

The Caravan

on the journey together

JUNE 2024

The Gift of Music

A letter from Pastor Charlie

I was blessed with a six-week time of sabbatical and study leave this spring. I'm very grateful to Jess, Megan, and Melissa, along with other staff and leaders who kept Covenant running very smoothly in my absence.

One of the things I enjoyed most on my recent sabbatical was MUSIC.

- I sang wonderful hymns with hundreds at cathedral-like churches in Pittsburgh, at preaching conference.
- I spent three hours in a Memphis bar, tapping my foot and (quietly!) singing along to blues classics.
- I was in awe (and sensory overload) for 3 hours in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, learning about and listening to gospel music, blues, the Rolling Stones, Public Enemy, Sheryl Crow, Rage Against the Machine, and more.
- I was mesmerized at a church conference in Atlanta when a presenter concluded with a cellist playing Cello Suite No. 1, inviting us to get back in tune with our calling.
- In between podcasts and audio books, I enjoyed lots of music on my long drives.

Music inspires us, comforts us, and sometimes challenges us.

On June 23, we start a six-week sermon series called PLAYLIST, with the hope that we will be able to better listen for God in the music we hear.

Church music, popular music, classical music, whatever.

Each week the focus will be on a different artist—U2, Taylor Swift, and more—with the speaker sharing their spiritual connection to the particular artist. You DON'T have to be a fan of U2 or Taylor or whoever on that Sunday, as we'll be speaking more broadly about how any sort of music can inspire us.

God speaks directly in lyrics of songs, such as in my favorite hymn, "God of Grace, God of Glory," with the prayerful refrain "Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days."

And God speaks in the music itself, regardless of the lyrics, such as the poignant notes of "Moonlight Sonata," the pep of a marching band, the energy of rock and roll, or the simple and familiar tune of "Amazing Grace."

My hope is that we will all be better able to hear God speaking to us through any kind of music, so that we can live more deeply as people of faith, hope, and love.

On the journey together,
Charlie

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Contact Us

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Hours: M-TH 9:00-4:00

F 9:00-12:00

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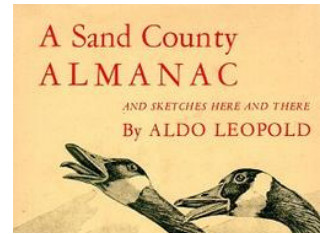


Coming Up @ Covenant

Monthly Book Club

Sunday, June 2, 10:30am

Join our monthly book club that meets on the 1st Sunday each month! We are reading and discussing “A Sand County Almanac” by Aldo Leopold, reading one essay per month (leading up to the meeting). In June, we will look at the essays “May” & “June.” Questions? Contact Melissa Hinz at mhinz@covenantmadison.org.



First Wednesdays Potluck

Wednesday, June 5, 12:00pm

Feel free to bring a friend as we enjoy a time of good food and warm fellowship! Cook something at home, pick up something at your favorite grocery store, or favorite restaurant for a carry-out dish to share. Beverages, plates, and utensils will be provided. Gary Bertram will be our guest speaker, sharing his love of fly fishing!



Covenant Church Picnic

Sunday, June 9, 10:30am-12:30pm

The annual church picnic will once again take place outside here at Covenant. Main dish, beverages, and vegetarian/gluten free options will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share! **Don't forget to wear your Covenant t-shirt as we'll be taking the all-church photo out front right at 10:30am!** This is an event of CONNECT, a program of deacon-sponsored events with the intention of fostering connection between Covenant and the community.



All-Church Photo | Covenant T-Shirts

Sunday, June 9, 10:30am

Before we grab some food outside for the picnic, we will gather on the stairs out front for an all-church photo! Be sure to wear your Covenant t-shirt if you have one. **If you don't, we will be selling them on June 2 and June 9 in the gathering space.** T-shirts are \$10, cash or check.



Playlist: Gospel on the Radio (Summer Sermon Series)

June 23 - July 28

Sometimes even secular music hits a grace note, so we're excited about our summer sermon series: "Playlist: Gospel on the Radio!" On your favorite radio channel or streaming, which music artists do you connect with spiritually? Beginning with "Swifty Sunday" (can you guess which artist?) on June 23, we'll focus on a different artist each week, including a playlist of a few songs if you like to play along the week ahead. It should be a fun summer of listening to and reflecting on music together!



