

The Caravan

on the journey together

JUNE 2023

Guidance and Encouragement

A letter from Pastor Charlie

We know physical health is important. We go to the doctor. We try to eat well. We exercise, or at least we think about exercise. We meet with athletic trainers and with dietitians to give us guidance and encouragement on getting healthy.

Spiritual health is important as well. To help us live into our Christian calling, to help us love neighbors, to help us live authentic lives, we need guidance and encouragement.

As Christians, we get guidance and encouragement in a variety of options including worship, prayer, Bible reading, and small groups. When we engage with these options, we live more deeply the abundant life that Jesus came to offer.

For the month of June, my invitation is simple: spend five minutes a day in prayer. We make time for what is important, and connecting with God is very important.

I like to mix up my prayer routine. Sometimes I slowly ponder the names on the prayer list, asking God to bring healing and love. Sometimes I use a prayer book, appreciating the words of others to help me connect with God. Sometimes I sit in silence, repeating a phrase like "thy will be done."

Sometimes I pray with a song like "Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me."

We have two search committees hard at work, seeking our next Associate Pastor and staffing for children and youth ministry. I hope you'll pray for those Committee members and for our church too. Now is as good a time as any for us to individually and collectively strengthen our spiritual health, by staying connected to God, using all the guidance and encouragement we can.

Grace and peace,
Charlie

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Contact Us

(608) 233-6297

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

F 9:00-12:00

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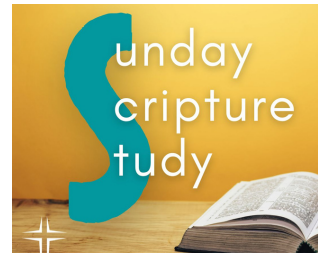


Coming Up @ Covenant

Sunday Scripture Study

Sundays, 8:45-9:20am

Sunday Scripture Study is back! Beginning Sunday, June 4, join a small group in the Lounge every Sunday from 8:45-9:20am before 9:30 worship to discuss the Sunday scripture text. With Adult Education taking a hiatus this summer, this is a great way to stay engaged in Christian education!



Church Picnic

Sunday, June 4, 10:30am

This year, we're holding our annual church picnic here at Covenant immediately following 9:30 summer worship (only one service during summer). Main dish and beverages will be provided! Bring a side or dessert. Veggie and gluten free options will also be available. There will also be a bouncy house and law games! This is a CONNECT event (sponsored by the deacons). **Before the picnic, gather with us on the front steps for an all-church photo at 10:30!**



First Wednesdays Potluck

Wednesday, June 7, 12:00pm

Feel free to bring a friend as we enjoy a time of good food and warm fellowship! Feel 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. This mid-week potluck takes place on the first Wednesday of the month.



Summer Arts & Crafts Displays

Sundays 10:30am, June 11-Sept 3

Are you a sculptor? Painter? Photographer? Other? We'd love to display your art this summer! Interested in participating? Sign up at covenantmadison.org. We ask that artists be available the Sunday of their display after the 9:30 service, and that you send us a short bio of yourself. If you have any questions, contact Nancy McCulley.



Vacation Bible Camp

June 12-June 15, 3:00-5:00pm

VBC will take place here at Covenant this year! Covenant joins Bethany United Methodist and Madison Mennonite Church in diving into Bible stories about water. VBC is designed for children in preschool through 5th grade. Visit covenantmadison.org/vbc for more info or to register. Children who attend VBC will also have the opportunity to be part of the worship service on June 18!



Ukulele Nights

Mondays 5:30-6:30pm, June 19-July 10

Do you play the ukulele? Well join us on Mondays June 19, 26, July 3, and 10 from 5:30-6:30pm. Bring a ukulele! Music is provided! Contact Melissa Hinz at mhinz@covenantmadison.org if you have any questions.



Spiritual Stroll

Sunday, June 25, 2:00pm

In June, we're meeting at Lake Farm County Park. Melissa Hinz will lead this stroll. These strolls are part of CONNECT, a program of deacon-sponsored events with the intention of fostering connection between Covenant and the community. We visit a different park/green space every month.



Announcements

Hospitality for Bikers?

A group of about 20 bicycle riders will spend two nights here at Covenant in June on their cross-country trip to raise money for cancer research. We're looking for some help preparing a hearty dinner for them on June 19, with Covenant paying for the food. If you're interested, contact the office or sign up at the bulletin board by the lounge!



