

LIVE-STREAM

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

Parish Visitor - Jess Wakefield

(715) 573-4648 or jess@covenantcommunitypc.org

Director of Children & Family Ministries - Amanda Fuls

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Communications Coordinator - Drew Bouché

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Assistant to the Senior Pastor - Raissa Dupuis

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Office Manager - Cyndi Schneider

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Church Accountant - Renee Radtke

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Traditional Music Director - Deb Perrin

deb@covenantcommunitypc.org

Contemporary Music Director - Orlando diValentin

orlando@covenantcommunitypc.org

Accompanist & Bell Choir Director - JeHae Kim-Bixby

jehae@covenantcommunitypc.org

Organist - Les Fraaza

les@covenantcommunitypc.org

Church Office

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

WWW.COVENANTCOMMUNITYPC.ORG



LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION: TEMPTED TO SAFETY

Numbers 13:32-14:12 & Mark 8:31-38

January 7, 2024

COVENANT COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...
Changing lives forever!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude: "Fairest, Lord Jesus" Les Fraaza

Quiet Reflection and Preparation for Worship:

We continue to use the Lord's Prayer to illuminate sections of the Gospel of Mark. In Mark 8:31-10:52, Jesus is teaching the disciples about the kind of Messiah he will be, and preparing the disciples for his suffering, death and resurrection. Throughout this section we see one temptation after another arise for Jesus and his students. Each time, Jesus will teach how to not be led away from him. What temptations do you face today? Have you asked Jesus to lead you away from them and towards himself?

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship: Mark 8:27-29

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples,

"Who do the people say that I am?"

And they answered him,

"John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him,

"You are the Messiah."

***Hymn:** "I have Decided to Follow Jesus" (vs. 1,3,4) See Screens

***Call to Confession:** Numbers 14:11

The LORD says to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?" Like the ancient Israelites in the wilderness, our fears limit our faithfulness. Let us acknowledge our faith struggles as we make our prayer of confession.

***Prayer of Confession:**

Lord God, you offer us the promised land, but we choose instead to return to slavery. We are daunted by the risk of trusting in you.

Jesus, we have the arrogance to rebuke your willingness to suffer in favor of our own vision of a safer savior.

Forgive us our sins, and give us courage to trust in you with increased faith, so that we can believe that what you call good is truly good, and what you call evil is truly evil.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

ADULT L.I.F.E. — Adult L.I.F.E. will begin a new format starting *THIS* Wednesday, January 10 with a Sermon Discussion Group. All adults are invited to join us from 6-7pm in the Cry Room to dig deeper into the latest sermon.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY — The men's Bible study is currently studying the book of Isaiah and meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month (both at 12pm). If you have any questions, please contact Jim Gates at jim@covenantcommunitypc.org.

I.D. FOR ALL AGES — Our I.D. classes for all ages meets every Sunday from 9am-9:50am. Children in 5th grade and younger, as well as our middle school youth, meet downstairs, while high school youth meet in the loft in Bouldin Hall. Adults gather in the Cry Room. All are welcome!

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

YOUTH GROUP — Middle School Youth meet from 6-7:30pm, and High School Youth meet from 6:30-8pm on Wednesday nights. This week is Marshmallow Night! How many games can we play using marshmallows? So many!

THE GREAT ESCAPE 2024 — We are excited to be returning to The Great Escape in Green Lake, WI July 8-13! All rising 6th-9th graders are invited to go, as a group, for an amazing week of fellowship, worship, team-building, and fun! Cost for each student is \$400, with a \$100 deposit due February 18. Register on our website. Scholarships are available!

KIDS L.I.F.E. — At Kids L.I.F.E., we gather on Wednesdays at 6pm to strengthen our friendship with Jesus and each other. Living in Faith Every Day is a bright spot in our week and there is a group for every age!

WORSHIP & WIGGLES — Worship & Wiggles is for 2 and 3-year-olds during Sunday worship. It is designed for our littlest worshipers to make new friends and learn about God's love. Toddlers gather in the Cry Room after the Children's Message dismissal, and have Bible Story time before they "play with a purpose" and participate in the worship service from the Cry Room/Nursery.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT — Bring the family for an evening of board and card games for all ages on Saturday, January 13 from 3-5pm. Have a special game that you'd love to teach others to play? Bring them along and share the fun! There is no signup for this wonderful evening of fun ... just come and be part of the "loving competition!"

CCPC BUDGET/ATTENDANCE

THROUGH NOVEMBER 2023:	DECEMBER 31 ATTENDANCE:
Budgeted Operating Revenues: \$508,664	AM In-Person Total: 120
Actual Operating Revenues: \$533,846	AM Livestream Total: 126
Budgeted Operating Expenses: \$493,126	PM In-Person Total: N/A
Actual Operating Expenses: \$487,566	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCPC 101 — Would you like to know more about CCPC, our beliefs, and our ministries? Thinking about making this your church home? Join us in the Bouldin Hall conference room immediately following worship NEXT Sunday, January 14. Please RSVP to Raissa Dupuis. Food and childcare will be provided.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP — CCPC has an open position for a Summer Intern who would help Jim Gates with our youth and also encounter a wide variety of ministry experiences. This is designed for a member of our church who is college-age and at least one year removed from high school (i.e. graduated in 2023 or earlier). It is a part-time position (25 hrs/week) for 12 weeks of the summer (dates can be worked out based on the applicant's calendar). Contact Jim with any questions or to apply!