Spiritual Stroll

Sunday, June 23, 2:00pm

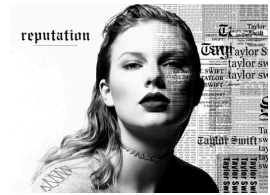
Our June Spiritual Stroll will be at Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park, and will be led by Chan Sommers. These strolls are part of CONNECT, a program of deacon-sponsored events with the intention of fostering connection between Covenant and the community. Spiritual Strolls take place on 4th Sundays and we visit a different green space every month.



Announcements

Hey Swifties! We Need Your Help!

We are kicking off our **“Playlist: Gospel on the Radio”** summer series **on June 23** with a **“Swiftie Sunday,”** and Pastor Jess wants your help. Email or text her your favorite song and why - and let her know if you want to help with a Friendship Bracelet station on June 23.



Church Picnic Volunteers Needed!

Can you help with set-up and clean-up? The Deacons Fellowship Committee is looking for 5-6 volunteers (both before and after) who can help set up (and take down) tables as well as other tasks. For set-up, we ask volunteers arrive at 8:30am. For take-down, we ask volunteers start this process at 11:30am. **Sign up at the Events & Announcements bulletin board.** Thank you!



Calling All Musicians! – July 21 Worship

Calling all instrumentalists, high school and older! Get those embouchures in shape, your fingers warmed up and polish off your “axe!” Join your friends to prepare and share music in worship on July 21. There will be rehearsals after worship on **Sundays, July 7 and 14.** If you would like copies of your part to practice ahead, please contact Melissa Hinz, Martha Stoner or Doug McNeel after worship in June. Or simply email Martha at mdoddsstoner@gmail.com.



American Players Theater Outing Sunday, August 25

In August, we’re planning another outing to American Players Theater! They will be putting on a production of “Ring Around the Moon.” Seats are limited, so sign up by scanning the QR code or by contacting the office.



Food Pantry Donations Needed!

Please consider helping restock either the Little Free Pantry (outdoor) or Little Food Pantry (indoor) with non-perishable items. Members of our community rely on these pantries to supplement their weekly needs. Thank you!



Presbywheelians – Move 'N' Groove Saturday, July 20, 7am–2pm

Save the date! Boys & Girls Club of Dane County holds their annual Move ‘N’ Groove and as always Covenant is participating. The Presbywheelians is the team from Covenant that bikes for this fundraiser for BG CDC. More information to come in the coming weeks, but you are welcome to sign up to join the team or donate now if you like! Scan the QR code. More info on Move ‘N’ Groove is on page 7.



Happy Birthday!

June 1

Nicole Curtis
Jim Locher
Bailey Green

June 3

Lloyd Southwick
Jim Spilburg

June 4

Barb Eikenberry

June 5

Alaura Diaczun
Katherine Moore
Sophia Gibson
Heather Potter
Trent Larson

June 6

Piper Cook

June 7

Susan Goebel
Megan Munson
JR Schmidt

June 8

Tyler Lenius

June 9

Jane Kolakowski

June 10

Avery Leonard

June 11

Lynn Vande Sande

June 12

Ethan Hack

June 13

Mary Cole

June 15

Marilyn Unruh
Rosemary Jones

June 16

Katherine Masden

June 17

Owen Gibson

June 18

Ann Athas
Claire Von Bergen

June 19

Dale Myrland

June 20

Thelma Wells

June 22

Joannie Carter
Eli Mace
Maya Mace

June 23

Winfred Byrd
Chelsea Cornelius

June 24

Jack Carter
Heather Douglas

June 25

Max Cook
Archen Parchment

June 27

Cheryl Wise

June 28

Jacky Jugenheimer

June 30

Ella Krebs

*If we missed your birthday, we apologize! Please contact the office and we'll include it next year. Thank you!

