

# The Caravan

on the journey together

NOVEMBER 2023

## Proud to Be Presbyterian - Especially in November! A letter from Pastor Charlie

I am proud to be a Presbyterian. This month at Covenant we have two special opportunities to celebrate our Presbyterianism!

On **Tuesday, November 14**, we are hosting a meeting of John Knox Presbytery ([jknox.org](http://jknox.org)). Pastors and elders from the 55 churches will be at Covenant most of the day, for worship and business of the church. JKP has churches throughout south central and western Wisconsin, along with northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota. We come together for four meetings per year and we support each other, as a "community of communities."

We need volunteer help for this day. If you can help, please contact the church office or Laurie Jones. Tasks include: Greeter, coffee setup, lunch help. Contact the office if you can help!

We offered to host this meeting on relatively short notice, after another site had to cancel. Let's show our JKP colleagues some warm Covenant hospitality!

On **Saturday, November 18**, Rev. Megan Berry is being installed as our Associate Pastor. This special worship service includes liturgy of installation, a charge to Megan, and a charge to us as a congregation. We will have festive music including children's choir, the handbell choir, and the chancel choir! A reception will follow.

I love Covenant Presbyterian Church, and I'm glad that we are part of a "community of communities" in John Knox Presbytery and part of the Presbyterian Church USA ([pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org)). We are Christ's body—one body with many parts, sharing God's love in the world.

On the journey together,  
Charlie



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## Contact Us

(608) 233-6297

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

F 9:00-12:00

[info@covenantmadison.org](mailto:info@covenantmadison.org)

326 South Segoe Rd,  
Madison, WI 53705

[covenantmadison.org](http://covenantmadison.org)



# Coming Up @ Covenant

## First Wednesdays Potluck

**Wednesday, November 1, 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. This mid-week potluck takes place on the first Wednesday of the month.



## Singles Over 60 Small Group

**Sunday, November 5, 12:15pm**

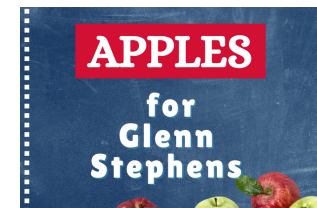
Are you 60ish years old or more and single? Covenant is starting a "Singles Over 60" small group for members and friends to enjoy meals together a few times a month. Join us in Bradfield Hall for food and beverages (provided). Contact Donna Monson or Barbara McCall for more information.



## Apples for Glenn Stephens

**Sunday, November 5**

The Mission Committee collects fresh fruit for Glenn Stephens Elementary School, one of our mission partners, so every student has a healthy snack. Want to help? Bring a bag (or two) of apples to the gathering space on November 5 (and every 1st Sunday/mo).



## Covenant Honor Roll

**Sunday, November 12**

Covenant will honor and remember active-duty service members and veterans in honor of Veterans Day. We will recognize them in worship and celebrate them with the new Covenant Honor Roll in Bradfield Hall. Thank you for your service!



## Soul Sisters Potluck

**Sunday, November 12, 12:30pm**

Women of Covenant are invited to a discussion on the topic "How do you experience God in your life?" led by Nancy Gunder. Please bring your own lunch! Soul Sisters is a group of women who gather on the 2nd Sunday monthly (Sept-May) for interesting discussions and Bible study, always in loving support of each other. For more info, contact Barb Eikenberry at [barb.eikenberry@gmail.com](mailto:barb.eikenberry@gmail.com).



## Game Day & Covenant

**Sunday, November 12, 3:00-5:00pm**

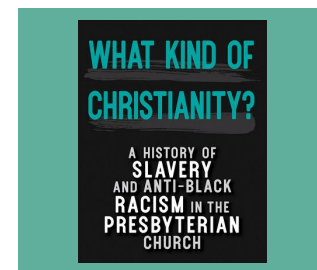
Come enjoy some snacks, games of all kinds, and fellowship – Backgammon, Euchre, Apples to Apples, Blockus, Guess Who, Scary Bingo, etc... Come join the fun and bring your own games and snacks to share as well. This is a CONNECT event. CONNECT is a program of deacon-sponsored events with the intention of fostering connection between Covenant and the community.



