



SEPTEMBER 2021

The Caravan

ON THE JOURNEY TOGETHER



GETTING BACK ON TRACK: Together on the Journey



Sermon Series September - October 2021

Beginning in September, in-person worship services will be offered at **9:00 am** (Contemporary) and **11:00 am** (Traditional). The 11:00 service will also be livestreamed, so hop on our YouTube channel at 11:00 to worship from home!
[YouTube.com/c/CovenantPresbyterianChurch](https://www.youtube.com/c/CovenantPresbyterianChurch)

CHURCH OFFICE

Phone: (608) 233-6297
Fax: (608) 233-6489
E-mail: info@covenantmadison.org
326 South Segoe Rd, Madison, WI 53705
www.covenantmadison.org

LOST and FOUND (and free stuff!)

I lived in New York City for four years, a long time ago. Late one night I got lost after getting off the subway at the wrong stop in an unfamiliar neighborhood. Various scary movie scenes started playing in my head, and I was a bit worried, but then some good people at a store helped me find my way.

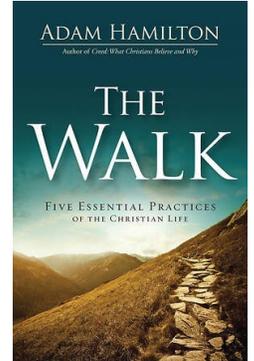
While we may not get physically lost as much these days thanks to our phones, we still can get spiritually and emotionally lost.

Over the past year and a half of Covid, a lot of us have gotten lost or strayed off the path.

We've lost touch with friends and co-workers.
We've lost energy and focus and energy and motivation.
We've lost our routines of prayer, fellowship, and worship.
We've lost our connection with God and with church people.

Together, I'm hopeful that we can encourage each other and find the way again.

We are starting a 7-week sermon series in September: **Getting Back on Track: Together on the Journey**. With the help of a wonderful book called *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*, we will get a fresh start on the Christian journey.



It's a back-to-the-basics theme, focusing on worship & prayer, scripture & study, serving, giving, loving our global neighbors, and sharing. I know I could use a refresher course, and I imagine we all could.

With Covid numbers rising again, with political tension remaining high, with environmental problems growing, with ongoing racial tension, we are surrounded by challenges. So now is as good a time as any for us to strengthen and renew the foundations of our Christian life.

So we're planning seven weeks of sermons on the basics of Christian life, starting **September 5**. If you can't make it in person, you can watch our live-stream, which begins September 5, replacing our current pre-recorded videos. Just hop on our YouTube by 11:00 each Sunday!

Along with sermons, we are planning small groups on this theme—some in person and some via Zoom. Best of all, we have 100 copies of *The Walk* that are available for **FREE** to anyone who is interested. (And we'll get more if necessary.) Contact the church office to get your copy. Funding for the books comes from the Jim and Pauline Sparks Adult Education Fund. We'll be happy to drop off a copy for you if you'd like.

If you feel isolated, weary, afraid, or spiritually dry, please know **you are not alone**. I really hope you'll do what you can to reach out and reconnect, and maybe help someone else who feels the same way. God is with us and God shows us the way, even going through the valley of the shadow of deep darkness. When we stick together, we find the way.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Charlie

Joys, Cares, and Concerns

Prayers continue for the following Covenant families mourning loved ones: **Laurie Wood-Lyons**, sister of Bill Wood; **Evelyn Gebhard**, aunt of Eileen Durand; and **Neal Shimmel**, brother-in-law of Gordy Durand.

Congratulations to member **Anna Pearson and Cody Berger** who were married August 7th. Anna is the daughter of Jane & Bob Pearson, and granddaughter of Mary King.

Congratulations to members **Erik & Jeannette Hyland** on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Leila Austyn Woods, daughter of Lindsey & Brendan Woods, and granddaughter of Jerry & Jenny Holmes and Bob & Mar-Sue Woods.

Congratulations to member **Jennifer Morgan** on the birth of her grandson Jamie Michael Glaus, son of Beth Morgan and Jeff Glaus.

Congratulations and best wishes to member **Nell Smith** who just celebrated her 99th birthday!



Happy Birthday This Month to...

