

SEPTEMBER 2022

The Caravan

ON THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

FALL
AT COVENANT

SEPTEMBER 11

- Return to TWO services (9:00 & 11:00am)
- Ministry Fair (10:00am)
- Sunday School resumes (10:00am)
- Youth Connection resumes (see p. 4)

Hearing the Voices of People Long Silenced:
WOMEN of GENESIS

begins Sept 4!



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Hearing the Voices of People Long Silenced

A Letter from Pastor Charlie

We often share excerpts from “A Brief Statement of Faith” in worship. I love this statement, as it concisely articulates who we are and how we are called to be the church. (I also am grateful that it was approved in 1991, the year I was ordained.) Here’s a short history lesson about the BSF and the role of women in the church:

In 1956, Margaret Towner was the first woman ordained as a Presbyterian pastor in the USA.

In 1975, Walter Wynn Kenyon was denied ordination in the Presbyterian Church, because he did not support the ordination of women. The “Kenyon Case” was big news, as the church was affirming women’s ordination as an essential tenet of our faith.

In 1983, the northern and southern branches of the Presbyterian church unified, after splitting in 1844 over slavery.

In 1991, “A Brief Statement of Faith” became part of our Book of Confessions, an official affirmation of our church. Mindful of lingering questions about the role of women in the church, the BSF affirms equality three separate places:

- “In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.”
- “In everlasting love, the God of Abraham **and Sarah** [emphasis mine] chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.”
- “The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles . . . and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.”

Then near the end of the BSF, we affirm:

- “In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage . . . to hear the voices of peoples long silenced...”

In September, we have a four-week sermon series on women in the book of Genesis. Too many of us have heard only about Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph – and hardly anything about Eve, Sarah, Hagar, Leah, Rachel, Dinah, and others, with the hope of hearing their long silenced voices and stories. The Adult Ed Committee is also launching a Bible study of book of Genesis. See page 5 for more info.

In the BSF, I’ve always appreciated that phrase about hearing the voices of people long silenced. It encourages me to pause and strive to hear others. Jesus had a wonderful way of making everyone feel heard, especially the lost, the least, and the last. It’s too easy for us to simply keep listening to the loudest and most powerful voices – in politics, at the dinner table, and everywhere in between. Faithful Christians need to listen to everyone.

Congrats to Doug McNeel for 20 years at Covenant!

As of September 3, 2022, Doug McNeel will have served for 20 years as Covenant’s organist. Doug is a (as you already know) phenomenal organist, and has played organs all over the globe. Did you know that Doug is also Professor of Medicine at UW-Madison. He dedicates much of his career to cancer treatment. We honored Doug in worship on August 28. Thank you for all you do, Doug!





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

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

*If we missed your birthday, we apologize! Please contact the church office and we'll add yours for next year. Thank you for understanding!

Hearing the Voices of People Long Silenced: **WOMEN of GENESIS**

September Worship Schedule

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Sunday, September 4

9:30am | Holy Communion

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

Charlie Berthoud | "The Unknown Matriarch"

Genesis 12:1-5a, 10-20

Sunday, September 11

9am & 11am

Clara Thompson | "Rebekah Speaks Up"

Genesis 24:1-14

Sunday, September 18

9am & 11am

Charlie Berthoud | "What Would Dinah Say?"

Genesis 34:1-30

Sunday, September 25

9am & 11am

Jo Wiersema | "The Woman Who Named God"

Genesis 16:7-13

Joys, Cares & Concerns

••••• ❖ •••••

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

Pat Finley, brother-in-law of Jane Kolakowski;
Nora Ylvisaker, mother of Mary Zoroufy; Jessie
Mae Monroe, mother of Brenda Moten; William
Schwartz, father of Cheryl Wise.

Children's Ministries

Sunday School Resumes!

(3 years old through 8th grade)

Sunday School classes resume **on September 11** weekly from 10-10:50am.

Kaleidoscope Kids

(3 years old through 2nd grade)

Kaleidoscope Kids worship education meets during worship immediately following Children's Time in room C208. Come join the fun and learn all about what it means to worship!

Note: there is ONE service on Sept 4 (9:30) before returning to TWO services Sept 11 (9 & 11).

Register your kid at covenantmadison.breezechms.com/form/KidEdReg2022 for Sunday School, Kaleidoscope, or Nursery. This helps us know who to expect on Sunday morning and which grown-up to contact if we have questions!

Blessing of Backpacks

Children of all ages, join us on **September 11** during the children's message at 9am or 11am services for a Blessing of the Backpacks. Bring your backpack, tote bags, and work bags as we prepare for a safe and exciting school year.

Bible Presentation

Children entering 1st and 4th grade will be receiving their Bibles at our yearly Bible Presentation on **September 18**. More info will be sent out to parents of children entering those grades.