## Book Talk: *What Kind of Christianity?*

**Sunday, November 12, 12:15pm**

Dr. William Yoo's visit created a great deal of interest in this book. Due to this response and the difficult subject matter, we decided to hold a book discussion to talk about reactions and the insights from the book. Discussion leaders will present an overview of the book, quotes, and background info. Feel free to come even if you haven't finished the book, and no need to sign up! Snacks provided. Contact the office with questions.

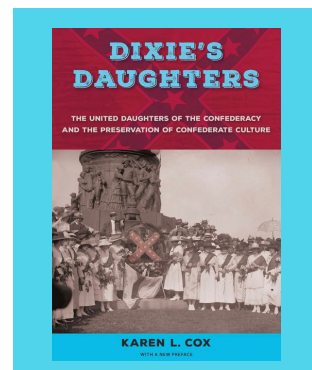


## Coming Up @ Covenant (continued)

### RAF Book Study: "Dixie's Daughters"

**Thursdays, 7:00-8:00pm (November 16 - December 7)**

Racist Anonymous Fellowship's next book study is a 4-week study on "Dixie's Daughters" by Karen L. Cox (2019 edition) will begin November 16 on Zoom. If you are curious to know why and how so many Confederate monuments were built after the Civil War, (even in our Nation's Cemetery!) and why the myth of the "Lost Cause" became so entrenched in the South, this book is very enlightening. Learning how and why structural racism exists is a primary step in eradicating it! Email Jennifer Morgan [jbmorgan@me.com](mailto:jbmorgan@me.com) for more information or for the link to the Zoom meeting.



### Festival of Gratitude

**Wednesday, November 22, 6:30pm**

An ecumenical service of Gratitude with churches from the Near-West side of Madison will be held at Bethany United Methodist Church this Thanksgiving season. Clergy, members and friends from the neighborhood will gather to give thanks to God, to worship, to sing and to pray together. There will be a combined choir welcoming singers from all participating congregations, and even a combined handbell group. The service will be followed by a **Pie Reception** and a time of fellowship. All are welcome! See Melissa Hinz if you are interested in singing or playing the handbells - or bringing a pie!



### Spiritual Stroll

**Sunday, November 26, 2:00pm**

Our November Spiritual Stroll will be held at Owen Conservation Park! 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 green space every month.



## Announcements

### Guatemala Auction - Donations Being Accepted Soon!

Covenant's Guatemala Auction is set for **Sunday, December 3!** Donations will be accepted **beginning Sunday, November 5!** Last year, the auction raised \$11,118.18, including purchases of auction items and in-kind donations. As the auction approaches, we are looking for creative donations of new/pristine items with a minimum value of \$10 - event tickets, experiences, vacation stays, lessons, artwork, food/drink baskets, etc... We will receive donations until **Wednesday, November 22.**



### Nursery Assistant - Now Hiring!

Love working with infants/toddlers? We have a position open for a Nursery Assistant, 4-6 hours/week, two Sunday mornings per month. Visit [covenantmadison.org/employment](https://covenantmadison.org/employment) for more information on the position and help spread the word if you know someone!



## Happy Birthday!

**November 1**  
Garrett Leonard

**November 3**  
Judy Brannstrom  
Karen Kennedy

**November 4**  
Dee Fussell

**November 5**  
Nick Von Bergen  
Jacqueline Whitley  
Kate Donnelly

**November 7**  
Polly Guequierre

**November 8**  
Peter Gunder  
Patricia Svendsen

**November 9**  
Ann Neviaser  
Doug Rasmussen

**November 10**  
Laura Courtney  
Sophia Blomme  
Andrea Diaczun  
Russ Middleton  
Ernie Perry

**November 11**  
David Sommers  
Patsy Lamm  
Sam Qastin

**November 12**  
Betty Matthews

**November 14**  
Margie Coons

**November 15**  
Tess Lincecum  
Joan Petersen  
Anna Ruble  
Haddy Senghore  
Jaydee Slobert

**November 17**  
Christine Barden  
Carol Philipps  
Abram Rodriguez  
Natalie Watrud

**November 18**  
Elias Fields  
Chris Lee  
Barbara McCall

**November 21**  
Pete Anderson  
Rhonda Rohn

**November 22**  
Deb Cohn

**November 23**  
Ron Crabb  
Bret Larget  
Eli Rodriguez  
Ellie Schmidt

**November 24**  
Christopher Barden

**November 25**  
Cole Dybdahl  
Jean Rodriguez  
Ginny Yuska

**November 26**  
Bill Sonzogni

**November 27**  
Jane Bertram

**November 28**  
Jim Douglas

**November 29**  
Marybeth Friske

**November 30**  
Joe Kick  
Jane Stark

\*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, November 5**  
All Saints' Day | Holy Communion  
Charlie Berthoud | "Out of the Great Ordeal...Together"  
Revelation 7:9-17 | Necrology Reading\*