Worship Schedule

Sunday, June 2

Holy Communion

Guest Preacher: Marilyn Krichko

"Navigating Life's Questions" | Acts 3:1-12

Sunday, June 9

Church Picnic | All-Church Photo

Charlie Berthoud | "REST, LISTEN, GO" (Lessons from Sabbathal) | Exodus 20:8-11

Sunday, June 16

Vacation Bible Camp Sunday
Reflections from VBC participants

Sunday, June 23

Playlist: Gospel on the Radio - Taylor Swift
Jess Scholten | **Guest Musician: Natalie Handley**

Sunday, June 30

Playlist: Gospel on the Radio - U2
Charlie Berthoud

Unless otherwise noted, services are offered at
9:30am in person and on **YouTube**.

Joys, Concerns & Prayers

Prayers continue for the following Covenant families
and friends mourning these loved ones:

Esther Hedfield, Covenant member

Jerry Montgomery, Covenant member

Gigi Thompson, Covenant member

Deri Cattelino, Covenant member

John Navis, brother of Gary Navis and cousin of Ken
Joose, Dennis Joosse, and Margie Coons

We celebrate the birth of:

Felicity Wren Frees, granddaughter of Covenant friend
Deirdre Frees

Noah David Brown, son of Sawyer & Betsy Brown and
grandson of Brad Brown & Maribeth Gettinger

We celebrate graduates:

Michael Curtis, Michael Fussell, Eliza Hardy, Samuel
Qastin, Eli Rodriguez, Maeve Sebastian, Scarlett Smith,
Ian Soderberg, Claire Von Bergen, Natalie Handley,
Lauren Coons, Elizabeth Larget, Jo Wiersema, Nick Hinz,
Matthew Berthoud, Gianna Fussell, Avery Leonard,
Constantin Bensch, & Sophia Gibson

Children's Ministries

Sunday School

(3 years old through 8th grade)

Sunday School has concluded for the school year.
Classes will resume in the Fall.

Kaleidoscope Kids

(3 years old through 2nd grade)

Kaleidoscope Kids meets every Sunday **except 1st Sunday/mo** during worship (9:30), and teaches our kids about worship.

Nursery Care

(3 years old and under)

Sundays, 9:15am-10:45am
(summer hours)

Youth Connection

Youth Connection

(Middle School and High School)

Youth Connection has concluded for the school year. Regular gatherings will resume in the Fall.



Visit covenantmadison.org/children or [/youth](https://covenantmadison.org/youth) for more info or contact Megan Berry at mberry@covenantmadison.org.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

JUNE 10-13
3:00-5:00PM



We are again partnering with Bethany United Methodist Church for Vacation Bible Camp! This year, VBC will be hosted at Bethany Church, just down Mineral Point Road from us. You can register [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.



We Need Snacks!

Want an easy way to involved? You can provide snacks for the kids during Vacation Bible Camp! **Sign up at the Events & Announcements bulletin board on Sundays and drop off by June 9** and indicate what kind of snacks you can provide.

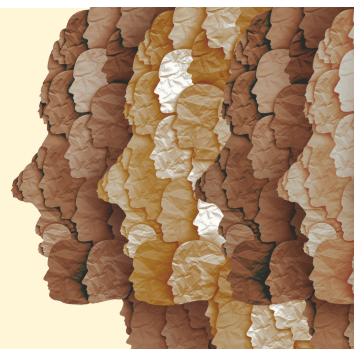
Thank you in advance!

Adult Education

Adult Education at Covenant has concluded for the program year. Classes pick back up in the Fall on September 15. In the meantime, the Adult Education Committee recommends the following opportunities:

Racists Anonymous Fellowship Thursdays, 7:00-8:00pm (Zoom)

Covenant's RAF continues well into its 4th year of weekly Zoom meetings. With their 12-step program and relevant book studies, they have been preparing their hearts and minds for the work of anti-racism and one of the Matthew 25 foci: dismantling structural racism. Visit covenantmadison.org/raf to learn more. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jennifer Morgan at jbmorgan@me.com to receive the weekly emails. Anyone is welcome at any time!



Visit covenantmadison.org/adult for more information about Adult Education at Covenant.

Session Report

Laurie Jones, Clerk

Your Session met for their regular meeting on May 28 via zoom and Pastor Charlie returned to the Moderator role. They spent a good amount of time discussing an article provided by Charlie called “Seven Dangerous Signs your Church has Become an Insider Church.” The article was a bit of a reality check for us and encourages helping those who are unchurched become believers and learn about the faith.

