

LIVE STREAMING

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

(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

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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

deb@covenantcommunitypc.org

Accompanist & Bell Choir Director - JeHae Kim-Bixby

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Housekeeper - Carol Anklam

Church Office

(715) 359-6467 or ccpc@covenantcommunitypc.org

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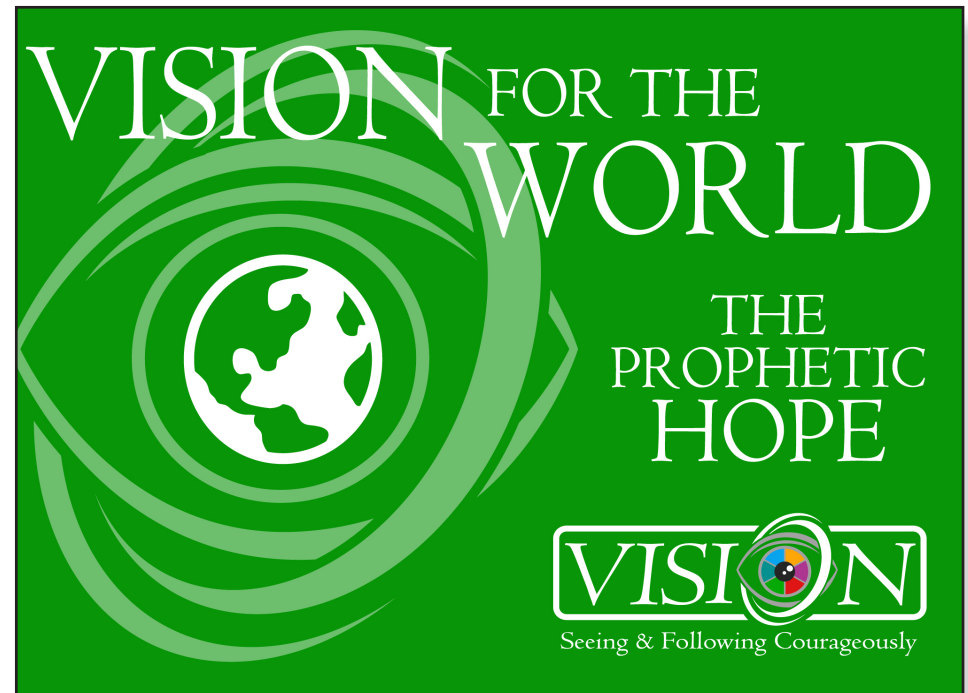


COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...

Changing lives forever!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 2021 - 10 A.M.

THE PROPHETIC HOPE:
CONFRONTATION

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude:

JeHae Kim-Bixby

Quiet Reflection and Preparation for Worship:

Scripture challenges us to walk by faith, not by sight; to see the world through the eyes of Christ. What present, and future, does Jesus see when looking at our world? At your life? Where does God's vision compliment or conflict with the dreams you have for yourself, or the expectations others have for you? Prayerfully reflect this morning on how you might come to see God's vision with greater clarity.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

The Briggs Family

*As our ancestors longed for Messiah to come,
So we long for the return of our King.*

*The second candle is the candle of peace. It reminds us of the light and life of Christ.
For he himself is our peace; in his flesh he has made us into one, and broken down the hostility between peoples.*

So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

For through him we all have access in one Spirit to the Father.

***Hymn:** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (vs. 1,2,3) #93

***Call to Confession:**

As we lift up our hearts to you, O Lord, we are first struck by your majesty and wonder – like the people of Nazareth amazed at the words of Jesus. But like those same people, we want words of comfort and not of confrontation. Yet you call us into confession, conflict and change. Give us softer hearts than the people of Jesus' hometown, as together we pray.

***Prayer of Confession:**

We are happy to be peacemakers when the work is easy. But living out your vision is rarely that. When difficulties emerge, we often concede to or collaborate with sinful desires and selfish pursuits. We are convinced that we know best, and we listen to you only inasmuch as you confirm what we already believe.