**Sunday, November 12**  
Rev. Sue Melrose | "Making Choices"  
Joshua 24:1-3a; 14-24

**Sunday, November 19**  
Rev. Kerri Parker | "Story-Bearers"  
Isaiah 65:17-25 | Matthew 5:23-24  
Guest musicians: Natalie & Derek Handley

**Sunday, November 26**  
Christ the King Sunday  
Megan Berry

\*if you would like the name of a loved-one  
that has died in the last year read aloud  
during worship, contact the office.

Unless otherwise noted, services are offered at  
9:00am & 11:00am in person and on YouTube.

## Joys, Concerns & Prayers

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

Jim Davis, Covenant member  
Carol Bagley, friend of Marilyn Unruh and  
Laurie Unruh Raihala  
June Stellberg, mother of Gwen Long  
Lucy Miller Berry, mother of Rev. Megan Berry

We celebrate the birth of:  
Quinn Madison Thordarson, daughter of Dustin  
& Ellen (Bugg) Thordarson and granddaughter of  
Chris & Peggy Bugg

## Children's Ministries

**Sunday School**  
**Sundays, 10:00-10:50am**  
(3 years old through 8th grade)

**Kaleidoscope Kids**  
(3 years old through 2nd grade)

Kaleidoscope Kids meets during worship following Children's Time (9am only). Kaleidoscope teaches our children about worship and helps prepare them to know what's happening in the sanctuary.

### Sunday Worship

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

Our Nursery is available to children ages 3 and under. Hours are **8:45am-12:15pm**.

## Youth Connection

**Youth Connection**  
**Sundays, 6:00-7:30pm**

Join us for fun, fellowship, and friendship! Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers meet in Bradfield Hall first, then they break off into small groups.

### Confirmation

**Sundays at 10:00am**

9th and 10th graders - Join us for Confirmation where you will get to explore your biggest faith questions, the traditions of being Presbyterian, and why we care about being the Body of Christ together! We meet Sundays in A101.

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



**Installation Service**  
for Rev   
**Megan Berry**  
**Sat, Nov 18 3pm**  
Reception to follow!

## Library Corner

### Book Review: *Jayber Crow*

Written by Wendell Berry | Reviewed by Jenn Sauer

Skimming through the front matter of poet, essayist, farmer, environmentalist Wendell Berry's novel *Jayber Crow*, I encountered the usual: a dedication, acknowledgements... but I was not expecting the page titled NOTICE, which reads:

Persons attempting to find a "text" in this book will be prosecuted; persons attempting to find a "subtext" in it will be banished; persons attempting to explain, interpret, explicate, analyze, deconstruct, or otherwise "understand" it will be exiled to a desert island in the company only of other explainers. BY ORDER OF THE AUTHOR...

Read more at [covenantmadison.org/post/jayber-crow](https://covenantmadison.org/post/jayber-crow)

## Adult Education

**Sunday, November 5, 10:00am**

**“Sermon on the Mount” – Melissa Hardy**

Matthew 5-7 is known as The Sermon on the Mount. Many refer to this passage as “the greatest sermon ever preached.” Join us as we break down this sermon and learn about Jesus' moral vision for humanity, emphasizing the importance of compassion, humility, and forgiveness.

**Sunday, November 12, 10:00am**

**“Caring for Our Own: A Military Chaplain’s Story” – Rev. Kirk Morledge**

Join us for a conversation with retired PC(USA) pastor and retired Chaplain of the U.S. Navy Reserves, Rev. Kirk Morledge, as he shares about his experiences as a Chaplain caring for our men and women serving in the armed forces.

