

LIVE STREAMING

CCPC live streams 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

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Communications & Evangelism Coordinator - Drew Bouché

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Office Manager/Bookkeeper - John Jacobs

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Accompanist & Bell Choir Director - JeHae Kim-Bixby

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Housekeeper - Carol Anklam

Church Office

(715) 359-6467 or ccpc@covenantcommunitypc.org

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www.covenantcommunitypc.org



COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...

Changing lives forever!

JESUS' VISION



THE GROWING
KINGDOM
OF GOD



Seeing & Following Courageously

KICKOFF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2021 - 10 A.M.

JESUS' VISION:
A KINGDOM
OF SECRET SOIL

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude: "Be Thou My Vision" Les Fraaza

Quiet Reflection and Preparation for Worship:

Scripture challenges us to walk by faith, not by sight; to see the world through the eyes of Christ. What present, and future, does Jesus see when looking at our world? At your life? Where does God's vision compliment or conflict with the dreams you have for yourself, or the expectations others have for you? Prayerfully reflect this morning on how you might come to see God's vision with greater clarity.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Candles:

Call to Worship: Proverbs 29:18, Matthew 4:17

*Where there is no vision,
The people perish.*

*From that time, Jesus began to proclaim;
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.*

***Hymn:** "Majesty" See Screen

***Call to Confession:**

Jesus challenges us to live according to a new way of life, in what he calls "the kingdom of heaven." But the world around us casts a vision of different values that easily distracts us from the call of Christ. Today, we join our voices in prayer together, confessing and returning to Christ.

***Prayer of Confession:**

In the beginning, Lord God, there was nothing but you; but then you spoke your vision of the universe into being. You came in Jesus to a world alienated from you and each other; but then you worked your vision of the kingdom of heaven into reality. In our lives, we are tempted to value and pursue the world's vision for our lives; but you live in us by the Spirit and draw us back to your good plan.

Forgive us for straying from the vision of Christ this week. Help us to trust fully in you, and believe what we cannot see, trusting that faith will be our eyes. This we pray in the name of Christ our Lord.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

JEHAE KIM-BIXBY IN CONCERT—JeHae Kim-Bixby will be performing a solo concert *THIS* Saturday, September 18 at 6pm. Purchase your tickets (\$25 towards our Missions Fund) at the Ministry Fair *TODAY*, or by going to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/payments>. Tickets can be purchased at the Hub the night of the event. JeHae will dazzle us all with presentations of Chopin, Brahms, Debussy, and Rachmaninoff, as well as an arrangement of classical hymns. There will be an intermission and refreshments. Please invite friends and family to experience God's amazing gift of music!

SECRET A.G.E.N.T.S. MISSION #4 - 2021-2022—The 2021-2022 Secret A.G.E.N.T.S. mission is upon us! We are now looking for Jr. Agents (rising 4th-12th graders) and Secret Agents (adults). You can register right now on our website and at the Ministry Fair *TODAY*!

CCPC 101—Have you been visiting us and want to know more about CCPC, our beliefs, and our ministries? We will cover all these topics and answer all your questions after worship *NEXT* Sunday, September 19 in the Bouldin Hall conference room. We will be serving food to begin our time together and childcare will be provided. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of this informational session, speak with Drew Bouché (drew@covenantcommunitypc.org).

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—The men's study continues in the Book of Hebrews *THIS* Tuesday, September 14 at noon. All are welcome to join us for food, fellowship, and discipleship.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY—CCPC will be the newest host of Celebrate Recovery Ministries. This Bible-centered, twelve-step ministry will begin meeting at the church on Tuesday, October 5 at 6:45pm for those looking for healing and restoration from addiction, depression, anger, abuse, grief, and any other form of heavy burden. Our group leaders have been preparing for months to lead a safe, discrete, loving group that can walk beside you throughout this process of growth. Meetings are open to anyone... from our church or any other walk of life. It is a community group. Please contact Drew Bouché (drew@covenantcommunitypc.org) with any questions.

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

NEW YOUTH GROUP FORMAT STARTING IN SEPTEMBER—Our Salt & Light Youth Group will look a little different this year. Students who are in 6th through 8th grades will gather on Wednesdays at 6pm, beginning *THIS WEEK* September 15. Our 9th through 12th graders will meet on Sunday nights at 6pm, beginning *NEXT* Sunday, September 19. This new structure will allow for more in-depth discipleship geared towards the student's age group. It is also our hope that senior high students will have more freedom to attend on Sunday evenings, rather than competing with school extracurriculars during the week. Spread the word and invite friends as we kickoff a new year of being salt of the earth and light unto the world! Contact Dan Frost (dan@covenantcommunitypc.org) with any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORTGAGE MATCHING GIFT— We have been blessed with a **\$45,000** matching gift challenge, all of which will go towards our mortgage on the sanctuary and CE wing from 2008. All donations of any size qualify for this match! If we can complete this entire match before December 31, we will completely pay off our mortgage this year! To donate, simply put "mortgage match" on your check or give online to the matching gift fund. We also have a drop box at today's Ministry Fair Giving Table for this amazing blessing!

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE TOGETHER—We are near the end of the New Testament! Yesterday, our current read-through plan asked us to read more than one chapter a day. So, we are making one last switch to another plan as we study Revelation on the YouVersion Bible app! You can join by clicking this link: <https://bible.com/p/45590551/70fc868539e60ab8c1fd383d98899d1d>
Note - this study begins **TOMORROW**. If you would like an assignment for today, read the book of Jude again (we read it earlier in our read-through process) and notice the connections between Jude and 2 Peter. Contact Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org) with any questions.

