

## 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

**Pastor** - Jim Gates

(757) 615-1799 or [jim@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:jim@covenantcommunitypc.org)

**Parish Visitor** - Jess Wakefield

(715) 573-4648 or [jess@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:jess@covenantcommunitypc.org)

**Director of Children & Family Ministries** - Amanda Fuls

(715) 573-6296 or [amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org)

**Communications Coordinator** - Drew Bouché

[drew@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:drew@covenantcommunitypc.org)

**Assistant to the Senior Pastor** - Raissa Dupuis

[raissa@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:raissa@covenantcommunitypc.org)

**Office Manager** - Cyndi Schneider

[cyndi@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:cyndi@covenantcommunitypc.org)

**Church Accountant** - Renee Radtke

[renee@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:renee@covenantcommunitypc.org)

**Traditional Music Director** - Deb Perrin

[deb@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:deb@covenantcommunitypc.org)

**Contemporary Music Director** - Orlando diValentin

[orlando@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:orlando@covenantcommunitypc.org)

**Accompanist & Bell Choir Director** - JeHae Kim-Bixby

[jehae@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:jehae@covenantcommunitypc.org)

**Organist** - Les Fraaza

[les@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:les@covenantcommunitypc.org)

**Church Office**

(715) 359-6467 or [ccpc@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:ccpc@covenantcommunitypc.org)

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



## LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE

December 31, 2023

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

# GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**Prelude:** "Emmanuel, Born On This Day" Les Fraaza

## Quiet Reflection and Preparation for Worship

"A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols" was first presented in 1918 at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. It represented "a more imaginative approach to worship on Christmas Eve". Let yourselves be taken back to a simpler time as we spend this worship hour immersed in the Scripture and Music of Christmas.

## Welcome & Announcements

**Lighting of the Candles:** "O, Come All Ye Faithful" Zach Fuls

## Lighting of the Advent Candles:

The Word was made flesh,

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

And dwelt among us,

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, Light eternal:

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness, born of the Virgin Mary:

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Lord:

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of the saints:

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

**\*Hymn:** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (vs. 1,2,3) #132

## Call to Confession:

As we conclude our year, let us confess our sins and celebrate the new beginning that comes in Christ our Lord.

## \*Prayer of Confession:

**We struggle, O Lord, to live into our new identities in Christ. You say we are made new, but it is our old patterns of sin and selfishness that seem so evident to us. The years change, but we don't.**

**Remind us, Jesus, that our newness is not due to our efforts, but yours. You came to renew our world as a newborn babe. It is your life, your death, and your resurrection that enable us to be born again – born from above. Help us to live in a new story that begins not with our history but with yours, starting in a manger.**

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

**\*Assurance of Pardon:** 2 Corinthians 5:17

Paul writes, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" Believe the good news; more than the changing of the calendar is the transforming of our character through the work of Jesus our Savior. In his name, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

**ADULT L.I.F.E.** — Adult L.I.F.E. will begin a new format starting January 10 with a Sermon Discussion Group. All adults are invited to join us from 6-7pm in the Cry Room to dig deeper into the latest sermon.

**MEN'S & WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** — The men's and women's Bible study is currently studying the book of Isaiah. Our women meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month and the men meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (both at 12pm). We return to regular scheduling *THIS* Tuesday, January 2 with the women. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Gates at jim@covenantcommunitypc.org.

**I.D. FOR ALL AGES** — Our I.D. classes for all ages meets every Sunday from 9am-9:50am. All are welcome! We will start up again *NEXT* Sunday, January 7.

## 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. **Note that we will not meet on January 3, but will resume January 10.**

**THE GREAT ESCAPE 2024** — We are excited to be returning to The Great Escape in Green Lake, WI July 8-13! All rising 6th-9th graders are invited to go, as a group, for an amazing week of fellowship, worship, team-building, and fun! Cost for each student is \$400, with a \$100 deposit due February 18. Register on our website. Scholarships are available!

**KIDS L.I.F.E.** — At Kids L.I.F.E., we gather on Wednesdays at 6pm to strengthen our friendship with Jesus and each other. Living in Faith Every Day is a bright spot in our week and there is a group for every age! **Note that we will not meet on January 3, but will resume 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 *NEXT* Sunday, January 7.

**FAMILY GAME NIGHT** — Bring the family for an evening of board and card games for all ages on Saturday, January 13 from 3-5pm. Have a special game that you'd love to teach others to play? Bring them along and share the fun! There is no signup for this wonderful evening of fun ... just come and be part of the "loving competition!"