**Sunday, November 19, 10:00am**

**“Land Acknowledgements Done Better” – Rev. Kerri Parker**

Rev. Kerri Parker, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches will lead a class on “Land Acknowledgments Done Better,” offering a guide to crafting meaningful land acknowledgments. She will suggest homework regarding the land on which you reside, peoples in the area, and church history. The style of land acknowledgment includes invitations to (and ideas for) concrete action steps in response to what you learn. Rev. Parker's material comes from the work of the Wisconsin Council of Churches in listening to/with Indigenous Peoples in Wisconsin and seeking responsible relationship.

**Sunday, November 26, 10:00am**

**“The Songs of the Season” – Covenant Chancel Choir**

Join the Covenant Chancel Choir as we learn the stories of some of our favorite Christmas Carols!

All Adult Ed classes are offered in-person and on **YouTube** at [youtube.com/c/CovenantPresbyterianChurch](https://youtube.com/c/CovenantPresbyterianChurch). Visit [covenantmadison.org/adult](https://covenantmadison.org/adult) for more information about Adult Education at Covenant.

## Behind the Scenes

It takes many hands to do the work that keeps Covenant running smoothly, and many of those tasks happen behind the scenes.

**Thank You to:**

- Caregiving volunteers who visit and spend time with Covenant members and friends in senior care facilities and their homes.
- Sunday School, Kaleidoscope and Youth Connection volunteers who nurture the next generation.
- The Deacons, who cleaned out the kitchen recently.
- Office volunteers who helped out in the office while Bailey was on vacation.

If you would like to take part in one of these ministries, please contact the church office at [info@covenantmadison.org](mailto:info@covenantmadison.org).

Your Session met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 24 in a different room because the church was being utilized by the Madison Learning Community class of the Dubuque Seminary. Covenant has 5 participants in this class! We thanked Rev. Kathleen Owens for joining with us to Moderate the meeting due to the absences of both Pastor Charlie and Pastor Megan.

The Finance Committee has been hard at work developing policies that will bring our financial records up to date, as required by the last financial audit. They are almost finished with the long list of policies and are also working on a procedure manual for the office and financial coordinator. These documents should be finished by the end of the year and will be helpful in keeping our processes moving smoothly when any future staff transitions occur.

The Deacons have been working hard to sponsor engaging CONNECT events as well as orchestrating a card ministry and providing the staffing required to serve coffee and donuts in Bradfield Café on Sunday mornings. Eight Deacons joined together on Oct. 24 to clean the kitchen, including emptying the drawers, cleaning, and organizing. The kitchen sparkles thanks to the hard work of these Deacons!

Ruling Elders Steve Fulton and Jennifer Morgan were elected as the Presbytery Commissioners on Nov. 14. This meeting will be held here at Covenant from 9:30am to 3:00pm.

The Adult Education Committee is happy to share that the Sunday AE classes are now not only recorded, but immediately uploaded to YouTube thanks to the hard work of our new technology staff member Jay Petrie.

At the beginning of the meeting, a discussion was held about membership requirements - just what does it mean to be a member of this faith community? The Book of Order identifies what each member should do. Pastor Charlie emphasizes them at Inquirer's Classes for new members and has talked about them in recent sermons. The list is long, but it's not meant to be a personal "to-do" list. One should give what you can, when you can, where you are, remembering that your time and presence are important to give. Membership is about the relationships made on the journey. May God be with us as we continue to journey together to live out our faith.

## Mission Spotlight

**"For I was hungry, and you gave me food." -Mathew 25: 35**

The **Little Free Pantry** is one way to live God's love by helping friends in the Covenant Church neighborhood who are facing food insecurity. Covenant members engage in supporting the community by placing food, hygiene, or paper items inside the pantry; Covenant neighbors, in turn, may take freely from the pantry, knowing they are supported and loved. It's a win-win!



Donations for the pantry are always welcome, especially as the winter months approach! What kinds of items are good to donate? Breakfast foods (e.g., cereal, oatmeal, toaster pastries; pancake mix); peanut butter and jelly (plastic, not glass, containers); boxed dinners (e.g., mac n' cheese; instant potatoes; pasta); hygiene products (e.g., toothpaste, soap, shampoo); granola bars and dried fruit; canned goods, especially soups. You may place items directly inside the pantry, or on the pantry storage shelves outside the church office. Members of the Mission Committee regularly stock the pantry and keep it organized and clean.



Covenant Presbyterian Church

326 S. Segoe Road  
Madison, WI 53705