September 1
Larry Larsen
Julie Sadowsky

September 2
Susan Hanauer
Cate Kick

September 3
Theo Sebastian

September 4
John Erickson
Katie Heiser
Grant Hutchison

September 5
Harold Blaize
Valerie Kime

September 6
Gordon Durand
Charles Kime
Ashley Price
Isaac Schmidt
Deanna Stadler

September 7
John Hokanson

September 8
Vanessa Melville

September 9
Mary Ann DeVries
Christian Moore

September 10
John Guequierre
Connie Roden

September 11
Arlene Brink
Evelyn McMillan
Steve Royalton

September 13
Kathy Schlimgen

September 14
Eddie Jung

September 15
Jess Salmonowicz

September 16
Walt Stevenson



September 17
Marion Peterson
Fritz Seybold

September 18
Libby Herringa
Michael Hunt

September 19
Judy Knudtson

September 20
Adam Brigham
Becky Kurtz

September 21
Lily Krebs
Henry Peterson

September 22
Tom Bauer
Jim Jordan
Gavin Lanphear

September 23
Lisa Cantrell
Skye Doney
Eric Eikenberry
Sydney Parker

September 24
Sara Joy Lovell
Lonna Peterson

September 25
Katie Barden
Ella Olmsted
Steve Veazie

September 26
Ian Hokanson
Marcia Lund

September 27
Grant Courtney
Donald McCall

September 28
Noah Olmsted
Constantin Bensch
Margery Lueder
Mark Middleton
Sylvia Poppelbaum

September 29
Robin Goetz

September Worship Schedule



GETTING BACK ON TRACK:

Together on the Journey

Keep these fall dates on your calendar!

- On **Sunday, September 5**, we will begin offering worship services at **9:00** and **11:00 am**. The 11:00 service will also be livestreamed, so you can hop on our YouTube channel at 11:00 to worship from home!
(youtube.com/c/CovenantPresbyterianChurch)
- Children's Sunday school and Adult Ed begins at **10:00 am** on **Sunday, September 12**.
- Sunday evening youth programming will begin on **September 19**.
- The nursery will open in October.

Sunday, September 5

Holy Communion

Pastor Charlie Berthoud | "Let's Take A Walk" |
Psalm 86:11

Sunday, September 12

Pastor Charlie Berthoud | "Staying Connected" |
Psalm 95:1-7

Sunday, September 19

Pastor Charlie Berthoud | "The Voice" |
1 Samuel 3:1-10

Sunday, September 26

Pastor Jeff Fox-Kline | "Enough With the Bull!" |
Isaiah 1:10-17



Children's Ministries

Sunday School Begins Sunday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m.! Register On-line Today! Masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing required.

Parents are invited to register their children online for Sunday School by visiting <https://covenantmadison.breezechms.com/form/d747521828>.

In addition to updating family information, this helps us keep track of food allergies and other special needs. Contact Donna Monson with any special concerns about your child or children at dmonson@covenantmadison.org or 233-6297 x225.

Sunday School Security: Clothespin Check-In & Check-Out System

Beginning on Sunday, September 12, parents are asked to drop their children off in the Sunday School room at 10:00 a.m. and pick them up at 10:50 a.m. All 3 year old through 3rd grade parents should find the clothespin with their child's name on it from the dry erase board which is outside the classroom. Take the clothespin when dropping off your child, and return the clothespin when picking up your child.

Kaleidoscope Worship Education At 9:00 a.m. Worship Only

Kaleidoscope Worship Education is a time for 3 year old through 1st grade children to learn more about the parts of the worship service. Kaleidoscope will be offered at only the 9:00 worship service beginning on Sunday, September 12. Kaleidoscope begins after the children's time in worship when parents walk their children to room C208. When dropping a child off for Kaleidoscope, parents are asked to find a clothespin with their child's name on it, and then return the clothespin when picking up their child after worship has ended. Face masks, social distancing, and hand sanitization will be required.

What Sunday School Curriculum Does Covenant Use?

All three year olds through 5th graders use the *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* curriculum. The foundation of the Presbyterian identity where God's grace and our gratitude are the heartbeat of our faith, life, and worship is present in each lesson. In addition, children learn to be disciples by learning and practicing hospitality, generosity, prayer, and love. Each class is rooted in Bible stories that reveal God's grace.

