



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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 2020 - 10 A.M.

FORWARD
FROM ME TO WE:
WE ARE ONE BODY

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

jess@covenantcommunitypc.org

Communications & Evangelism Coordinator - Drew Bouché

drew@covenantcommunitypc.org

Office Manager/Bookkeeper - John Jacobs

john@covenantcommunitypc.org

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
www.covenantcommunitypc.org



Gathering Around the Word

Prelude: "Mary Had a Baby" 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 Thompson Family

The fourth candle of Advent is the candle of love. Love is the lifeblood of the body of Christ.

Together with all the saints, may we know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.

Because God is Three Persons united in perfect love, love is the eternal reality of God.

"God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."

At Christmas, the fullness of that love came into our world in the birth of Jesus.

"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him." Come, Lord Jesus!

***Hymn:** "Love Has Come" (vs. 1,3) Leaders: Sue Thompson & Tina Spiegel

***Call to Confession:** Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

"Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live ... that is not the way you learned Christ! For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupted and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." Today, we again decide to put off our old selves, and put on Christ. Let us pray.

*Prayer of Confession:

Very often, O Lord, it feels as though we are two people. One is filled with the Holy Spirit and equipped to live right with you and right with those around us. The other is inwardly focused and dragged down by the world. Our inward-focused identity constantly wants to place itself first; our Holy Spirit-identity wants to place Jesus first. Daily, we are forced to choose who and whose we want to be.

Today, Jesus, we choose the new life with you of righteousness and holiness. And we pray that every day, by the power of the Holy Spirit living within us, we would make that same choice, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, and to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

***Assurance of Pardon:** Ephesians 4:4-6

Remember the words of your baptism. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, on faith, on baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." Believe the gospel: in the one Lord, Jesus Christ, we are forgiven by God and reconciled to one another. 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 11:1-10 NRSV Bible

Special Music: "Christmas Lullaby" Sue Thompson & Tina Spiegel
(I Will Lead You Home)

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 4 NRSV Bible

Sermon: Forward from Me to We: Jim Gates
We Are One Body

Responding to the Word

Hymn: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (vs. 1,2,4) Leaders: Sue Thompson & Tina Spiegel

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory Music: "The Hallelujah Chorus" JeHae Kim-Bixby & 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:** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (vs. 1,5)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TWO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES!—We have had enough reservations for Christmas Eve In-Person that we are opening a second service at 4pm. So, you can attend at either 4pm or 6pm. As always, please let us know if you are coming so we can be sure to have sufficient space for everyone. Go to the following address to register for *EITHER* service:

<http://covenantcommunitypc.churchcenter.com/registrations>. Of course, we will live-stream both services, and we invite you to worship with us that way as well!

IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR RECOGNITIONS—Normally Advent is a season when we invite you to make a small donation to our Mission fund in honor or in memory of a loved one. Then we list all those celebrated people in our bulletin on Christmas Eve. While this year is very different, we still want to recognize your loved ones in worship. So, we will list all names in the slides during the Christmas Eve service. If you would like to have someone included, please email Drew Bouche at drew@covenantcommunitypc.org and let him know 1. WHO you want to celebrate, and 2. if this is "In Memory of" or "In Honor Of." No gifts are required for this recognition. Please have your submission to Drew by the end of the day Wednesday, December 23.

DOWNLOAD THE KAHOOT! APP—As we did last year, we will utilize the Kahoot! app to play a Christmas game together during the service. You can participate whether you are at home or in person! Simply download the Kahoot! app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store - it's free - and have it ready on Christmas Eve. We ask that you play as a household, so one team per family please.

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 have a photographer available from 12-1pm *THIS* Sunday, December 20. You can share your photo on social media using [#ccpcadventsnapshts](https://twitter.com/ccpcadventsnapshts).

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 **122 pledges for \$408,351**.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESERVATIONS—Reservations for next Sunday, December 27 will open *TOMORROW* (Monday) December 21 at 9am. Please go to www.covenantcommunitypc.org/reservations for the 10am service. You can also call the church office at 715-359-6467.

MISSIONS

HEARTS OF HOPE 2020—An enormous THANK YOU to all who participated in this year's Hearts of Hope ministry! Whether sponsoring a child or family, or donating time or treasure, your giving heart has contributed to blessing families with the love of Christ. This year we served 70 families and 250 children!

CHRISTMAS DINNER DELIVERY DRIVERS—If you are still interested in bringing the Christmas meals to their locations between 11am and 2pm on Christmas Day, please contact Sharon Maltbey at sharon.maltbey@gmail.com or 715-573-7427.

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, December 22, 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 23. All are welcome! To join the Zoom meeting, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82054635060?pwd=MTkzOGJqMFRWamxrMy9CSHBwUUMrUT09> Meeting ID: 820 5463 5060 Passcode: 711155

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

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) *TODAY* at 4:30pm. Tune in and watch our youngsters share a message of community, love, and joy in this season of Advent!

NATURE WALK & SCAVENGER HUNT—Open daily until 7:30pm through December 23, you are welcome to enjoy a walk through the woods while answering some Bible questions and seeking out specific items! This wonderful trail is located across the street from Bob and Melanie Hocker's home at 148700 Burma Road, Mosinee. Maps and instructions are available digitally at <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/nature-walk>. No reservations are necessary. Call Bob and Melanie at 715-581-1278 if you have any questions.

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 NEXT Sunday, 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 NEXT Sunday, December 27 or January 3.**