

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

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Parish Visitor - Jess Wakefield

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Director of Children & Family Ministries - Amanda Fuls

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Traditional Music Director - Deb Perrin

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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



GIVE US ... OUR DAILY BREAD: THE HEALER OF THE NATIONS

Isaiah 35:1-10 & Mark 7:24-37

December 10, 2023

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

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude: "The Name of Jesus" Les Fraaza

Quiet Reflection and Preparation for Worship:

Mark's account of Jesus' life closely parallels the Lord's Prayer. This section, Mark 6:7-8:30, is bracketed with the feeding of the 5,000 Israelites and the feeding of the 4,000 Gentiles. As Jesus literally gives the nations their daily bread, his identity as the Messiah is finally revealed to his disciples. In this season of Advent, how are you also receiving your daily bread from Jesus? What does it mean for you to discover his identity as Messiah, and as King of Kings, through his provision for you?

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Lighting of the Advent Candles: The Zentner Family Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-6, 10

The third candle of Advent is the candle of joy. All of creation shouts with joy at the first coming of our Savior, like the redeemed returning to Zion.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad. The desert shall rejoice and the blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; **Then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For the waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.**

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; **Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

***Hymn:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1,6,7) #88

***Call to Confession:** Mark 7:28
But the woman from Tyre answered, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "for saying that, you may go- the demon has left your daughter." Friends, this week we have failed to remember that all who have faith in Jesus are worthy of being fed his truth. Let us confess our selfishness together.

***Prayer of Confession:**
Jesus, today we confess we have often failed to share our faith in you with others. We have kept you for ourselves and felt more deserving of your goodness. Help us to share our faith out loud. Open our eyes to see, our ears to listen and our mouths to proclaim you as the healer of all the nations.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP 2024 - INFORMATIONAL MEETING — 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! If you would like to learn more about this exciting opportunity, we invite you to attend an informational meeting, TODAY, after worship in the Cry Room.

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

ADVENT BIBLE APP STUDY — It is not too late to be a part of the Advent study utilizing the Bible App by YouVersion. The Bible App is available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. You can join the study and conversation by clicking the link provided in Monday's email, or contact Jim Gates to get involved.

TUESDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY — Our women's Bible study will meet THIS Tuesday, December 12 at 12pm. The men meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, and we are studying the Book of Isaiah. Join us and bring a friend!

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — Celebrate Recovery is a Bible-centered, recovery ministry that meets every Tuesday at 6pm in Bouldin Hall. It is for those who struggle with ANY hurt, hangup, or habit... from grief and depression, to addiction and emotional struggles. Meetings are open to anyone! Contact Drew Bouché with any questions.

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 we will serve our Hearts of Hope families by helping with the preparations of their gifts and food.

KIDS L.I.F.E. — At Wednesday night L.I.F.E. (every Wednesday at 6pm) our first focus is a friendship with Jesus, and secondly, we encourage children to build relationships with other kids and adult leaders.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2023 — Come and celebrate our kiddos with their performance of "A Stellar Christmas" NEXT Sunday, December 17 at 2pm. For those who cannot be there in person, will be livestreaming the show on our website and YouTube channel. Practices will continue this week with a dress rehearsal on December 13 at 6pm, and a final practice on Saturday, December 16 at 9am.

CCPC BUDGET/ATTENDANCE

THROUGH NOVEMBER 2023:

Budgeted Operating Revenues: **\$508,664**

Actual Operating Revenues: **\$533,846**

Budgeted Operating Expenses: **\$493,126**

Actual Operating Expenses: **\$487,566**

DECEMBER 3 ATTENDANCE:

AM In-Person Total: **244**

AM Livestream Total: **128**

PM In-Person Total: **29**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON/POTLUCK — All are invited to the Annual Luncheon/Potluck, a Christmas tradition at CCPC, hosted by the Lunch Bunch and Old Guys Rule. Join us for wonderful food and Christmas Carols (led by Ron Pufall) *THIS* Thursday, December 14 at 12pm (punch at 11:30am). There is a signup at The Hub and we ask for a \$2 contribution per person to cover the cost (paid to Bob Warner or Ruth Wrynski).