More parent resources can be found here:

https://www.pcusastore.com/Content/Site119/Basics/10581GrowingWel_00000125058.pdf

Middle School Sunday School uses a curriculum called *re:form*. Youth learn about people from the Bible with humorous animated videos, engage in creativity with games and art, and share their thoughts and ideas.

For more information about Children's Ministries, please contact Children's Ministries Coordinator Donna Monson (dmonson@covenantmadison.org).

Youth Connection

We will get the fall rolling on Sunday, Sep. 19!

- Our Middle School Youth Connection (MSYC) will gather at Covenant from 4:00-5:00. Friends are welcome! Cooperative group games, discussion, and devotions all packed in.
- Our High School Youth Connection will gather from 6:30-8:00. Friends are welcome!
- Weather permitting, we will make use of our outdoors space as much as possible. When indoors, we will stay in our upstairs areas which are bigger and better ventilated than our downstairs Youth Suite. Masks will be required when indoors.
- We will follow the same schedule on Sunday, September 26.

Our Youth Connection programs are designed to encompass the areas of fellowship, education, mission, and worship. Our Middle School Youth Connection is for those in grades 6-8. Our Advisors all grew up at Covenant. They are Rachel Aune, Grady Brown, and Chantel Pivotto. Our High School Youth Connection is for teens in grades 9-12. Our Advisor group consists of Chris Barden, Kris Bauer, Brad Brown, Marge Resan, and Mary-Beth Rolland. They are all wonderful, caring, Christian people that walk in in the journey of faith with the youth.

Parents will receive weekly emails with the latest information regarding covid safety and upcoming activities.

Our Confirmation program is for students in the 9th grade. Plans are still in the works as we continue to monitor the pandemic and weigh our options. Parents of those students will be notified by email after Labor Day.

For more information, please contact Youth Ministries Coordinator Steve Royalton (sroyalton@covenantmadison.org).

Adult Education in September

"Seeing Jesus in Daily Living" will be a series of adult education classes focused on our commitment to being a Matthew 25 church: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.



September 12: Black History for a New Day

Covenant members Deb Cohn, Jennifer Morgan, and Carol Philipps will share reflections on their past participation in this nine-week course offered by Nehemiah's Justified Anger program. Black History for a New Day is an opportunity "for non-black people of courage and conviction to come together to think and learn about the history that has shaped our world and worldviews."

Members can consider enrolling in the upcoming class which begins **September 27**. See [African American History Course – Nehemiah](#) for more information. We will also discuss the possibility of offering the nine-week course again in early 2022 at Covenant. *This class will be offered in person at 10:00 and masks are required.*

September 19: Exploring Privilege

Allyship is the practice of emphasizing social justice, inclusion, and human rights by members of an ingroup to advance the interests of an oppressed or marginalized outgroup. Taylor Phillips, Assistant Professor of Management & Organizations from the New York University Stern School of Business, will teach us about allyship, becoming an ally, addressing barriers to allyship, setting goals, and identifying the appropriate role that allies should play. As we seek to understand what it means to become a Matthew 25 congregation, this is a first step toward identifying our place in the systems and structures that keep us locked into conscious and unconscious bias and inaction. Professor Phillips is a highly sought-after speaker and educator and we are delighted to have her share her expertise with us.

This class will be offered in person at 10:00, with the speaker appearing via Zoom. A link to the Zoom session for those who wish to participate at home will be published in Connections (or call the church office for details.)

September 26: Glenn Stephens School Partnership

Principal Sarah Galanter-Gusiewski will review our past, current and potential for future collaboration with the school. This class, co-sponsored by the Mission Committee, will inspire us to build congregational vitality by imagining and exploring engaging activities that support children, families, teachers and staff.

The class will be offered in person at 10:00 and masks are required. A link to the Zoom session for those who wish to participate at home will be published in Connections (or call the church office for details).

