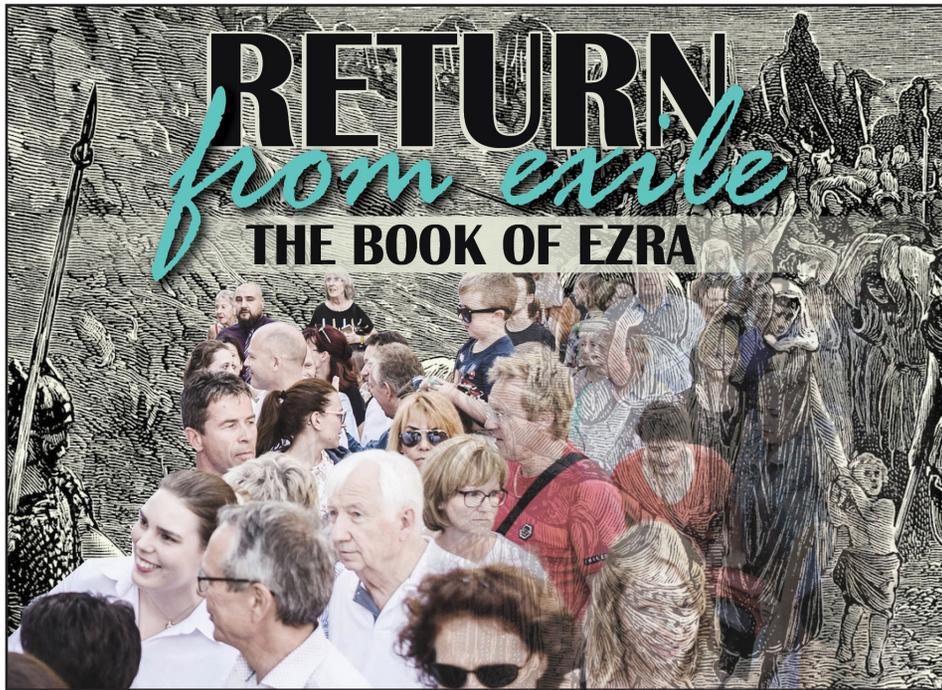




Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...
Changing lives forever!



SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH, 2020 - 10 A.M.

RETURN FROM EXILE:
OUR GUILT

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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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: "Rejoice, The Lord is King" 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 125:1-2

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,

Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

So the LORD surrounds his people, from this time on and forevermore.

***Hymn:** "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" (vs. 1,2) #396

*Call to Confession:

In our Old Testament reading today, Ezra offers a powerful and pointed prayer of confession. We will offer part of that prayer up together as our collective confession to God. Please join me in praying these words from the book of Ezra.

***Prayer of Confession:** From Ezra 9:6-7, 13-14a, 15

"Oh my God, I am too ashamed and embarrassed to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens. From the days of our ancestors to this day we have been deep in guilt.

After all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, seeing that you, our God, have punished us less than our iniquities deserved and have given us such a remnant as this, shall we break your commandments again?

Here we are before you in our guilt, though no one can face you because of this."

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

***Assurance of Pardon:** 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

Now hear the good news: "For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what punishment!" When we respond to sins with godly grief, we produce a repentance that leads to salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord! Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Children's Message