Presbywheelians - Move 'N' Groove

Boys & Girls Club holds their annual Move 'N' Groove **on Saturday, July 15** and as always Covenant is participating. The Presbywheelians is the team from Covenant that bikes for this fundraiser for BG CDC. Join their team on July 15 for bikes/runs/walks of different lengths, **and/or on June 17** for the 50k Walk or shorter Black History Walk. Registration is \$40 until June 30, when the registration fee goes up, Scan the QR code to register! You can also support the team financially via the team site.



Legacy Giving at Covenant

On Ascension Sunday, the GMB Committee reminded us to consider how God is calling each of us to contribute to the world beyond our own lifetimes through Legacy Giving. A legacy gift to Covenant through your will or estate plan ensures the vitality of Covenant's mission for future generations. Brochures are available on the info rack by the office. Further info can also be found at covenantmadison.org/legacy.



Note About Online Giving

More and more people are making donations and payments to Covenant online, which is wonderful. When possible, please use a checking/savings account, rather than a credit card, as the service fee percentage is lower. Thank you for your generosity and your support of Covenant ministry!

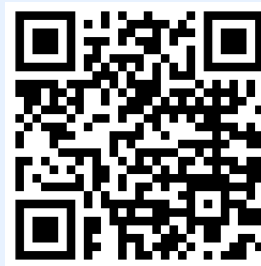
We Are Hiring!

We are accepting applications for the positions of: Associate Pastor and Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator. Scan the QR code or visit

covenantmadison.org/employment for more info. Help us spread the word! If you have any questions, contact one of the nominating committees:

apnc@covenantmadison.org (Associate Pastor) or

employment@covenantmadison.org (CYMC).



Happy Birthday!

June 1

Nicole Curtis
Dick Jones
Jim Locher
Bailey Green

June 3

Lloyd Southwick
Jim Spilburg

June 4

Barb Eikenberry

June 5

Alaura Diaczun
Katherine Moore
Sophia Gibson
Heather Potter

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 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 church office and we'll add yours for
next year. Thank you for understanding!

Worship Schedule

Sunday, June 4

Trinity Sunday | Holy Communion

Church Picnic

(Please have bread/juice available if worshipping from home)

Charlie Berthoud | "What is God's Name?"

Exodus 2:7-15

Sunday, June 11

Charlie Berthoud | "Let's Go Swimming!"

Revelation 22:1-2

Sunday, June 18

Reflections from Vacation Bible Camp

Sunday, June 25

Guest Preacher: Rev. Betsey Moe

"The Small and Subversive" | Matthew 13:31-33

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:

Melody Parry, friend of Ernie & Ann Perry

Judy Strikwerda, sister of John Strikwerda

Karen McAdams, cousin of Melissa Hinz

Barb Lindwall, Covenant friend

Tom Lytton, friend of Mary-Beth Rolland

We celebrate these births and marriages:

Births - **Korbin Burke**, son of Doug & Hedy Burke
and grandson of Cliff & Donita O'Donnell;

Lena Cole Karch, granddaughter of Bob & Mary Cole

Marriages - **Rev. Tyler Nylen & Halie Weigel**,

married at Covenant on Friday, May 12;

Rev. Chelsea Cornelius & Sarah Aloizo,

married on Saturday, May 27

Children's Ministries

Sunday School

Sunday School has concluded for the season.

Kaleidoscope Kids

(3 years old through 2nd grade)

Kaleidoscope Kids meets during worship (9am only) following Children's Time, and includes stories from the Bible and/or Christian tradition.

Note: there is **no Kaleidoscope on June 18.**

Sunday Worship

We invite families into worship! Family worship bags and Children's Bibles are available Sundays, and there is a Children's Time during the service.

Our Nursery is open from 9:00-11:00am for children ages 3 and under.

Visit covenantmadison.org/children for more information or contact Kathy Mohs at kmohs@covenantmadison.org.

Youth Connection

Middle School (MSYC)

MSYC has concluded for the season.

High School (HSYC)

HSYC has concluded for the season.

Visit covenantmadison.org/youth for more info, or contact the church office.

Covenant is currently undergoing a search for a Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator. For more information, you can visit covenantmadison.org/employment. If you have any leads or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Chair of the CYMC Committee Brad Brown at bbradb49@gmail.com.

Library Corner

Book Review: *The Sum of Us*

Written by Heather McGhee | Reviewed by Jennifer Morgan

"The Sum of Us" by Heather McGhee is one of those books that, as you read, you find yourself frequently saying, "oh yes" or "oh my" or "I hadn't realized" or "I should have noticed." And those are the G-rated responses.

Read more at covenantmadison.org/post/the-sum-of-us.



Get a NEW Covenant t-shirt! Cost is \$10 and will be available for purchase June 4, or contact the office!