Inquirers Class Sep. 12, 19, & 26

Are you interested in learning more about Covenant and the possibility of becoming a member? Then the Inquirers Class is for you. We are planning to meet in person on Sundays September 12, 19, and 26 at 10am in the Lounge. If you're interested, please contact the church office or Pastor Charlie Berthoud. As with everything else, plans may change with Covid developments, and we may be meeting via Zoom.

Special Offering to be Received on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 3rd

As we work to share Christ's peace with one another, let's share that peace with those beyond our doors, beyond our communities and beyond our borders. The Peace & Global Witness Offering provides the tools and resources for us as we join together as active peacemakers—at all times, in all ways.

Learn more: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/peace-global-witness/>



September Caravan Session Update

Your session met on August 24 for their regularly scheduled meeting. Here is a recap of the decisions made by your leaders:

- The Building and Grounds Committee takes great care of our facility and brought three important motions for action. First, to contract for the addition of heat trace to the lazy valleys on the roof where ice dams were experienced last year. This is a necessary step to avoid a recurrence of ice dams going forward. Second, the design phase of the replacement of the heating system in Wings B & C (CE and Bradfield Hall Wings) was authorized. This is an important first step so that the contractor bid process will go smoothly. It is important that we replace the current system which was put in place in 1954. The goal is to have the work completed by October 2022. Finally, it was approved to install a retaining wall along the pathway near the front of the overhang. This will abate erosion and make the sidewalk safer for foot traffic.
- The date for the **Congregational Meeting** has been set for November 7 at 10 am. It is expected to be a short but important meeting, as the agenda will be the election of officers. More information will be forthcoming as the date nears.
- Funding was provided by the Gifts, Memorials, and Bequests Committee for a new **stained glass Resurrection Window** around the Columbarium. The Art Committee is working with the designer who created the dove glass piece in the Narthex.
- The Personnel Committee reported several **staff changes** on the near horizon. First, **Donna Monson** has announced she will retire this fall. Her last day on staff at Covenant will be Nov. 21. This advance notice gives us an opportunity to plan ahead. Second, **Lexie Ofe**, our Communications Coordinator, is leaving with her final day on Nov. 4. The committee has already successfully filled that position and **Derek Handley** will take on the role on Oct. 27. This overlap will provide welcome training opportunities. Finally, **Melissa Hinz** has accepted a new full-time position at Covenant. Her title will be Minister of Music and Pastoral Care beginning on September 1. This position essentially eliminates the 15–20-hour Parish Associate position previously filled by Clara Thompson and Sue Melrose.
- It was announced that **Executive Presbyter Chaz Ruark** will retire effective March 1, 2022 after 7 years of faithful service to the John Knox Presbytery. It was also announced that **Susan Hanauer** has resigned as Elder, effective following the August meeting, with **John Guequierre** taking over the role (to be officially elected in November). We thank them both for their faithful service.

The Session works diligently to maintain a safe and warming environment for the congregation and our guests. The staff work faithfully to serve the people of the congregation and help us all to serve God and walk the path of Jesus. We wish Lexie and Donna Godspeed when it's time for them to leave our ministry, and we welcome Derek and Melissa in their new roles. Thank you for your support of Covenant Church.

Laurie Jones, Clerk of Session

The Pandemic Journey at Covenant

The Reopening the Building Task Force (ROTF) continues to meet to make/revise gathering policies with the safety of the congregation paramount. We are committed to following the recommendations of the Dane County Health Department and WI Council of Churches as we continue to navigate this landscape of Covid. At this point, masks must be worn inside the building—a change from our status just a short time ago. We are able to make these changes quickly and, if required, will shut all in-person activities down should the need arise—heaven forbid—but we can do so on very short notice.

On Sunday, September 5, we will begin offering worship services at 9:00 and 11:00 am. Sunday school and Adult Christian Education begins at 10:00 am on Sunday, September 12. Sunday evening youth programming will begin on the 19th. The nursery will open in October.

We pray that you are all staying safe and seeking vaccination if you have not already done so. Our ability to gather is dependent on vaccinations at the church, in our communities, and across the globe. Thank you for doing your part while we remain vigilant and agile in these times of constant changes.

