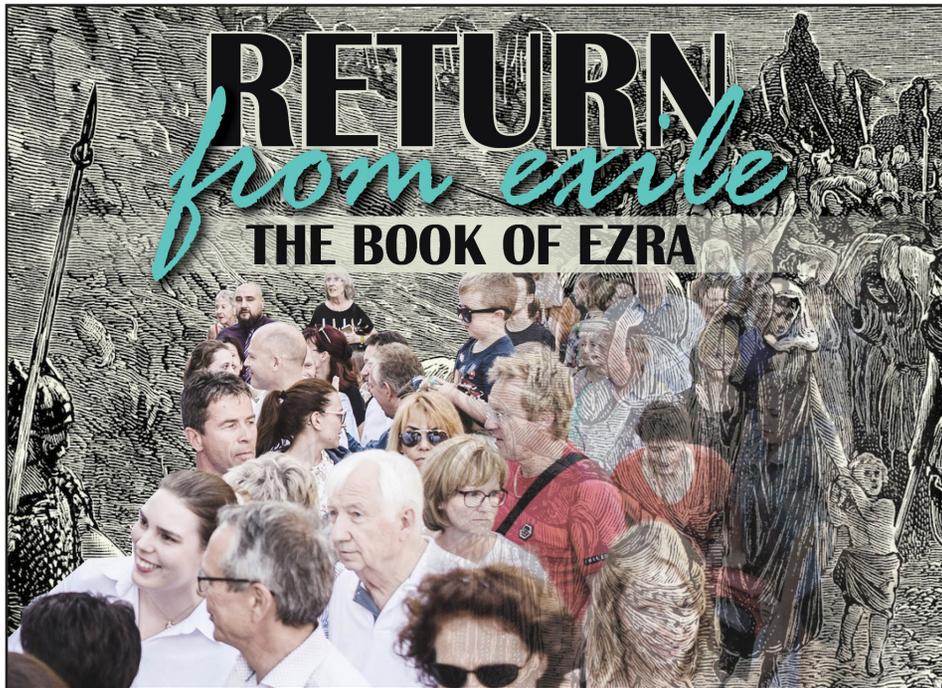




Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...
Changing lives forever!



SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND, 2020 - 10 A.M.

RETURN FROM EXILE:
THE POWER OF A PROPHET

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

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Communications & Evangelism Coordinator - Drew Bouché

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Office Manager/Bookkeeper - John Jacobs

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Choir Director - Deb Perrin

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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: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" 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 5:1-2

Now the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel who was over them. Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak set out to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem; and with them were the prophets of God, helping them.

***Hymn:** "The Lord is God" (vs. 1,2,3) #63

*Call to Confession:

Throughout history, God has raised up prophets to call us back to our faithfulness. Yet we have often ignored, rejected or resisted their words. Today, we join with all God's people to make our prayer of confession. Please speak these words in your heart as I speak them aloud.

*Prayer of Confession:

O Word of God, even this week you have spoken to us. You speak through Scripture, but we have kept our Bibles closed. You speak through your prophets, but we prefer voices of comfort over words of challenge. You speak through your Spirit, but we convince ourselves that we cannot hear. We know that if we hear you, we must turn away from our old lives and reorder them according to your will; that is a price we are hesitant to pay.

But you, Lord Jesus, did not hesitate to pay the full price for us. You chose your Father's will before your own. And in your death and resurrection we are made new. Help us in becoming a people who long to hear your voice and do your will. Speak again to us today, Lord, and grant us the privilege to obey.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

***Assurance of Pardon:** Romans 8:34
Paul encourages us, saying, "Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us." Believe the good news: because of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Children's Message

Period of Fellowship

Proclaiming the Word

Old Testament Reading: Ezra 5 NRSV Bible

Special Music: "Come to the Table" Kent & Deb Perrin

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 NRSV Bible

Sermon: Return from Exile: The Power of a Prophet Jim Gates

Responding to the Word

***Hymn:** "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" (vs. 1,2) #81

The Sacrament of Communion

Celebrating Our Heroes

Offering

Offertory Music: "Be Still, and Know that I Am God" Jay & Barb St. Clair

Connection Card and giving are available on the live stream web page. In-person worshippers can drop giving envelopes in the baskets as they exit.

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Announcements

*Benediction

***Choral Benediction:** "He Is Exalted"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S COMMUNION—Today we will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion. To participate at home, please have your juice and bread ready and available for today's live stream service. In-person worshippers will have prepackaged elements available to them.

WORSHIP RETURNING TO ONE SERVICE—*Starting TODAY (Aug. 2), we are returning 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 TODAY, 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 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 9 will open *TOMORROW* (Monday) August 3 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.

SCRIP PROGRAM IN AUGUST—Continuing in August, there will be a Scrip table set up for orders to be delivered on August 2nd. 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 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-l0Z-peWUq_shdHmuqVCmYvhfhtOBU). 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

NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK—We will *NOT* have our women's Bible study this coming Tuesday (August 4), as Jim Gates will be on vacation. We will return to regular scheduling *NEXT* week with our men's Bible study, via Zoom, on Tuesday, August 11.

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 5), 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=WEU3MzBkQjE5UEovcDEwT2pNS29Pd09>

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 is 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 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. 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

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|-----------|------------|---|
| Today | 5:00 p.m. | CCPC Men's Softball (Kelly Club) |
| Monday | 6:00 p.m. | W&F Committee Meeting |
| | 6:30 p.m. | CE Committee Meeting |
| | | Deacon's Meeting |
| Wednesday | 9:00 a.m. | VBS via Zoom |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Salt & Light Youth Group via Zoom |
| | | Prayer Meeting via Zoom |
| Thursday | 6:00 p.m. | Race Conversation Group via Zoom |
| Sunday | 10:00 a.m. | Masks Required Worship Service (Live-Stream Worship) |