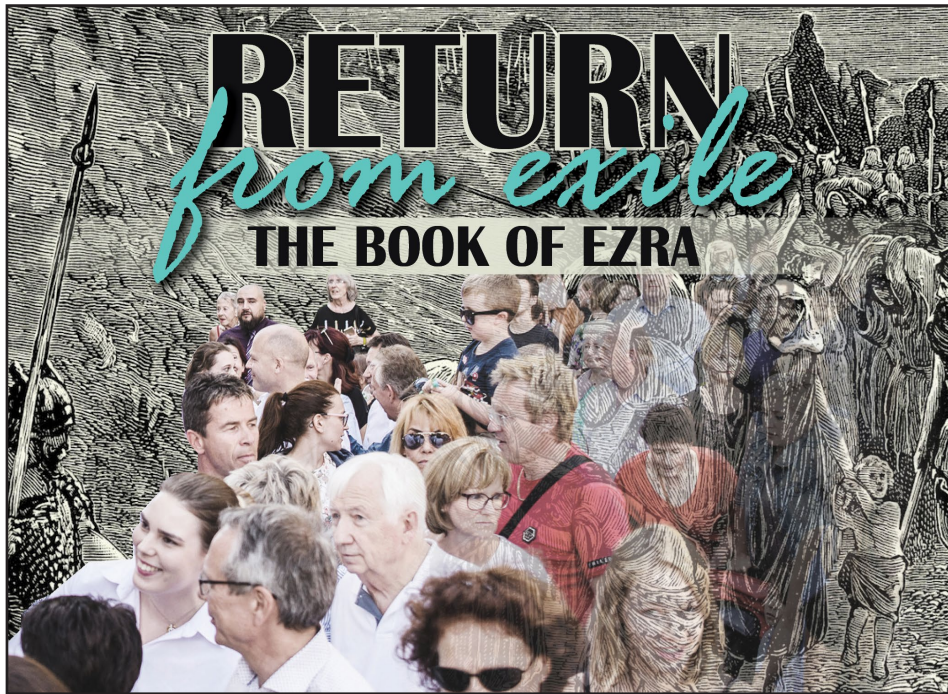




Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...
Changing lives forever!



SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH, 2020 - 10 A.M.

RETURN FROM EXILE:
BACK TO NORMAL

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: "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" 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 6:16, 22

The people of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy. With joy they celebrated the festival of unleavened bread seven days: for the LORD had made them joyful. Let us also worship the LORD with gladness as we exalt his name together this morning.

***Hymn:** "Shout to the Lord"

***Call to Confession:** Hebrews 4:15-16

Here the word of the Lord: "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Please speak these words in your heart as I read them aloud.

***Prayer of Confession:** (from the Scotts Confession)

Holy Creator, we confess and acknowledge that you created us in your own image and likeness, so that in our whole nature no imperfection could be found. From this dignity and perfection man and woman have fallen, both conspiring against your sovereign majesty. We have shown ourselves hostile to you, and have made ourselves servants to sin. And thus everlasting death has power and dominion over us all, unless we are reborn from above.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, work this rebirth in us, creating in our hearts the confidence of chosen ones, with assured faith in your promise revealed to us in your Word; by this faith we grasp Christ Jesus with the graces and blessings promised in him.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

***Assurance of Pardon:** Hebrews 2:14-15

We are God's children, and "since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death." Here is the gospel; in Jesus' incarnation, death and resurrection, we are set free from sin and death. Thanks be to God! Amen!

Children's Message

Period of Fellowship

Proclaiming the Word

Old Testament Reading: Ezra 6 NRSV Bible

Special Music: "Till the Storm Passes By" Herb Westlund

New Testament Reading: John 2:13-25 NRSV Bible

Sermon: Return from Exile: Back to Normal Dan Frost

Responding to the Word

***Hymn:** "I Love to tell the Story" (vs. 1,3) #462

Offering

Offertory Music: "This is My Father's World/He's Got the Whole World" Pat Moucha

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

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Announcements

*Benediction

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

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 16 will open **TOMORROW** (Monday) August 10 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 16 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 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

NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK—We will **NOT** have our men's Bible study this coming Tuesday (August 11), as Jim Gates is on vacation. We will return to regular scheduling **NEXT** week with our women's Bible study, via Zoom, on Tuesday, August 18.

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=WEU3MzBQdjE5UEovcDEwT2pNS29Pd309>

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! You can still 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).