## 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 24 ATTENDANCE:

4PM In-Person Total: **273**

4PM Livestream Total: **40**

6PM In-Person Total: **171**

6PM Livestream Total: **56**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CCPC 101** — Would you like to know more about CCPC, our beliefs, and our ministries? Thinking about making this your church home? Join us in the Bouldin Hall conference room immediately following worship on Sunday, January 14. Please RSVP to Raissa Dupuis ([raissa@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:raissa@covenantcommunitypc.org)). Food and childcare will be provided.

**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 18, we have 151 pledges for \$508,022. This includes 19 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 ask for a pledge card at The Hub.

## MISSIONS & VOLUNTEERING

**CHRISTMAS MEAL THANK YOU!** — To all those who helped with the preparations, serving, and delivery of our Christmas Day meals ... *THANK YOU!* It is because of you that we were able to bless so many!

**CCPC AUCTION 2024** — Our 27th Annual Mission Auction will take place Saturday, March 2, 2024! As always, we will have an amazing array of silent auctions, with a dinner and live auction. This year, we will travel back in time to visit our "Divine Diner", featuring classic comfort foods with an elevated twist. We'll be selling shoes beginning at 4pm, with a pre-sale, just for shoes, on Friday March 1st from 5-7pm. Check today's Connection Card to help with early preparations. Contact Raissa Dupuis ([raissa@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:raissa@covenantcommunitypc.org)) with any questions.

**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!

## BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

**BIBLE APP STUDY** — Join Jim Gates in reading the entire Bible this year in Chronological order using the Bible App by YouVersion. See where each prophet fits into the story of Israel; see where each of Paul's letters fit into the story of the early church! This will begin **TOMORROW**, January 1. Download the Bible App from the Apple Store or Google Play for free, and find the link to the study in the January 1 Covenant Connection email.

## \*Gloria Patri

**Children's Message:** NO KID'S WORSHIP. Grab a Sermon Notes or a blue or red Worship Bag from the Narthex for your children. Cry Room is available.

## \*Period of Fellowship

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Please remain seated throughout the Lessons and Carols.

<b>First Reading</b>	Genesis 3:8-15	Pg. 3
<b>Carol</b>	"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (vs. 1,2)	#82
<b>Second Reading</b>	Genesis 22:15-18	Pg. 18
<b>Carol</b>	"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1,7)	#88
<b>Third Reading</b>	Isaiah 9:1-7	Pg. 638
<b>Carol</b>	"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (vs. 1,2)	#129
<b>Fourth Reading</b>	Micah 5:2-4	Pg. 865
<b>Carol</b>	"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1,4)	#121
<b>Fifth Reading</b>	Luke 1:26-38	Pg. 56
<b>Carol</b>	"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" (vs. 1,3)	#146
<b>Sixth Reading</b>	Matthew 1:18-25	Pg. 1
<b>Special Music</b>	"O Holy Night"	Men of Praise
<b>Seventh Reading</b>	Luke 2:8-16	Pg. 58
<b>Carol</b>	"The First Nowell" (vs. 1,6)	#147
<b>Eighth Reading</b>	Matthew 2:1-11	Pg. 2
<b>Carol</b>	"We Three Kings of Orient Are" (vs. 1,5)	#151
<b>Ninth Reading</b>	John 1:1-14	Pg. 91
<b>Carol</b>	"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs. 1,4)	#133

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

<b>*Affirmation of Faith:</b>	Apostles Creed	See Page 4
<b>Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer</b>		See Page 4
<b>Offering</b>		
<b>Offertory Music:</b>	"O Little Town of Bethlehem" JeHae Kim-Bixby & Les Fraaza	
<b>*Doxology:</b>		

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

<b>*Benediction</b>		
<b>*Choral Benediction</b>	"Joy to the World"(vs. 1)	#134

## 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

**Elder Greeters:** Bob Gebauer

**Slides:** Luke Coenen

& Shelby Waraksa

**Usher Lead:** Jerry Trebus

**The Hub:** Braydon Briggs

**Gatekeeper:** Kyle Baumann

## 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**  
(Pride TLC)

**Tom Scott**  
(Home)

**Wynn Jones**

**Joyce Michna**  
(Fond du Lac)

## THIS WEEK AT CCPC

SERVICE... DISCIPLESHIP... ENGAGEMENT!

<u>TODAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>
10AM LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE		12PM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 6PM CELEBRATE RECOVERY	7PM CHOIR PRACTICE
<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>	<u>SUNDAY</u>
2PM SHEEPSHEAD			9AM I.D. & CONFIRMATION 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM WOMEN'S STUDY 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](http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org), or call the church office at 715-359-6467.