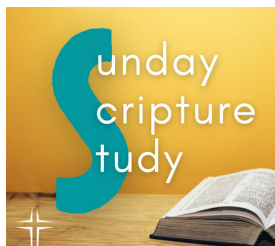


Tickets are \$50. Sign up via the QR code above!

Adult Education

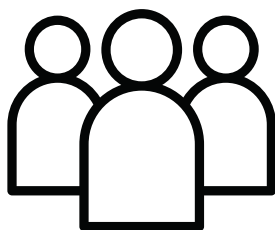
Adult Education resumes in September

Adult Education at Covenant takes a break for the summer, but we try and keep the Covenant family in the loop with any other Christian/Adult Education opportunities. See below for such opportunities! Check covenantmadison.org/adult-ed-classes for recordings of classes you missed or want to re-watch!



Sunday Scripture Study Sundays, 8:45-9:20am

Sunday Scripture Study is back! Beginning Sunday, June 4, join a small group in the Lounge every Sunday from 8:45-9:20am before 9:30 worship to discuss the Sunday scripture text. With Adult Education taking a hiatus this summer, this is a great way to stay engaged in Christian education!



Re-Thinking Small Group Ministry Thursday, June 22, 9am-12pm

Small Groups have helped make our church strong, and they are vital to our fruitfulness in the future. Join Pastor Charlie and Melissa Hinz in Bradfield Hall to watch a webinar hosted by Church of the Resurrection. Interested but can't make it to church? Covenant will cover the cost either way. Contact Charlie at charlie@covenantmadison.org if you're interested.

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

Thank You from Pastor Clara

Dear Covenant friends,

Thank you for welcoming me, once again, into your hearts and your faith journeys as I have served as Parish Associate this past year. It has been a real joy to be among you again... to reconnect with those who I knew before, and to meet those who have connected with Covenant since my former retirement from Covenant in December of 2019. You are a great church who continues to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love!

It is now time for me to retire, again. Paul and I look forward to spending our summer in northern Michigan, and then in the Fall beginning to do some of the traveling that was postponed due to the pandemic. You will remain in my prayers and will always hold a very special place in my heart. For the privilege of serving alongside of you, I am forever grateful.

God's blessings to each and every one of you,
Clara



Your Session met for their regular meeting on May 23 in person at the church. Co-chair of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) Brad Brown attended to provide and update on the progress of the Committee. It is a very different climate than in any search prior to this and the committee is working hard in this difficult hiring time. They are working diligently on our behalf and your continued prayers are requested.

Pastor Charlie led a discussion on the introduction to the book *Leading Faithful Innovation* which focuses on following God into a hopeful future. The book reminds us of the church in the book of Acts and how we can “draw ourselves back into the core stories of faith and deepen our capacity to be led by God.” (p. 4)

The Finance Committee, chaired by John Guequierre, is working to create and update the financial policies for a comprehensive office manual. This month the Conflict-of-Interest Policy was approved by Session. Next month there will be three more to review and approve. He also reported that the financial health of the congregation is good.

Presbytery was held on May 16 in Monroe at the Union Presbyterian Church. Jan Minardi, Marilyn Krichko, Raleigh Jones, Laurie Jones, Doug Poland, and Rev. Clara Thompson attended from Covenant. It was a joyful occasion where Ellen Keyser Edelman was examined for her first call at Lodi Presbyterian and Ruling Elder Karla Johnson was examined and ordained as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) where she serves the congregations of Frankville Community Presbyterian Church in Frankville, Iowa and Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Postville, Iowa. The afternoon focused on the work of discerning what is next for the Presbytery and how it can better organize itself for the needs of the congregations and members within its bounds. It was a beautiful spring day with lunch served in the adjacent park and an uplifting spirit throughout the gathering.

Mission Spotlight

For CEDEPCA, the root of change is through education. The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) is seeking to eliminate gender-based violence by offering transformative workshops for groups of adolescent girls and boys.



The programs - Tamar (for girls) and Jose (for boys) - teach kids the context of domestic violence, empowerment of girls and women and re-definition of masculinity. Covenant is sponsoring this program in Coyolate, at the request of families we met while visiting Guatemala last fall. Other CEDEPCA programs include a Biblical & Theological Seminary, Women's Ministries, Disaster Ministry. We will welcome CEDEPCA Intercultural Encounter facilitators, Rev. Betsey Moe and her husband Eric, to Covenant on June 25. Prepare to be inspired by their ministry.

Visit covenantmadison.org/missions for more information on Missions at Covenant.



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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