



# COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

# FORWARD

— GOD'S CALL TO MOVE —→



— CCPC SERMON SERIES 2020 - 2021 —→

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 - 10 A.M.

FORWARD  
FROM PAST TO FUTURE:  
NO TURNING BACK

## LIVE STREAMING

CCPC live streams our 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

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

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**Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries** - Dan Frost

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**Director of Music Ministries** - Les Fraaza

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**Housekeeper** - Carol Anklam

### Church Office

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

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[www.covenantcommunitypc.org](http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org)



## Gathering Around the Word

**Prelude:** "No Other Name" 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

**Call to Worship:** *Philippians 3:13-14*

*Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own;*

**But this one thing I do:**

*Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,  
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.*

**\*Hymn:** "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" (vs. 1,2,4) #610

**\*Call to Confession:** *Philippians 3:7-8*

*Our world calls us to highly value many competing goods. Some of us possess many of these worldly "gains," and some possess only a few. But to all, Scripture calls for a single-minded evaluation of our lives. "Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Let us join in our prayer of confession together.*

**\*Prayer of Confession:**

*Holy Father, you know that we have elevated other, lesser things above you in our lives this week. We have made conscious and unconscious choices to make you second, or third, or fourth in our decisions and choices. With extreme devotion we have pursued recognition, or entertainment, or romance, or family, or work. Yet we know that whatever success we might have in these areas of our lives, it means nothing without you.*

*Compared to knowing and being known by Jesus, everything else in our lives is of lesser value. Forgive us for living differently. Remind us again*

*today to hold Christ, and Christ alone, as our pearl of great price. Then may all our lesser goods find their true worth as the expressions of our love for you.*

*(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)*

**\*Assurance of Pardon:** *Philippians 3:9*

*Believe the good news! We may "gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of our own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ." Thanks be to God! Amen.*

### Children's Message

### Period of Fellowship

## Proclaiming the Word

**Old Testament Reading:** *Ruth 1* *NRSV Bible*

**Special Music:** *"I've Got Peace Like a River" Maiah & Eli Briggs*

**New Testament Reading:** *Philippians 3:1-14* *NRSV Bible*

**Sermon:** *Forward from Past to Future: No Turning Back* *Jim Gates*

## Responding to the Word

**\*Hymn:** *"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"*

### Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

### Offering

**Offertory Music:** *"It is Well With My Soul"* *Marcy Fehrman & Les Fraaza*

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

## Bearing and Following the Word into the World

### Announcements

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction:** *"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (vs. 5)* #610

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION:**—As we kickoff our fall programming, much of which will be virtual, we invite you to visit a private webpage with all of our Zoom login information. Please visit [www.covenantcommunitypc.org/online-login](http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/online-login) and get connected this fall!

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT L.I.F.E. VIA ZOOM**—Partisan politics aren't new to this election (or to this century of elections). Nevertheless, today the feeling of division along party lines in our nations feels almost like a tangible thing. How do we as a church work as a unifying force in a season of division? Of course, we look to Jesus. Our politics have nothing on 1st century Jewish culture. Into that world, Jesus brings a brilliant, original, and God-fearing method of dealing with the political divide. Join us in person or via Zoom *THIS* Wednesday, September 16 (through October 21) from 6-7pm to discuss a "Christ & Caesar: House Divided," and together we can learn from Jesus what a unique Christian witness might be in our world today. Contact Jim Gates ([jim@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:jim@covenantcommunitypc.org)) with questions.

**SECRET A.G.E.N.T.S. 2020-2021**—Calling all Secret and Jr. Agents! It is time for another mission! Students will be partnered with an adult who will pray for them regularly and anonymously exchange letters through March, at which time we will celebrate with a Reveal Party! Registration *IS OPEN* (For adults: [www.covenantcommunitypc.org/secret-agents](http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/secret-agents); for students, 4th -12th graders: [www.covenantcommunitypc.org/jr-agents](http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/jr-agents)). Join this amazing ministry of prayer, mentorship, and generational connection!

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP RESERVATIONS**—Reservations for next Sunday, September 20 will open *TOMORROW* (Monday) September 14 at 9am. Please go to [www.covenantcommunitypc.org/reservations](http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/reservations) to secure your family's spot for the 10am service. You can also call the church office at 715-359-6467.

**SEATS & FEETS/89Q PARTNERSHIP**—We are so grateful to 89.5 FM in Wausau for partnering with us and our Seats & Feets ministry! *NOW* through September 27, we invite you to donate brand new, packaged socks and underwear for kids of all ages. These contributions will be distributed through our Hearts of Hope ministry, local school clothing closets, and our Care Closet/Food Pantry. Donations can be dropped off at 89Q (3500 Stewart Ave., Wausau), or at our church. Join us in meeting the most basic of needs for our community!

**CCPC COOKBOOK PROJECT**—We are still accepting recipes! We are especially in need of recipes from our phenomenal male chefs of CCPC. Also, we are calling all participants in past CCPC Gourmet Dinners, as we will be devoting a chapter to these amazing meals. We need your assistance to find all of these past recipes! Our goal is to have the proofed version to the printers by early October, so please consider sharing soon! Please visit our website for submission instructions ([www.covenantcommunitypc.org/cookbook](http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/cookbook)). If you are interested in helping, please contact Colleen Geurink ([cgeurink@charter.net](mailto:cgeurink@charter.net) or 715-359-6038).

## BIBLE STUDIES & SMALL GROUPS

**MEN'S & WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM**—This Fall we will dive into the Old Testament and focus on the first six "minor" prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, and Nahum. They are so named because their books are shorter than those of Isaiah or Jeremiah, but there is nothing minor about their messages! Join us for the start of this new series *THIS* Tuesday, September 15 (women) or September 22 (men), at noon, as we begin by studying the book of Hosea! Contact Jim Gates ([jim@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:jim@covenantcommunitypc.org)) with questions.

**A CONVERSATION ON RACE STUDY GROUP**—Our Conversation on Race group will meet via Zoom on Thursday, September 24 at 6pm to discuss the documentary film, "13th: From Slave to Criminal with One Amendment." All are welcome to join the group and are invited to watch the film before the discussion takes place. If you have any questions, contact Krista Gates at [gatkri@gmail.com](mailto:gatkri@gmail.com) or Amanda Fuls at [amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:amanda@covenantcommunitypc.org).

## YOUTH, CHILDREN & FAMILY

**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 from previous weeks, please go to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/youth-group>. If you have any questions, contact Dan Frost ([dan@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:dan@covenantcommunitypc.org)).

**YOUTH I.D. VIA ZOOM**—Youth Institute of Discipleship is off and running! We have *THREE* classes (6th & 7th; Confirmation; 9th & 12th) via Zoom at 9am every Sunday morning. For more information, please visit

**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.

**KIDS L.I.F.E. VIA ZOOM**—Wednesday nights (September 16-October 21) are all about connecting with church friends and developing spiritual habits that help us grow. LIFE will be fun, faith focused, and friend centered! We encourage each kid to have their own device for these Zoom gatherings.

**KIDS CCPC PACKAGE**—Let's face it, printing something at home is a pain... so we've done it for you! Each month we will provide materials to enhance all of our Kids Ministry programming, including some surprises! You might also get to see Ms. Amanda during the dropoff!

**KIDS ZONE**—Resources, Children's Messages and so much more... all at our CCPC website! Check it out at [www.covenantcommunitypc.org/childrens-ministry](http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/childrens-ministry).