Minister of Music and Pastoral Care

We are excited to share the news that the Personnel Committee has agreed upon a new full time position (40 hours per week) for Melissa Hinz at Covenant. Tentatively titled **Minister of Music and Pastoral Care**, her general responsibilities will include: Music Coordinator (essentially what she has been doing, with some more emphasis on the arts; 15-20 hours); Pastoral Care (15-20 hours); and Administration and Technology (5-8 hours).

Melissa steps into this new role on September 1. This position essentially replaces the 15-20 hour Parish Associate role we've had (filled by Clara Thompson and Sue Melrose). Over her 13 years at Covenant, Melissa has shown strong faith, great teamwork, and solid ministry skills, so I'm confident she will step into this new role quite well and be a blessing to the people of Covenant.

Your Personnel Committee is working on immediate needs and longer term goals to help Covenant continue to flourish. Please contact any of us if you have questions.

Eric Girard (chair), Melissa Hardy, Raleigh Jones, Sally Lorenz, Steve Veazie, and Charlie Berthoud (Staff)

Soul Sisters Kick-Off Gathering Sep. 12

The **Soul Sisters** is a group for women – **Covenant members and non-members welcome** – who get together the second Sunday of the month in the evening for a time of fellowship, learning, laughter, sometimes tears, often some Bible study, but always for loving support of each other. We take turns hosting, leading discussions, and providing refreshments. Prior to Covid-19, we met in our homes (yes, in person!) and spent time together physically. During Covid, we met via Zoom,; so of course we did not share refreshments, but the format for meeting was much the same. This fall we anticipate meeting in person again, unless the CDC guidelines discourage this practice yet again. Should that happen, we will adjust our plans.

Our fall kick-off has traditionally been a potluck gathering—truly potluck, no planning or coordination involved—and we are going to try to do this again this year. We will gather at Rennebohm Park on Sunday, September 12, at 6:00 pm. We will finalize our plans for discussions at that time, along with some catch-up or get-to-know-you time. Please watch the Connections and your email for further details about the get-together. If you would like to join us and haven't before, please send your email and phone number to Nan Schaefer (schaefer.nan@gmail.com, or 608-233-3778) so she can add you to her list of group members.

Join Covenant at the Alzheimer and Dementia Walk September 18, 2021

On September 18, 2021 the Alzheimer and Dementia Alliance will sponsor the annual Memory Walk.

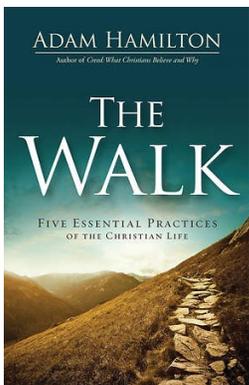
Alzheimer's disease and Dementia can give feelings of hopelessness. Join the Covenant family and know you are doing something to restore hope to those struggling with this progressive disease. Join the Covenant team on September 18th at Elver Park at 8:30 AM! There are options for a 1-mile or a 2-mile walk.

- **Please sign up to walk with the Covenant Team.** Sign up on the bulletin board just outside the church lounge; call Judy Stevenson (608-692-7384); or register online: <https://www.classy.org/team/373124>.
- **Or sponsor the Covenant team** by making out a check to “**Alzheimer and Dementia Alliance**” and leaving it in the church office.

All the money raised at the walk stays here in Wisconsin. Care consultation and support is available at every stage of the disease for the afflicted and the caregivers from the Alzheimer and Dementia Alliance. We will let you know how our team did after the walk. Thank you!



Stay tuned to learn about our
2022 Generosity Campaign:
On the Way.



Sign up for Small Groups in September!

Small groups are a tremendous way to spend time getting to know your church family while also reflecting together on God's work in our lives. This September, starting the week of the 12th, you will have a chance to join other members and friends of Covenant for weekly small groups. Some of the groups will be in person and some of the groups will be held via Zoom. The groups meet on different days and at different times, so hopefully you'll find a time that works for you. The groups will last for six weeks, but we understand that you may not be able to make every meeting.

The groups will follow our September sermon series and will incorporate themes and passages from Adam Hamilton's *The Walk*. You do not need to read the book to be part of a group, but it is encouraged! **Pick up a FREE copy in the gathering space!**

Sign up on the bulletin board outside the lounge or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4daaab23a3f85-sign>.