INSTITUTE OF DISCIPESHIP (I.D.) FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY—Our Institute of Discipleship (I.D.) classes began TODAY at 9am for the whole family, and will continue every Sunday! Adult classes will include "Finding God's Vision for You" and "The Bible Project", while the Kid's I.D. lineup will include "Big Bible/Big Church" for our 3rd graders and up. High school and middle schoolers will have their own classes, including Confirmation. We will have discipleship for pre-K through adults! Visit our website for more information on all!

CCPC MINISTRY FAIR—The CCPC "Ministry Fair" will take place in Bouldin Hall following worship TODAY and will provide an opportunity for ALL to learn about, and participate in, the many ministries available within our church community. We will have tables and representatives for Worship & Fellowship, Christian Education, and Missions sharing how you can get involved in all aspects of discipleship, fellowship, and service. There is also an opportunity to win raffle prizes! Make sure you get your "passport" when you enter the fair for your chance at three themed baskets valued at \$60 each!

CCPC PICNIC 2021—What a thrill to have the return of our faith family celebration to kickoff the church year! Amazing food, fun games and inflatables are back for our annual picnic in the Fellowship Hall and outside after worship (and after visiting the Ministry Fair) TODAY!

CHOIR PRACTICES— **Adult Choir** - Practices continue every Wednesday from 7-8pm. Please contact Deb Perrin (715-432-1155) or Les Fraaza (715-574-2059) if you want to join, or if you have any questions. **Bell Choir** - Practices continue every Wednesday from 6-7pm. If you are interested in joining the group, you can contact JeHae Kim-Bixby (715-310-0820). **Kid's Choir** - Practices begin THIS Wednesday, September 15 from 6-6:45pm. Please contact Deb Perrin (715-432-1155) if you have any questions.

KID'S & ADULT L.I.F.E. EVERY WEDNESDAY—As we enter into the new "church calendar" year this week, our Kid's and adult L.I.F.E. classes will occur EVERY WEDNESDAY at 6pm (Kid's L.I.F.E. will run until 7:30pm), rather than our previous, seasonal schedule. Plan for weekly discipleship for the whole family on Wednesday nights, beginning THIS WEEK, September 15, with dinner (Pasta Night) at 5:30pm. You can pay for your individual meals when you arrive or on our website at www.covenantcommunitypc.org/payments.

*Assurance of Pardon:

Colossians 1:13-14

Hear the good news: The Father "has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

*Gloria Patri

Children's Message: Commissioning of our Teachers

[Children may come forward and be seated in the first two rows of pews.]

Period of Fellowship

*Hymn: "Open My Eyes, That I May See" (vs. 1,3) #451

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 29:18 Page 611

Special Music: "Holy Ground" CCPC Choir

New Testament Reading: Matthew 13:1-23 Page 13

Sermon: Jesus' Vision: A Kingdom of Secret Soil Jim Gates

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision" (vs. 1,2,4) #450

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer See Page 4

Offering

Offertory Music: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" JeHae Kim-Bixby & Les Fraaza

*Doxology

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction: "Blest Are They" (vs. 1) #172

Postlude: JeHae Kim-Bixby

WELCOME TO COVENANT COMMUNITY!

We consider it a privilege to have you worship with us and sincerely hope you get a blessing from the service. Some notes to help you be more comfortable during the service:

- † Please participate in congregational responses (bold)
- † Please stand as able, as marked with an asterisk *
- † Please fill out the Connection Card insert.
- † Feel free to use the Cry Room (you will be able to see & hear the service) and/or Nursery located across from the sanctuary

HOW TO JOIN THIS CHURCH

The officers and members of CCPC welcome all persons who wish to respond to the Lordship of Jesus Christ by confessing or reaffirming their Christian Faith or by transferring their membership. We invite you to accept this invitation if you do not have a church home. Please speak with Jim Gates or Drew Bouché, note your interest on the Connection Card, or phone the church office (715) 359-6467. You are welcome here!

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS/PERFORMERS

Thank you to all who make this morning's worship meaningful!

Worship Leader: Deb Tice
Elder Greeters: Jay St. Clair
 & Luke Coenen
Greeter: Barb Smejkal
 & Dianne Abel

The HUB: Deb Wakefield
Counter: Jesse Lawton
Acolyte: Oliver Fandrey
Live Stream: Derek Nelson
Slides: Jared Fuls

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the following folks who were recently in the hospital or reside in an assisted-care facility.

Tom Scott
(Home)

Dee Jenkins
(Home)

Don Hawkins
(Home)

Cheryl Lenz
(Colonial Center in Colby)

THIS WEEK AT CCPC

SERVICE... DISCIPLESHIP... ENGAGEMENT!

<u>TODAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
9AM I.D. 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM MINISTRY FAIR 11:30AM PICNIC	6PM DARTBALL PRACTICE	NOON MEN'S BIBLE STUDY	5:30PM DINNER 6PM MS YOUTH GROUP 6PM KID'S/ADULT L.I.F.E. 6PM KID'S CHOIR PRACT. 6PM BELL CHOIR PRACT. 7PM CHOIR PRACTICE
<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
2PM SHEEPSHEAD		6PM JEHAE KIM-BIXBY IN CONCERT	9AM I.D. 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM FELLOWSHIP 11:15AM CCPC 101 6PM HS YOUTH GROUP

For more details about CCPC programming, refer to the next couple of pages in this bulletin, go to www.covenantcommunitypc.org, or call the church office at 715-359-6467.