Sunday Worship

On Sunday mornings, we invite families into worship! For your convenience, we offer **Family Worship Bags**, a selection of **Children's Bibles** to read during the service, and a **Children's Time** that explains the morning's scripture lesson. Our **Nursery** is open from 9:15-10:45 (Sept 4) and 8:45-12:15 (Sept 11 and after) for children under age 3.

For more information, please contact Children's Ministries Coordinator Jo Wiersema at jlwiersema@covenantmadison.org.

Youth Connection



Last month, our Youth Ministries Coordinator of 26 years, Steve Royalton, retired. We honored him in worship on August 7 and celebrated Steve and his ministry afterward (pictured above).

Youth Connections Kick-Off

On Sunday, September 11, our Middle School and High School Youth Connections will kick off the season! MSYC meets **from 4:30-5:30pm**, and HSYC **from 6-7:30pm**. Join us for fun, fellowship, and friendship! Jo Wiersema and Bailey Green will be taking over leadership, along with several experienced advisors. We're looking forward to a fresh start and a great year! Both groups will meet weekly this Fall.

Mercy Mats

The Mercy Mats project needs you! Bring your clean plastic shopping bags to church and put in the receptacle in the coat room. Our team of mat makers turn them into crocheted mats and distribute them to our mission partners. If you're interested in joining the MM Team, contact Laurie Jones at lauriewarren-jones@gmail.com.

Adult Education - September

Adult Education resumes at Covenant this month! All Adult Ed classes meet **Sundays at 10:00am** in Bradfield Hall and are available on Zoom at: us02web.zoom.us/j/89540028471.

September 4 No class

September 11 No class - Ministry Fair in Bradfield Hall

September 18 *Matthew 25*

Not long ago, Covenant became a *Matthew 25* church. Join us for a Bible study in which we will read and reflect on the Gospel of Matthew (chapter 25), which is the inspiration for the PC(USA) *Matthew 25* vision. With that scriptural grounding, we will also consider and discuss what it means for Covenant to be a *Matthew 25* church.

September 25 *Genesis Kick-Off*

This Fall, we will embark on a six session series to learn more about Genesis. We will cover the timeline of the book, key themes, stories and characters. Classes will blend foundational information with historical context and challenge us to think about stories from a variety of perspectives. Prior knowledge of Genesis is not needed. Classes are planned for 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/13 and 11/20.

Small Groups!

In mid September, we'll have another 6-week cycle of small groups with a focus on money. Stay tuned for more info. *Learn and grow together.*

For more information on Adult Education at Covenant, visit covenantmadison.org/adult. You can view resources from past classes and/or view videos from past classes as well.

Ministry Fair

Sunday, September 11, 10:00am

Join us for the Covenant Ministry Fair in Bradfield Hall during the Adult Education Hour. Come learn about all the fruitful ministries at Covenant Presbyterian Church – and see how you can get involved! If you would like to request a table for your ministry, please contact Melissa Hinz at mhinz@covenantmadison.org.

Fall Blood Drive

Wednesday, September 21, 12:00-5:00pm

Save the date for the next Blood Drive at Covenant! Your donation is needed today to ensure patients get the help they need. For even further incentive - if you donate, you will receive a free haircut coupon for Sport Clips! Sign up at redcrossblood.org or 1-800-RED-CROSS. Enter sponsor code "Covenantpresmadison" at the top right to find our drive.



Spiritual Stroll

Sunday, September 25, 2:00pm

Save the date for the next Spiritual Stroll! More info to come in the following weeks. These Spiritual Strolls are on the 4th Sunday of the month, and are part of a Covenant program called *CONNECT*, a program of events sponsored by the deacons of Covenant with the intention of fostering connection within the congregation and community.



Mission Spotlight

Pres House



Mission partner Pres House aims to be a spiritual home at the heart of the UW-Madison campus. This spiritual home is more than just a house for worship and a residence for hundreds of UW-Madison students. Pres House aims to be a home through which a community is built which: rests on a sturdy foundation but is in a continual state of remodeling and spiritual growth; nourishes the physical body through weekly meals, but nourishes souls through worship services and fellowship; serves to witness Jesus Christ in the reformed Presbyterian tradition, but is welcoming and open to people with any or no faith background. Pres House is openly affirming to people from the LGBTQ+ community and encourages everyone to “bring all of who you are.”

Pres House engages the public mostly, but not exclusively UW-Madison students, through weekly Sunday afternoon worship services and meals prepared by volunteers. Last year, Covenant volunteers have gathered once each semester to cook, serve, and share meals while participating in fellowship with students and leadership. While weekly services are an important part of the Pres House outreach efforts, they are far from the only activity in which Pres House engages. During summer months, Pres House organizes weekly mid-week Church Unbound gatherings which encourages participants to engage in thoughtful conversation while sharing a meal and exploring different parts of Madison. Graduate students are invited to weekly coffee hours. Other social events include a trip to a pumpkin patch, a weekend retreat at a bible camp on Lake Waubesa, and a Yule Ball.