Grant us the courage today to hear and respond to your word, even at risk to our own comfort. Forgive our sins, and place our feet again on the path that leads to peace ... even when it leads through the cross.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

HEARTS OF HOPE COOKIES—Tis the season to be baking! We invite all to give of their time and talents to create amazing cookies for our Hearts of Hope families. Cookies should be turned into the church by *NEXT* Sunday, December 12. For information, contact Sharon Maltbey (715-573-7427 or sharon.maltbey@gmail.com).

COME & SEE PRAYER MINISTRY—"Come and See" is a prayer ministry that connects members of our church with Hearts of Hope families through the power of prayer. We are looking for folks who would like to take up the call! Your commitment would be an initial contact and prayer for that family for one year. Support and instructions will be made available to you. If you would like to take part, contact Jim Gates or Sue Thompson (715-571-2797 or sue@mtsllc.net).

BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY—The women continue a study of the Minor Prophets *THIS* Tuesday, December 7 at noon. All are welcome to join us for food, fellowship, and discipleship.

FAITH & FITNESS GROUP—CCPC has a new Faith & Fitness group meeting every Thursday at 4:30pm in the Activity Room downstairs. It combines physical fitness, fellowship, and discipleship into an impactful time for all. There will be low-key aerobics followed by a devotional. Join us as we move into a new year of spiritual and physical growth! Contact Deb Tice with any questions (debtice77@yahoo.com or 715-574-7663).

NEW SMALL GROUP FOR SINGLES—If you are single and in the "middle" - older than our young adults and younger than retirement age - we have a new small group starting that's just for you! This group is just forming but will meet either on Sunday mornings during ID or Wednesday Nights during LIFE. If you are interested in learning more, contact Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org)!

CELEBRATE RECOVERY—Celebrate Recovery is a Bible-centered recovery ministry that meets at the church (Bouldin Hall) *EVERY* Tuesday at 7pm. Meetings are open to anyone! Contact Drew Bouché (drew@covenantcommunitypc.org) with any questions.

YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

CRAZY FOR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION—Our Crazy for Christmas Competition is taking place *THIS* Saturday, December 4 and Sunday, December 5! This event is for our 6th-12th grade youth... as well as adults to be partnered with our kids for competition including cookie baking, sled building, decorating, and more! If you are interested in participating, contact Dan Frost (dan@covenantcommunitypc.org) with any questions.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2021—This year's Christmas program is entitled, "What a Glorious Night," which is a classic retelling of the very first Christmas! For those participating in the presentation, practice continues Wednesday nights at 6pm. Dress rehearsal will be Saturday, December 18 from 9-11am, with the show taking place Sunday December 19 at 4pm (it will be livestreamed!). Contact Amanda Fuls (amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org) with any questions.

SALT & LIGHT YOUTH GROUP—Students who are in 6th through 8th grades gather on Wednesdays at 6pm for Salt & Light Youth Group, with 9th through 12th graders meeting on Sunday nights at 6pm, including *TONIGHT*. Contact Dan Frost (dan@covenantcommunitypc.org) with any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL 2021 — It is not too late to take part in our 2021 Advent 25-Day Devotional! You can participate via the Bible app from YouVersion (see Monday's email); by going to our website and downloading a digital version of the hardcopy devotional; or pickup a hardcopy at The Hub. Take part in this journey towards the coming of our Savior!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2022 — Our Stewardship Campaign 2022, "Stronger," continues! Turn in a pledge card or make your commitment online by going to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/give>. As of this past Wednesday, December 1, **we've had 106 pledges totaling \$377,706** of our \$424,000 goal! Contact Jim Gates (jim@covenantcommunitypc.org) with questions.

GIVING ENVELOPES — The 2022 boxes of giving envelopes are available in the Narthex across from the name tags. This year we will not be having personalized numbers, so please feel free to grab any of the boxes available!

KID'S & ADULT L.I.F.E. EVERY WEDNESDAY — Our Kid's and adult L.I.F.E. classes continue *EVERY WEDNESDAY* at 6pm (Kid's L.I.F.E. runs until 7:30pm). Plan for weekly discipleship for the whole family on Wednesday nights, continuing *THIS WEEK*, December 8 with dinner (baked potato bar, veggies, fruit, and desserts) at 5:30pm. You can pay (\$7/adults \$5/kids; 8-meal packages available) when you arrive, or on our website.