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE — While Christmas is ordinarily a time of joy and celebration, many challenges can make facing the holiday season difficult. To support those for whom this season brings complex feelings, we will offer a special service on December 21 - the longest night of the year - at 6pm. If you know someone in need of encouragement this holiday season, please invite them to join you for this special worship service. All are invited and welcome.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES — Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will only have two evening services (no a.m.). At 4pm we will have a family-focused service, with traditional worship to follow at 6pm. Invite friends and family!

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.

CHURCH CENTER APP — The Church Center App can be downloaded in the Apple Store and on Google Play. The app is a great way to access the online directory, as well as online giving, filling out a connection card, and staying up-to-date. Download it today!

BUY SCRIP — The holiday season is a great time to visit the Scrip table in the Narthex to find all of your gift-giving needs, while supporting our church at the same time! Scrip is an easy way to help earn money for our church community by purchasing everyday items such as groceries, gas, clothing, gifts, entertainment, home improvements, pet care, and much more! We will have special order and delivery days in December! If you have any questions, please contact Brett Kim-Bixby at brett.irk@gmail.com.

MISSIONS & VOLUNTEERING

HEARTS OF HOPE — If you have gifts for the Hearts of Hope kids and families, they need to be turned in *TODAY!* The pickup date for families is December 16. You can still give monetarily by dropping a red envelope (in the Narthex) in the offering plates Sunday morning, or by going to our website. We are still looking for volunteers to help us on pickup day! Contact Sue Thompson to get involved (smthomp313@gmail.com).

CHRISTMAS DINNER 2023 — CCPC continues its tradition of providing a free meal on Christmas Day for our community. We will have an in-person meal as well as deliveries to folks all over the Wausau area. Deadline to reserve meals is December 20. If you would like to help in any way, including deliveries, please contact Sharon Maltbey (sharon.maltbey@gmail.com) or signup at The Hub.

*Assurance of Pardon:

Matthew 7:37

Shout with joy for Jesus has come to forgive all those who have faith in him. He has come for the broken and the broken-hearted. Let us rejoice in our salvation for "He has done everything well..." **Amen.**

***Congregational Response:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Refrain) #113

Live Nativity

Period of Fellowship

***Hymn:** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (vs. 1,2) #129

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

New Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 Page 663

Special Music: "Tell Me, Tell Me!" CCPC Choir

New Testament Reading: Mark 7:24-37 Page 42

Sermon: "Give Us ... Our Daily Bread: The Healer of the Nations" Jim Gates

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn:** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (vs. 1,2,4) #610

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer See Page 4

Ministry Celebration: CCPC Youth Group

Offering

Offertory Music: "Star of the East" Herb Westlund & Les Fraaza

*Doxology

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Benediction

***Choral Benediction:** "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (vs. 5) #610

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!

Worship Leaders: Deb Tice

Livestream: Craig Spangler

Acolytes: Eli Baumann & Thomas Kohnert

Slides: Luke Coenen

Greeters: Bonnie & Dave Neitzel

Usher Lead: Jerry Trebus

Elder Greeters: Deb Tice & Kari Kufahl

Gatekeeper: Joe Johnson

The Hub: Deb Wakefield

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Mary Zuidema
(Renaissance in
Wisconsin Rapids)

Dave Vachowiak
(Forest Park Village)

Howie Pries
(Marshfield Weston)

Tom Scott
(Home)

Joyce Michna
(Fond du Lac)

THIS WEEK AT CCPC

SERVICE... DISCIPLESHIP... ENGAGEMENT!

TODAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
9AM	ID FOR ALL AGES/ CONFIRMATION	7PM	DARTBALL AT GOOD SHEPHERD	12PM	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY	3PM	FOOD PANTRY
10AM	WORSHIP			6PM	CELEBRATE RECOVERY	6PM	BELL CHOIR PRACTICE
11:15AM	COSTA RICA TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING					6PM	KIDS LIFE
11:15AM	WOMEN'S STUDY					6PM	MS YOUTH GROUP
4PM	BAND REHEARSAL					6:30PM	HS YOUTH GROUP
6PM	WORSHIP					7PM	CHOIR PRACTICE
THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
12PM	CHRISTMAS LUNCH/POTLUCK					9AM	ID FOR ALL AGES/ CONFIRMATION
2PM	SHEEPSHEAD					10AM	WORSHIP
						11:15AM	WOMEN'S STUDY
						2PM	CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
						4PM	BAND REHEARSAL
						6PM	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.