Pres House provides leadership and service opportunities to an active Student Council which plans and organizes events throughout the year. Some students who wish to share their musical talents form a music team which provides music during weekly services. Residents also engage in volunteer service projects. Pres House fosters an environment where the residents and participants in the program engage in deep discussion of important issues of the day, but also seek opportunities to act in the community to help carry out God’s will.

Covenant is one of many Presbyterian churches in the area whose mission outreach provides meals, but also supports Pres House financially. Covenant shares several thousand dollars each year to support the programming at Pres House. Several Covenant members also make generous individual gifts. All donations received by Pres House supports their mission as a spiritual home for college-age students in Madison and Covenant is an important partner in helping Pres House carry out this mission.

Opportunities to Serve Glenn Stephens

It’s Pen Pal Time!

The Pen Pal program is part of the partnership between Covenant and Glenn Stephens Elementary School. Students get real life practice reading and writing, and Covenant pen pals get to connect with students by writing a note every month or so. If you have been a pen pal in the past, watch your email for information about this year. If you haven’t been a pen pal, but would like to give it a try, email Ann at afathas@mac.com for more information.

Snacks are back!

Once again we will be providing fruit for healthy snacks for Glenn Stephens students. Our fruit collection will kick off this fall with the collection of apples on October 2. Watch for more information later in the month.

Library Corner

Book Review: Where Do We Go From Here

Written by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. | Reviewed by Doug Poland



[Excerpt] *Where Do We Go From Here: Community or Chaos?* was the last book written by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. before he was assassinated. To my surprise, it felt like a book that could have been written today. I was both amazed and saddened at the similarity of the challenges that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. saw in society and how it compared to those we face today.

Read more here: www.covenantmadison.org/post/book-review-where-do-we-go

Session Report

Laurie Jones, Clerk of Session

Your Session met for their regularly scheduled meeting on August 23, having taken the month of July off. A great deal of the time was spent looking forward. The Session is discussing when to form the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) and has formed a team to write up and update the Mission Study. The Session will hold a retreat with Deacons and select staff on September 17 with Rev. Loren Shellabarger of Iowa, conducting a Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis. There should be 3-5 actionable items that come out of the discussions which may inform the Mission Study. Also looking forward, the Personnel Committee is working to fill a new part-time staff position for livestreaming the worship service (this has become more complicated than just clicking through the slides in worship!). The interim youth ministry staffing plan was approved and how to address it long-term was discussed. A Congregational Meeting has been called to elect officers on October 30 at 10am.

The Building & Grounds Committee reported they are coming to a close on the boiler project and will be contracting for professional floor cleaning when done. The sanctuary chancel lighting, being over 50 years old, is being updated with new, more energy efficient fixtures. The Interior Committee is working on purchasing new furniture for the heavily used Lounge.

The upcoming trip to Guatemala will include several projects for which funding was approved, bi-monthly meals for the Porchlight Men's Shelter will be resumed, and funding was approved to help sponsor Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development's 30th Anniversary Celebration.

The Session remains engaged and is putting effort into looking into our future and how we can help share the love of Jesus Christ in the community around us and across the nation and globe. Thank you for your prayers of support.

Soul Sisters Kick-Off Gathering

Sunday, September 11, 12:15pm

You are invited to the kickoff gathering for Soul Sisters with a potluck in Covenant's courtyard picnic benches after the second service. If it is raining heavily, we have the option of moving indoors into Bradfield Hall but outside is preferred because of COVID concerns. Please bring a dish to share (main, side dish, or dessert) and your own plates, cups, and utensils (we will have some available if needed). Also, if you want to find out more or would like to join Soul Sisters and haven't before, please send your email and phone number to coordinator Barb Eikenberry (barb.eikenberry@gmail.com or 608-333-9746). Soul Sisters is open to all Covenant women.



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A graphic announcement for Sunday Worship. The background is dark grey with vertical wood grain patterns. In the top left and bottom right corners, there are grids of small, golden-yellow dots. The text "SUNDAY" is in large, bold, golden-yellow capital letters, and "WORSHIP" is in large, bold, white capital letters below it. A horizontal bar with a dark red left half and a golden-yellow right half contains the text "9:00am CONTEMPORARY" and "11:00am TRADITIONAL" respectively. Below this bar, the word "resumes" is written in a small, white, cursive font, followed by "September 11, 2022" in a larger, golden-yellow, cursive font, flanked by two horizontal arrows. In the bottom left corner, the text "LEARNING GOD'S LOVE" and "LIVING GOD'S LOVE" is written in white, all-caps, sans-serif font, stacked vertically. In the top right corner, the Covenant Presbyterian Church logo is displayed in white.