OUTDOOR NATIVITY SCENE — We have a full-sized, outdoor Nativity scene setup outside the Narthex doors. We invite all to use it for family photos throughout the month of December (note: you will need to take your own picture). Swing by any time, day or night (it will be lit up), and capture a memory during the Advent season!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON — The Lunch Bunch and Old Guys Rule are reviving our Christmas Luncheon & Sing-a-long to be held *THIS* Thursday, December 9 from 11:30am to 1:30pm in Bouldin Hall. *ALL* are invited to join us for a potluck meal and Christmas Carol sing-a-long led by Colleen Geurink. The sign-up to RSVP (please include the number of guests you'll be bringing with you), and for food to bring, is located at the Hub. For more information, contact Bob Warner at 973-222-7112 or bobw4860@gmail.com.

MISSIONS

CHRISTMAS DAY MEAL 2021 — This year's Christmas Day meal is a great opportunity for our church community to spread the love of Jesus on the day we celebrate his coming! We will be delivering (no in-house meals) between 11am-1pm. If you know someone who would be interested in a meal/meals, they can contact the church office at 715-359-6467, or ccpc@covenantcommunitypc.org, by December 20. If you are interested in preparing or delivering the food, please contact Sharon Maltbey at 715-573-7427 or sharon.maltbey@gmail.com.

HEARTS OF HOPE — Our Hearts of Hope ministry is on the home stretch to adopt a single heart, an entire family, donate food items, or give a monetary donation. You can do this at the Hub or online at:

<https://covenantcommunitypc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1061118>

The deadline to have all of your gifts and donations turned in is **NEXT Sunday, December 12**. If you would like to volunteer for the pickup day (December 18), contact Sarah Luedtke at 715-574-1345 or sluedtke@sluedtke.com.

*Assurance of Pardon:

Luke 4:18-19

Hear the good news from Jesus Himself: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." We are released, given sight, and made free, through the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

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

Children's Message:

[Children may come forward and be seated on the stage.]

Period of Fellowship

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:1-11 Page 691

Special Music: "Where Will We See Him" CCPC Choir

New Testament Reading: Luke 4:14-30 Page 61

Sermon: The Prophetic Hope: Confrontation Jim Gates

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn: "Prepare the Way, O Zion" (vs. 1,2,3) #462

The Sacrament of Communion

Offering

Offertory Music: JeHae Kim-Bixby

*Doxology

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction: "Farewell, Good Friends!" #540

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 located across from the sanctuary

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 or Drew Bouché, 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/PERFORMERS

Thank you to all who make this morning's worship meaningful!

- Worship Leader:** Jack Fraaza
- Acolytes:** Emily & Oliver Fandrey
- Elder Greeter:** Jay St. Clair & Julie Trebus
- Greeters:** Sue Taylor & Jerry Trebus
- Live Stream:** Drew Bouché
- Slides:** Jared Fuls
- Fellowship Hour:** Beth Kulaf

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Tom Scott
(Home)

Dee Jenkins
(Home)

Don Hawkins
(Home)

Cheryl Lenz
(Colonial Center in Colby)

THIS WEEK AT CCPC

SERVICE... DISCIPLESHIP... ENGAGEMENT!

<u>TODAY</u>		<u>MONDAY</u>		<u>TUESDAY</u>		<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	
9AM	I.D.	7PM	DARTBALL	NOON	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	3PM	FOOD PANTRY
10AM	WORSHIP			7PM	CELEBRATE RECOVERY	5:30PM	DINNER
11:15AM	FELLOWSHIP					6PM	KID'S/ADULT L.I.F.E.
	YOUTH GROUP					6PM	MS YOUTH GROUP
	CRAZY FOR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION					6PM	XMAS PROG. PRACT.
6PM	HS YOUTH GROUP					6PM	BELL CHOIR PRACT.
						7PM	CHOIR PRACTICE
<u>THURSDAY</u>		<u>FRIDAY</u>		<u>SATURDAY</u>		<u>SUNDAY</u>	
11:30AM	CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON			10AM	YOUTH GROUP	9AM	I.D.
2PM	SHEEPSHEAD				CRAZY FOR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION	10AM	WORSHIP
						11:15AM	FELLOWSHIP
						6PM	H.S. YOUTH GROUP

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.