



COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2020 - 10 A.M.

FORWARD
FROM ME TO WE:
ONE NEW HUMANITY

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

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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

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Bell Choir Director - Ruth Wrynski

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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: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" 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

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Fraaza Family

The third candle of Advent is the candle of joy. Jesus is the embodiment and source of joy.

For the angel said, "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."

God's joy brings us more than happiness; it is a deep well of glorious certainty in the grace of God.

"This day is holy to our LORD; do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

As we anticipate the return of Jesus, we recall his promise to us:

"I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." Come, Lord Jesus!

***Hymn:** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (vs. 1,3) Hymn Leaders: Deb Perrin & Caitlin Kyle

***Call to Confession:** Ephesians 3:10-11

We know that God's plan is that "through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places ... in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord." But even in this season of Advent, it is easy to forget our high calling, and settle for lesser goods. Let us therefore join together in our prayer of confession.

***Prayer of Confession:**

Father God, we pray that you will forgive us for our un-Christ-like actions and thoughts this week. You have called us to be the body of Christ in the world, but we have not embraced our role as his hands and his feet. Through us, you make known your glorious plan of salvation to the world, but we have not loved the world as Christ first loved us. By the power of the

Holy Spirit, may Christ dwell in our hearts through faith, so that we may be rooted and grounded in his love. Then may we know and share the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge – in all its breadth and length and height and depth.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

***Assurance of Pardon:** Ephesians 3:6

Hear the good news: We "Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel." Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Congregational Response: "Angels, We Have Heard on High" (Chorus)

Children's Message

Period of Fellowship

Proclaiming the Word

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 2:1-4 NRSV Bible

Special Music: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Pat Moucha & Les Fraaza

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 3 NRSV Bible

Sermon: Forward from Me to We: Jim Gates
A Love Too Big for Me

Responding to the Word

Hymn: "As With Gladness Men of Old" (vs. 1,4) Hymn Leaders: Deb Perrin & Caitlin Kyle

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory Music: "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" Marcy Fehrman & Les Fraaza

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

Doxology

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

Announcements

*Benediction

***Choral Benediction:** "While We Are Waiting, Come" (vs. 1,3)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE—Our plan is to offer one service at 6pm on Christmas Eve. However, to ensure we have sufficient space for everyone, and to determine if we will need to offer more than one worship service (based on our limit of 100 people in the sanctuary at a time), we have opened registrations for Christmas Eve early. This registration will remain open for the next couple of weeks, but if you know you plan to attend in person, letting us know early is helpful! Please go to the following address to sign up for in-person worship on Christmas Eve: <http://covenantcommunitypc.churchcenter.com/registrations>. Of course, we will live-stream our service at 6pm as well, and we invite you to worship with us that way as well!

NATIVITY SCENE FAMILY PHOTOS—In the spirit of our Advent season theme, *snapshots*, we are delighted to provide a Nativity scene backdrop for family photos, located outside of the main entrance by the water fountain. We invite your family to swing by at *ANY TIME* through Christmas Day to take a photo. Additionally, we will be scheduling a photographer from 12-1pm each Sunday through December 20. You can share your photo on social media using #ccpcadventsnapshots.

COVENANT NEIGHBORS—We're so excited that our new Covenant Neighbors ministry has gone live! Remember, this is an every-other month phone call ministry with CCPC members in your neighborhood. If you, or anyone you call, wishes to opt out of this ministry, that's fine - just let Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org) know and he'll remove them from our call lists!

2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE—Thank you to everyone who submitted a Commitment Card with your 2021 pledge! If you have not done so yet, you can mail those to the church or complete them online here: <https://covenantcommunitypc.org/people/forms/179281>. Our current totals as of December 9 are **116 pledges for \$380,851**.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESERVATIONS—Reservations for next Sunday, December 13 will open *TOMORROW* (Monday) December 7 at 9am. Please go to www.covenantcommunitypc.org/reservations for the 10am service. You can also call the church office at 715-359-6467.

ORDER SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS!—You can place your order for gift cards in two ways. See tomorrow's email for an order form that can be sent directly to Ken Zblewski at kznblewski@yahoo.com. You can also order by using touchless gift giving. This new app, brought you by RaiseRight, allows for gift card orders for others, or you can load them right to your phone for yourself! Download the RaiseRight app to get started: <https://www.raiseright.com/>. Our CCPC enrollment code is 5AA91AB743865. Get a gift for someone special while supporting our faith community!

MISSIONS

HEARTS OF HOPE 2020—Hearts of Hope adoptions are due back to church *TODAY!* **If you would like to volunteer your time to help with Hearts of Hope, we have two needs:**

1. Taking Gift Inventory *TOMORROW*, December 14 and Tuesday, December 15 from 9-11am. *To help, email Sarah Luedtke at sluedtke@sluedtke.com.*
2. Loading Gifts and Food into Cars on Saturday, December 19 from 8:30am-12pm. *To help, email Dan Frost at dan@covenantcommunitypc.org.*

CHRISTMAS DINNER DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED—Due to the Covid pandemic, this year's Christmas Day meal will be a limited number of deliveries. We are looking for folks interested in bringing the meals to their locations between 11am and 2pm. If you would like to participate, please contact Sharon Maltbey at sharon.maltbey@gmail.com or 715-573-7427.

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

WOMEN'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, December 15, at noon via Zoom. All women are welcome! Contact Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org) for the Zoom information.

PRAYER MEETINGS—Our weekly Prayer Meeting has resumed via Zoom every Wednesday night at 6pm, continuing *THIS* Wednesday, December 2. All are welcome! To join the Zoom meeting, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82054635060?pwd=MTkzOGJqMFRWamxrMy9CSHBwUmrUT09>
Meeting ID: 820 5463 5060 Passcode: 711155

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

ADVENT SNAPSHOT DEVOTIONAL—It's not too late to go to our website, www.covenantcommunitypc.org, and download our Advent Snapshot Devotional! Hard copies are also available at The Hub desk, along with Advent candles and family photo books!

KIDS CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION 2020—Join us online for this year's CCPC Kids presentation: "Christmas Snapshots." This wonderful production will be in short-film format and presented on our live stream page (www.covenantcommunitypc.org/live-stream) on Sunday, December 20 at 4:30pm. Tune in and watch our youngsters share a message of community, love, and joy in this season of Advent!

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). **NOTE: We will not be having Youth Group on December 30.**

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). **NOTE: There will be no ID or Confirmation on December 27 or January 3.**

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>. **NOTE: There will be no ID or Confirmation on December 27 or January 3.**