



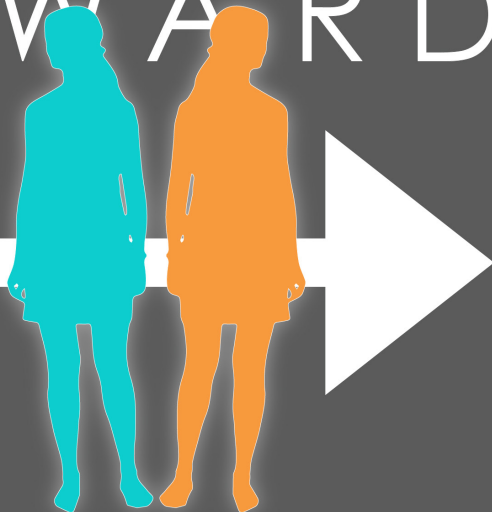
# COVENANT COMMUNITY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

# FORWARD

FROM PAST  
TO FUTURE



— GOD'S CALL TO MOVE —>

BIBLE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 - 10 A.M.

FORWARD  
FROM PAST TO FUTURE:  
FROM LITTLE, MUCH

## 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

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



## Gathering Around the Word

**Prelude:** "Be Thou My Vision" 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

**Introit:** "Love Grows Here" Sue Thompson & Tina Spiegel

**Call to Worship:** Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached my goal;

**But I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.**

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:** "Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet" #458

**\*Call to Confession:** Philippians 3:3

While self-confidence is good, self-centered confidence is quite different. When we live convinced of our own perfection, we have no room for grace and no need for Christ. This is why Paul reminds us that we "who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus ... have no confidence in the flesh." Let us therefore join together in prayer and confess our imperfections to God.

**\*Prayer of Confession:**

Lord Jesus, we confess that we sometimes see ourselves as more righteous than we truly are. We easily believe the lie that we "have it together" simply because our imperfections are easier to disguise than those of others. Self-centered confidence comes all too naturally to us, as it did to the Pharisees of old.

Today we recant the falsehood that we can be "good enough" without you. Jesus, your redemption is not just for others; we need your grace and mercy ourselves today. Thank you for loving us and redeeming us with your life, despite our sin. May we always place our confidence in you and you alone.

(We keep a moment of silence for reflection)

**\*Assurance of Pardon:** Philippians 3:10-11

Believe the good news! We can "know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings, becoming like him in death, and so to somehow attain the resurrection of the dead!" In his life, death and resurrection, we live and are forgiven. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

### Bible Presentations to our 2nd Graders and Confirmands

#### Period of Fellowship

## Proclaiming the Word

**Old Testament Reading:** Ruth 2:1-17 NRSV Bible

**Special Music:** "Change My Heart, O God" Sue Thompson & Tina Spiegel

**New Testament Reading:** Philippians 3:7-14 NRSV Bible

**Sermon:** Forward from Past to Future: From Little, Much Jim Gates

## Responding to the Word

**\*Hymn:** "Be Thou My Vision" (vs. 1,4) #450

### Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

#### Offering

**Offertory Music:** "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine" JeHae Kim-Bixby

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

## Bearing and Following the Word into the World

### Announcements

#### \*Benediction

**\*Choral Benediction:** "To God Be the Glory" (vs. 1) #634

## 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 CONTINUES**—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? Into this world, Jesus brings a brilliant, original, and God-fearing method of dealing with the political divide. Join us in person or via Zoom continuing *THIS* Wednesday, September 23 (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 27 will open *TOMORROW* (Monday) September 21 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 *NEXT* Sunday, 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 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, September 22 (men), at noon. Remember that you can purchase the study book for \$9 by visiting the church building, or by contacting Jim Gates ([jim@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:jim@covenantcommunitypc.org)).

**A CONVERSATION ON RACE STUDY GROUP**—Our Conversation on Race group will meet via Zoom *THIS* 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

**SAVE-THE-DATE: FAMILY FALL FUN DAY**—Join us for an evening outside at Schairer's Autumn Acres on Saturday, October 3 from 3-7pm. Bring the whole family to wander the corn maze, enjoy a bonfire, or even meet some of the furry residents! The church will be covering the cost of those attending, but reservations will be required with a digital ticket provided. You can reserve your spots by going to <https://covenantcommunitypc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/539984>.

**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](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 <http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/sunday-school-2> for more information, or contact Dan Frost ([dan@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:dan@covenantcommunitypc.org)).

**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>.

**KIDS L.I.F.E. VIA ZOOM**—Wednesday nights (through 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. To learn more, please go to <https://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/kids-life>.