

## LIVE-STREAM

CCPC live streams worship services every Sunday morning. Please join us in spirit by going to [www.covenantcommunitypc.org/live-stream](http://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

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[WWW.COVENANTCOMMUNITYPC.ORG](http://WWW.COVENANTCOMMUNITYPC.ORG)



## GIVE US ... OUR DAILY BREAD: THE KING OF THE NATIONS

Isaiah 49:1-7 & Mark 8:1-21

December 17, 2023

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

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**Prelude:** "Christmas Joy" 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 Lancelle Family

The third candle of Advent is the candle of love. It is love that unites Father, Son and Spirit.

#### **Three Persons but One God.**

It is love that unites the church, comprised of every tribe and language and people and nation.

#### **For we are all one in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

It is love that sent the Son, Jesus the Messiah, into the world to redeem the world.

**It is love that sends us, the church, into the world to announce the reign of the King of the Nations.**

**\*Hymn:** "Love Has Come" (vs. 1,2,3) #110

**\*Call to Confession:** Mark 8:17-18

To his disciples, Jesus says, "Do you still not perceive or understand? Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember?" His questions remain critical for us today. In a world filled with the majesty and miracles of God, how do we still fail to see, hear, understand and remember? Let us join together in prayer and confess these failures to God and one another.

#### **\*Prayer of Confession:**

**Father, we see "ordinary" miracles each day, and in this Advent season, we celebrate Christ's inbreaking into our world in the most extraordinary way. Yet we often complain that you are too hard to know, too distant and too demanding. Like the Pharisees, we observe one miracle and immediately ask for a sign of another. We struggle with spiritual satisfaction.**

**Forgive us for our hard-heartedness. Give us open eyes, satisfied hearts and understanding minds. You are more than enough for us. May our only insatiable desire be to see the nations come to know their one true King, so that your salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.**

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

## BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

**NO 9AM PROGRAMMING** — We will not have any 9am programming NEXT Sunday, December 24 or Sunday, December 31. I.D. will resume on Sunday, January 6.

**RETIRED SINGLES SMALL GROUP AT KNOWLTON HOUSE**— Our retired singles small group will be meeting at The Knowlton House Distillery THIS Friday, December 22 at 1pm. The small group typically meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1pm here at the church. Contact Bonnie Rogers (rogersski1@gmail.com or 715-370-7618) with any questions about the upcoming gatherings.

**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

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2023** — Come and celebrate our kiddos with their performance of "A Stellar Christmas" TODAY at 2pm. For those who cannot be here in person, we will be livestreaming the show on our website and YouTube channel.

**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 be having a "White Elephant" gift exchange! Everyone should come with a cheap, fun, wrapped gift (please spend no more than \$5). **Note: We will not have Youth Group on December 27 or January 3. We will resume meeting on January 10.**

**KIDS L.I.F.E.** — This Wednesday, December 20, Kids L.I.F.E. will be going Christmas caroling! Meet at the church at 6pm and join us as we bless others with beautiful songs of hope and celebration. We will be singing indoors. **Note: We will not have Kids L.I.F.E. on December 27 or January 3. We will resume meeting on January 10.**

**WORSHIP & WIGGLES BEGINS JANUARY 7** — Worship & Wiggles will be 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 will gather in the Cry Room after the Children's Message dismissal, and will have Bible Story time before they "play with a purpose" and participate in the worship service from the Cry Room/Nursery. Worship & Wiggles will kickoff on Sunday, January 7.

## CCPC BUDGET/ATTENDANCE

THROUGH NOVEMBER 2023:	DECEMBER 10 ATTENDANCE:
Budgeted Operating Revenues: <b>\$508,664</b>	AM In-Person Total: <b>263</b>
Actual Operating Revenues: <b>\$533,846</b>	AM Livestream Total: <b>116</b>
Budgeted Operating Expenses: <b>\$493,126</b>	PM In-Person Total: <b>27</b>
Actual Operating Expenses: <b>\$487,566</b>	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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!