Period of Fellowship

Proclaiming the Word

Old Testament Reading: Ezra 9 NRSV Bible

Special Music: Caitlin Kyle

New Testament Reading: 1 John 4:19-21 NRSV Bible

Sermon: Return from Exile: Our Guilt Jim Gates

Responding to the Word

***Hymn:** "We Are One in the Spirit" (vs. 1,3) #300

Welcome of New Members: Mike Talbot
JeHae Kim-Bixby

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

Offering

Offertory Music: "From This Very Place" Covenant Faith Singers

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

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Announcements

*Benediction

***Choral Benediction:** "We Are One in the Spirit" (vs. 4) #300

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT L.I.F.E. VIA ZOOM—Partisan politics aren't new to this election (or to this century of elections). Nevertheless, today the feeling of division along party lines in our nations feels almost like a tangible thing. The political tension between "left" and "right" can be so pronounced that you probably started feeling preemptively anxious, uncomfortable or annoyed just reading this description! In fairness, sometimes the church has devolved into merely a political action group. At other times, we have run so far from politics that we have ignored the spiritual and moral components in many of our civil debates. How then should the church engage with the politically-charged world around us? As usual, Jesus is the answer for us. Our politics have nothing on 1st century Jewish culture. Into that world, Jesus brings a brilliant, original, and God-fearing method of dealing with that political divide. Join us on Wednesday nights from September 16 through October 21 from 6-7pm (via Zoom) to discuss Christ and Caesar, and together we can learn from Jesus what a unique Christian witness might be in our world today. Contact Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org) with questions.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESERVATIONS—Reservations for next Sunday, September 6 will open *TOMORROW* (Monday) August 31 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.

SEATS & FEETS/89Q PARTNERSHIP—We are so grateful to 89.5 FM in Wausau for partnering with us and our Seats & Feets ministry! *NOW* through September 27, we invite you to donate brand new, packaged socks and underwear for kids of all ages. These contributions will be distributed through our Hearts of Hope ministry, local school clothing closets, and our Care Closet/Food Pantry. Donations can be dropped off at 89Q (3500 Stewart Ave., Wausau), or at our church. Join us in meeting the most basic of needs for our community!

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.

CCPC COOKBOOK PROJECT—We are still accepting recipes! We are especially in need of recipes from our phenomenal male chefs of CCPC. Our goal is to have the proofed version to the printers by early October, so please consider sharing soon! Please visit our website for submission instructions (www.covenantcommunitypc.org/cookbook). If you are interested in helping, please contact Colleen Geurink (cgeurink@charter.net or 715-359-6038).

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

MEN'S & WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM—Join us for the start of our new series on September 15 (women) or September 22 (men), at noon, as we begin looking at the "minor" prophets of the Old Testament (we'll begin with Hosea)! Contact Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org) with questions about participating in these studies taking place virtually on Zoom. **Note that men and women will not be meeting until the start of the new series.**

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING VIA ZOOM—We continue to meet every Wednesday, via Zoom (including *THIS* Wednesday, September 2), for a time of communal prayer. All are welcome! To participate, please contact Jim Gates for the Zoom information.

A CONVERSATION ON RACE STUDY GROUP—Our Conversation on Race group will continue in September in a different format; we have concluded our study of the book "Be the Bridge" and will take September to review the racial justice themed films together. To get involved in our film conversations, contact Krista Gates at gatkri@gmail.com or Amanda Fuls at amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org.

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. 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). **Note that our new year of Salt & Light Wednesday Youth Group kicks off on September 16 via Zoom!**

YOUTH SCAVENGER HUNT—All 6th through 12th graders and adult drivers are welcome to join us for a mobile scavenger hunt on Saturday, September 12 at 6pm. You pick your teams (including friends that you invite) to be a part of your team and stay in the car with you. We encourage all groups to come up with a team name and put together a uniform (we will vote on the best outfits)! You can even do it as a family. We will be meeting at the church for instructions and playing the game while maintaining social distancing. Please contact Dan Frost (dan@covenantcommunitypc.org) with any questions.

YOUTH I.D. VIA ZOOM—There will be *THREE* classes (6th & 7th; Confirmation; 9th & 12th) via Zoom at 9am beginning Sunday, September 13. More information to come.

KIDS I.D. VIA ZOOM—Kids I.D. is all about growing closer to God through Bible knowledge. We have special plans for the kiddos so that they are not just sitting in front of a screen! All kids will start in a large group via Zoom and then breakout into two groups (PreK-1st & 2nd-5th grades). Each group will need their own device. Join us starting Sunday, September 13 at 9am.

KIDS L.I.F.E. VIA ZOOM—Wednesday nights (September 16-October 21) are all about connecting with church friends and developing spiritual habits that help us grow. LIFE will be fun, faith focused, and friend centered! We encourage each kid to have their own device.

KIDS CCPC PACKAGE—Let's face it, printing something at home is a pain... so we've done it for you! Each month we will provide materials to enhance all of our Kids Ministry programming, including some surprises! You might also get to see Ms. Amanda during the dropoff!

KIDS ZONE—Resources, Children's Messages and so much more... all at our CCPC website! Check it out at www.covenantcommunitypc.org/childrens-ministry. **Note that VBS materials will be going away at the end of September!**