The meeting included the following orders of business:

- Funding was approved through the Gifts, Memorials, and Bequests Committee for: Melissa Hinz to take an immersion Spanish class, reimbursement for Pastor Charlie's mileage on his sabbatical travels, and funding for the fall Organ Concert.
- Covenant has been approved as a cohort in the Awaken Dane Program for the fall. The next step is to create a 5-to-7-member team, including a few members who live in the neighborhood. Pastor Jess is leading this team.
- Jennifer Morgan and Jane Kolakowski were the Commissioners to the John Knox Presbytery meeting on May 21. Covenant was well represented with 9 people attending in-person while Pastor Charlie was the Moderator. Nii Ado Abrahams passed his Candidate Exam and is ready for ordination. Re-visioning Presbyter Jeff Jappinga was recognized as he leaves, and Rev. Devon Reynolds will join the Presbytery in July as our new Presbyter for Vision and Leadership.
- The Worship Committee will begin an exploration this summer of an alternative method of serving communion using intinction. More to come from the Worship Committee.
- The Position Description for the Assistant Music Coordinator was approved so the search can commence.

The Session works hard to conduct the business of the church, but also takes care to ensure the spiritual needs of the congregation are met as well. We are a community of believers and care for one another well!

JustDane just celebrated 50 years! Are you familiar with their initiatives?

Just Bakery, Just Connections, Journey Home, Peer Support, Circles of Support, Healing House

Founded in 1971, the originally named Madison-area Urban Ministry (MUM) was created as a social justice, social service organization. In 2020, the decision was made to change our name from Madison-area Urban Ministry to JustDane, to reflect our expanded reach.

JustDane is private, 501 (c) 3 non-profit agency that offers an array of direct service programs for individuals and families involved in the criminal justice system. These services include prison reentry programs and services for children who have an incarcerated parent, community events designed to help people understand what it's like to walk in the shoes of someone newly released from prison, jail, and prison in-reach programs.

The men, women, and children who walk through our doors also help us better understand what is going on in our community and the struggles and injustices they may face through hearing their stories. Having this information enables us to both communicate with, and educate policy makers about the societal disconnect, obstacles and backstories of people who have struggled to live a productive life, and what JustDane is doing to create positive change that benefits the entire community.

For more: the latest edition of JustDane's JustDialogue newsletter has pictures from the 50th Anniversary Celebration, Just Bakery Spring Specials, Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, and Linda's editorial are all inside.

Read it [here](https://issuu.com/jus.../docs/justdialogue_spring_2024_final): issuu.com/jus.../docs/justdialogue_spring_2024_final

Presbywheelians Ride On

Members of Covenant Presbyterian, Pres House, and other Presbyterian denominations have been putting together teams for Bike 4 Boys & Girls Club since 2012. In that time the Presbywheelians have raised over \$100,000 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County.



The Boys & Girls Club is active in our community and making a difference every day. Our local chapter does a lot beyond the great work of providing after school activity. Beyond those critical day-to-day activities our local chapter has made innovative moves to develop futures for our youth. **The McKenzie Regional Workforce Center** prepares youth for a future in skilled trades such as plumbers, carpenters, HVAC technicians, electricians, and more. This training provides future opportunity for our youth.

In recent years, Bike 4 Boys & Girls Club has evolved into Move 4 BGC, and now Move 'N' Groove, adding a 5k run and 2 mile walk to the events happening at McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg on **Saturday, July 20**. You can join or donate to Presbywheelians with [this link](#). The event is a great way to connect as a congregation and with the community. Contact Eric Girard for more information or questions at ericdavidgirard@gmail.com.

A related event is the **50k Walk and Black History Walking Tour** happening on **Saturday, June 22**. This walk, partly organized by Covenant member Steve Whayland, has two parts. One is a one-day walk covering 50 kilometers that visits every Boys & Girls property in Madison. The second part is a Black History Walking Tour that is happens the morning of the 50k walk. Anyone can join the walkers and a tour guide from the Wisconsin Historical Society as they tour sites from black history in Madison.



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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