**KAHOOT! FOR CHRISTMAS EVE** — We will be playing a quiz game called Kahoot! for our 4pm family service on Christmas Eve. We invite you to download this to your device using the Apple Store or Google Play *BEFORE* service begins. Setup an account and team name for your family so that you can have some fun with us that evening!

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP 2024** — We have had an amazing response to our call to stewardship in 2024 and have certainly Reflected Our Generous God! As of December 11, we have 147 pledges for \$501,802. This includes 18 new pledging families! Thank you to everyone for your generosity in supporting our faith family. If you have not submitted a pledge but would like to do so, visit our website or grab a pledge card in the Narthex.

## MISSIONS & VOLUNTEERING

**HEARTS OF HOPE** — We want to thank everyone involved in making this year's Hearts of Hope ministry a huge success. We had so many folks give of their time and treasure to bless these local families. Thank you and God Bless!

**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 *THIS* Wednesday, December 20. If you would like to help in any way, including deliveries, please contact Sharon Maltbey ([sharon.maltbey@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.maltbey@gmail.com)) or signup at The Hub.

**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!

### \*Assurance of Pardon:

Isaiah 49:6  
Isaiah writes, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." Let give glory to God, for his salvation has reached us today! Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

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

**The Sacrament of Baptism:** Today we celebrate the baptism of Wesley Ronald Knetter, son of Zach and Abigail Knetter.

**Kids Pop-Up Praise:** From "Stellar Christmas: Shine Jesus' Light"

### Period of Fellowship

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**New Testament Reading:** Isaiah 49:1-7 Page 679

**Special Music:** "A Christmas Invitation" Glory Singers

**New Testament Reading:** Mark 8:1-21 Page 43

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

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**\*Hymn:** "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (vs. 1,3,5) #108

**Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer** See Page 4

**Ministry Celebration:** Stewardship 2024

### Offering

**Offertory Music:** "Venite Adoremus" Marcy Fehrman & Les Fraaza

### \*Doxology

### Welcome of New Members:

**Mitch & Brittney Klieforth:** Mitch and Brittney have 3 kids, Brody, Reese, and Jordy, who have been involved in Kids L.I.F.E. and Youth Group at CCPC. They love to camp and fish up north as a family.

**\*Affirmation of Faith:** "Apostle's Creed" See Page 4

**\*Welcome Song:** "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" (vs. 1) #306

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

### \*Benediction

**\*Choral Benediction:** "May the God of Hope Go With Us" #765

## 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

**Acolytes:** Abby Wensel & Sienna Doffing

**Greeters:** Bonnie Achterberg  
& Cheryl Falkowski

**Elder Greeters:** Joy Briggs & Scott Bouffleur

**The Hub:** Dianne Abel

**Livestream:** Derek Nelson

**Slides:** Josh Werner

**Usher Lead:** Craig Briggs

## 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)

**Joyce Michna**  
(Fond du Lac)

**Dave Vachowiak**  
(Forest Park Village)

**Tom Scott**  
(Home)

**Howie Pries**  
(Pride TLC)

**Wynn Jones**

## THIS WEEK AT CCPC

SERVICE... DISCIPLESHIP... ENGAGEMENT!

<b>TODAY</b>		<b>MONDAY</b>		<b>TUESDAY</b>		<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
9AM	ID FOR ALL AGES/ CONFIRMATION	7PM	DARTBALL AT HOME	6PM	CELEBRATE RECOVERY	6PM	BELL CHOIR PRACTICE
10AM	WORSHIP					6PM	KIDS LIFE
11:15AM	WOMEN'S STUDY					6PM	MS YOUTH GROUP
2PM	CHRISTMAS PROGRAM					6:30PM	HS YOUTH GROUP
4PM	BAND REHEARSAL					7PM	CHOIR PRACTICE
6PM	WORSHIP						
<b>THURSDAY</b>		<b>FRIDAY</b>		<b>SATURDAY</b>		<b>SUNDAY</b>	
2PM	SHEEPSHEAD	1PM	RETIRED SINGLES GROUP AT KNOWLTON HOUSE			4PM	CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE
6PM	LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE					6PM	CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITIONAL SERVICE

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