



COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

FORWARD

— GOD'S CALL TO MOVE — →



FROM CAREFREE TO
COMMITMENT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, 2020 - 10 A.M.

FORWARD

FROM CAREFREE TO COMMITMENT:
TRAPPED! FEAR OF COMMITMENT

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

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
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Gathering Around the Word

Prelude: "Everlasting God" Les Fraaza

Quiet Reflection and Preparation for Worship:

What if God's call is not to go "back to normal" but to go forward with Christ? In what direction is your life moving? Are you going backwards to your old life, or forward into the Spirit's new adventure? Consider this morning what your next step towards God might be, and commit to strain forward to what lies ahead.

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship: Genesis 17:7-8

I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come,
To be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you;
And I will be their God.

***Hymn:** "Standing on the Promises" (vs. 1,2) Herb Westlund

***Call to Confession:** Isaiah 25:4

Isaiah calls out, saying, "the earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant." We live in a world of transgressions and broken covenants, and yet our God will not break his covenant with us. Because of God's faithfulness, we can join together and confess our own sins.

*Prayer of Confession:

Heavenly Father, we confess that we fear being tied down, trapped or constrained. Therefore, we are slow to make promises and quick to forget them. Whereas you freely commit yourself to us, we avoid commitment and the cost it might bring.

Forgive us for our carefree attitude toward things about which you care deeply. Forgive us for our careless behavior towards people to whom you are passionately committed. Grant us grace, through Jesus our Lord, so that we might joyfully live within the security of our covenant with you.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

*Assurance of Pardon:

Matthew 16:24-25

Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." We have chosen to follow Jesus, and in him, we have found forgiveness and eternal life. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Children's Message: The Sacrament of Baptism

Period of Fellowship

Proclaiming the Word

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 15:1-21 NRSV Bible

Special Music: "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" Jay St. Clair

New Testament Reading: Matthew 16:21-28 NRSV Bible

Sermon: Forward from Carefree to Commitment: Trapped! Fear of Commitment Jim Gates

Responding to the Word

***Hymn:** "Jesus Calls Us" (vs. 1,2,3) Herb Westlund

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

CCPC Stewardship 2020

Offering

Offertory Music: "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul" Les Fraaza & Marcy Fehrman

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

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Announcements

*Benediction

***Choral Benediction:** "Standing on the Promises" (vs. 4) Herb Westlund

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCING OUR ONLINE DIRECTORY—We now have an online directory which includes both pictures and contact information! This directory is part of the same Church Center application we use for online giving and reservations for worship, so it will look familiar to many. If you've not used Church Center before, when you visit the link below you will be asked for a cellphone number or an email. If we have that number or email on file for you, then you will get a passcode that allows you to log in. This prevents strangers from accessing our directory. Moreover, your data will only appear if you individually choose to "opt-in." You can also choose which parts of your information are visible to other church members (for example, you might choose to make your email address visible but hide your phone number). Obviously, the more of us who "opt-in," the more useful this tool will be. So, please take a moment and visit our church center page and get started! Call or email the church office with questions. Go to <https://covenantcommunitypc.churchcenter.com/directory/people> to get started.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESERVATIONS—Reservations for next Sunday, November 1 will open *TOMORROW* (Monday) October 26 at 9am. Please go to www.covenantcommunitypc.org/reservations for the 10am service. You can also call the church office at 715-359-6467.

ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION—As we kickoff our fall programming, much of which will be virtual, we invite you to visit a private webpage with all of our Zoom login information. Please visit www.covenantcommunitypc.org/online-login and get connected this fall!

COLLEGE/TECH STUDENT GIFT CARDS—Parents of those attending college or tech school: The Deacons would like to remember your young adults during Christmas by sending them a small gift. We want them to know their church family is prayerfully thinking of them! Please contact Ken Zblewski (715-393-5885 or kenzblewski@yahoo.com) with your student's mailing address. Thank you from the Deacons!

MISSIONS

HEARTS OF HOPE OPEN HOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—We are still looking for volunteers to assist in the distribution of winter clothing during our Hearts of Hope Open House ... November 5-7. There are four separate blocks of time that you can volunteer for. Contact Sarah Luedtke (sluedtke@sluedtke.com) or Rachael Rogers (rachaelrogers717@gmail.com) for the corresponding shifts:

Thursday, Nov. 5 - 4:30-7pm (Sarah); **Friday, Nov. 6 - 4:30-7pm** (Rachael);
Saturday, Nov. 7 - 9am-12pm (Rachael); **Saturday, Nov. 7 - 1-4pm** (Sarah)

CALLING ALL COOKIE-MAKERS!—We need 100 dozen cookies for our Hearts of Hope Ministry in December. If you would like to help bake, please contact Sharon Maltbey at sharon.maltbey@gmail.com or 715-573-7427.

WARMING SHELTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—CCPC has long worked with, and supported the Wausau Warming Center... and will continue to do so this year. If you would like to be involved, please contact Sharon Maltbey (Sharon.maltbey@gmail.com or 715-573-7427) as soon as possible!

COLLECTING FOR THE SALVATION ARMY!—We are collecting blankets (single size), pillows and pillow cases for the Salvation Army. If you have donations, please bring them to the church at any time or contact Jean Rogers (hdncv1307@gmail.com or 715-212-1444) with questions.

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM—We continue our new Bible study on the first six "minor" prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, and Nahum *THIS* Tuesday, October 27, at noon. Remember that you can purchase the study book for \$9 by visiting the church building, or by contacting Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org). All women are welcome!

BOOK CLUB—The Book Club invites you to join them via Zoom (Hosted by Kay Marlene Hodgdon and Judy Dorn)! The discussion will be about "The Pecan Man" by Cassie Dandridge Sellek and will take place Monday, September 26 at 6:30pm. If you would like to participate, please contact Kari Kufahl (kari.kufahl@gmail.com) or Judy Dorn (jajudorn@charter.net) for the Zoom invite information.

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 and materials from previous weeks, please go to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/youth-group>. If you have any questions, contact Dan Frost (dan@covenantcommunitypc.org).

YOUTH I.D. VIA ZOOM—Youth Institute of Discipleship has *THREE* classes (6th & 7th; Confirmation; 9th & 12th) via Zoom at 9am every Sunday morning. For more information, please visit <http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/sunday-school-2> for more information, or contact Dan Frost (dan@covenantcommunitypc.org).

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 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 every Sunday at 9am. Learn more at <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/sunday-school-1>.

OTHER

SCRIP PROGRAM—For all of your upcoming gift needs, there is a Scrip table set up in the Narthex! This is a self-serve table that includes 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. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Higgins (715-573-8067). **Note that orders should be dropped off TODAY for a November 1st delivery date!**