GIVING ENVELOPES — If you would like giving envelopes, please visit The Hub and ask the attendant for a box.

TEXT MESSAGE COMMUNICATIONS — We are excited bring back text message communications! We want to make sure that this is a protected and hassle free experience for all of our faith family. To that end, we want to give you the chance to opt-in to this opportunity, if you haven't done so already. You can go to our website, check the Monday emails, or mark your Connection Card on Sunday mornings.

MISSIONS & VOLUNTEERING

CCPC AUCTION 2024 — Our 27th Annual Mission Auction will take place Saturday, March 2, 2024! As always, we will have an amazing array of silent auctions, with a dinner and live auction. This year, we will travel back in time to visit our "Divine Diner", featuring classic comfort foods with an elevated twist. Tickets are \$20/adults and \$15/kids, which includes access to our "Sock Hop" fun room for! Get your tickets online, at the Hub, or at the church office during the week. We'll be selling shoes beginning at 4pm, with a pre-sale, just for shoes, on Friday March 1st from 5-7pm. Check today's Connection Card to help with preparations. Contact Raissa Dupuis with any questions.

COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP 2024 — CCPC will be sending a team to Costa Rica June 22-29, 2024, in partnership with Praying Pelican Missions. This trip is open to rising 9th graders and older, and will be participating in homeless ministry, feeding programs, medical clinics, church projects, and one fun excursion! Cost is \$1,300 for adults and \$1,000 for students, which includes the flight and accommodations in Costa Rica. A \$200 deposit is required to hold your spot for the trip and can be paid on our website, as well as in person to the office. Go to our website to learn more!

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

BIBLE APP STUDY — Join Jim Gates in reading the entire Bible this year in Chronological order using the Bible App by YouVersion. See where each prophet fits into the story of Israel; see where each of Paul's letters fit into the story of the early church! You can join us at anytime! Just download the Bible App from the Apple Store or Google Play for free, and find the link in our Monday email... or contact Jim Gates for the invitation.

*Assurance of Pardon:

Mark 8:35

Jesus says, "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." Believe the gospel; all those who risk and trust in Jesus will be saved! Thanks be to God.

Amen!

*Congregational Response:

"The Lord is My Salvation"

See Screens

Children's Message

(Children may come forward and be seated on the stage.)

Period of Fellowship

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Old Testament Reading:

Numbers 13:32-14:12

Page 131

Special Music:

"Were You There On That Christmas Night" CCPC Choir

New Testament Reading:

Mark 8:31-38

Page 44

Sermon:

"Lead Us Not Into Temptation: Tempted to Safety"

Jim Gates

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn:

"Will You Come and Follow Me" (vs. 1,2,3)

#726

The Sacrament of Communion

Ministry Celebration:

Christmas Day Dinner

Offering

Offertory Music:

"Hallelujah Chorus"

JeHae Kim-Bixby & Les Fraaza

*Doxology

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction:

"As with Gladness Men of Old" (vs. 4)

#150

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 across from the sanctuary
- † Activity bags for children are available in the Narthex.
- † Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for donuts, cookies, juice, coffee, and fellowship!

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, 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

Thank you to all who serve the church on Sunday mornings!

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|--|-----------------------------------|
| Worship Leaders: Deb Tice & Will VanSlyke | Livestream: Jack Dupuis |
| Acolytes: Piper Dupuis & Sophia Haulotte | Slides: Josh Werner |
| Elder Greeters: Julie Trebus & Lynda Reis | Usher Lead: Jesse Lawton |
| The Hub: Joan Jackson | Fellowship: Luke Coenen |
| | Gatekeeper: Braydon Briggs |

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Mary Zuidema
(Renaissance in Wisconsin Rapids) | Dave Vachowiak
(Forest Park Village) | Howie Pries
(Pride TLC) |
| Joyce Michna
(Fond du Lac) | Tom Scott
(Home) | Wynn Jones |

THIS WEEK AT CCPC

SERVICE... DISCIPLESHIP... ENGAGEMENT!

TODAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
9AM	ID FOR ALL AGES/ CONFIRMATION	7PM	DARTBALL AT ST. STEVENS	12PM 6PM	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY CELEBRATE RECOVERY	3PM 6PM 6PM 6:30PM 7PM	FOOD PANTRY ADULT/KIDS LIFE MS YOUTH GROUP HS YOUTH GROUP CHOIR PRACTICE
10AM 11:15AM 4PM 6PM	WORSHIP WOMEN'S STUDY BAND REHEARSAL WORSHIP						
THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
12PM 12PM 2PM	OLD GUYS RULE AT PIZZA RANCH LUNCH BUNCH/ CRAFT GROUP SHEEPSHEAD			3PM	FAMILY GAME NIGHT	9AM 10AM 11:15AM 11:15AM 4PM 6PM	ID FOR ALL AGES/ CONFIRMATION WORSHIP CCPC 101 WOMEN'S STUDY BAND REHEARSAL WORSHIP

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.