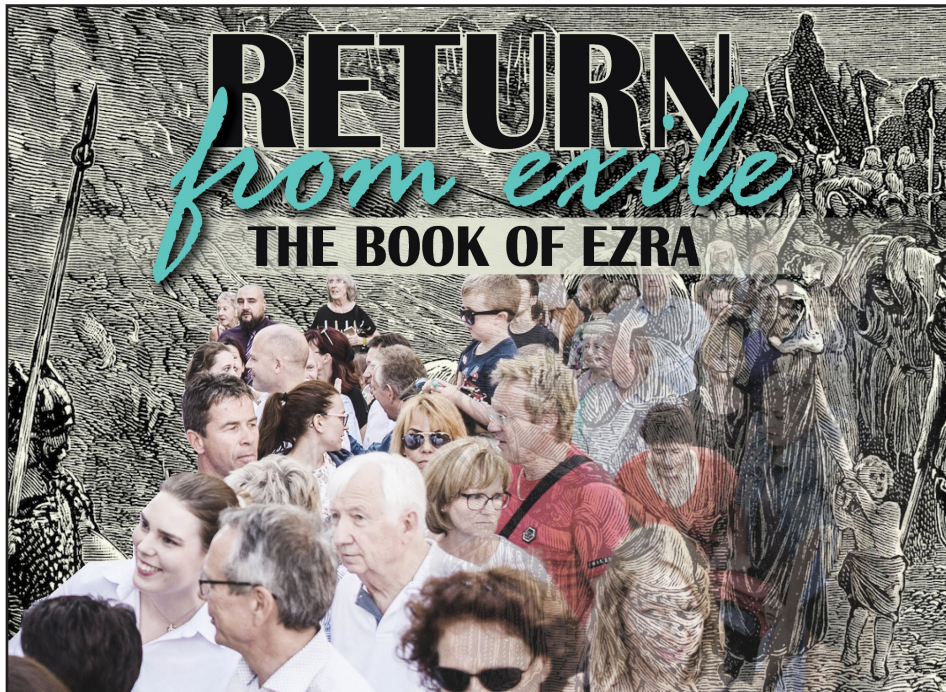




Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...
Changing lives forever!



SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH, 2020 - 10 A.M.

RETURN FROM EXILE:
MIDDLE OF THE STORY

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: "Hymn Medley" Deb & Kent Perrin

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 126:1-3

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

***Hymn:** "Lift High the Cross" (vs. 1,2) #826

***Call to Confession:** Psalm 32:5

David writes, "I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.' And you forgave the guilt of my sin." Like David, we gather in prayer to confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness. Please speak these words in your heart as I pray them aloud.

*Prayer of Confession:

Holy Spirit, you have come to live within us, giving us all manner of gifts and tools for your service. You gave us a place in the story of salvation where we might make a difference for the sake of Christ's Kingdom. Yet we ignore or deny your gifts, and imagine that the only story that matters is our own.

Open our eyes to a purpose that is bigger than ourselves, with your power that is beyond ourselves, for the sake of a people that includes more than just ourselves. Enable us to advance your story of hope, grace and redemption, in large and small ways, so that together we might all attain the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

*Assurance of Pardon:

Luke 5:20, 7:48

As Jesus spoke to the woman who lived a sinful life and to the man paralyzed, so hear him speak to each of us today: "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you; go in peace. ... Take up your mat and walk." Thanks be to God! Amen.

Children's Message

Period of Fellowship

Proclaiming the Word

Old Testament Reading: Ezra 7 NRSV Bible

Special Music: "Like A River That Overflows" CCPC Choir

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 4:7-13 NRSV Bible

Sermon: Return from Exile: Middle of the Story Jim Gates

Responding to the Word

***Hymn:** "Pass It On" (vs. 1,2)

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory Music: "When I Look Into Your Holiness" Les Fraaza

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

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Announcements

*Benediction

***Choral Benediction:** "Pass It On" (vs. 3)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHONE/TEXT MESSAGES—You may have noticed that the church staff has begun utilizing text and phone messages over the past many months. This has become an invaluable way to communicate events, changes to programming, etc. We realize this takes some time to adjust and get used to. To that end, please note that if you receive a voice or text message from 715-200-5520, or 77411, this is not a scam or solicitation. We invite you to program these numbers in your phone as "CCPC" so that your caller ID identifies the messages as being from the church.

ADDRESS CHANGES—If you have recently moved, or plan to in the near future, please remember to let the church office know so that the information can be updated in the system. This is important for communications that are sent out, as well as contact information for other members.

WORSHIP RETURNING TO ONE SERVICE—*Note that we have returned 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. **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). This month, 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 23 will open **TOMORROW** (Monday) August 17 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.

CCPC 101—Have you been visiting us before and/or during this season of distancing and lockdown? Want to know more about CCPC, our beliefs, and our ministries? We will cover all these topics and answer all your questions **NEXT** Sunday, August 23 after worship, both in person and via Zoom. *Those who wish to join us in person will be required to wear a mask and we will be social distancing. Those who wish to join us via Zoom will be given the necessary login information after they RSVP.* If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this informational session, please contact Drew Bouché (drew@covenantcommunitypc.org).

SCRIP PROGRAM IN AUGUST—Continuing in August, there will be a Scrip table set up for orders to be delivered on August 30th. This will be a self-serve table that will include blank order forms, extra envelopes for those prepaying with check or cash, and a collection box for said forms and payments. Pens will be available with the understanding that you must keep the pen you use. Orders for the August 30th delivery must be submitted by **NEXT** Sunday, August 23rd. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Higgins (715-573-8067).

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-I0Z-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).

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM—The women's Bible study will be meeting **THIS** Tuesday, August 18 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 continue to meet every Wednesday, via Zoom (including **THIS** Wednesday, August 19), for a time of communal prayer. 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=WEU3MzBQdjE5UEovcDEwT2pNS29Pd0Z0>

Meeting ID: 876 4004 0134

Password: 470996

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

EPIC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020—Our Epic VBS 2020 continues in August with "Mission: Deep Sea"! Get your kids involved today by going to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/vbs>. 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. 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).