

The Caravan

on the journey together

OCTOBER 2023

Which One Will You Choose? Thinking About Church Life

A letter from Pastor Charlie

We have an Inquirer's Class starting on October 8 for people curious about being a Christian and about church membership. Our Presbyterian constitution (the Book of Order) tells us that membership is a joy but it also involves the responsibility to live in a new way. According to the BOO that involvement includes many things:

- proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
- taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
- lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
- studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
- supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,
- caring for God's creation,
- participating in the governing responsibilities of the church,
- and reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

October is a good month for us to think about our responsibilities to each other within our church community. Our Building Blocks series continues, focusing on this list, with the hope that we could all find ways to evaluating and enhance our Christian living, for the sake of the church and to help us be more fully alive as people and as Christians.

So which one of these do you need to focus on? Pick one, or maybe two, and pray about it.

May God help us all build strong foundations for faithful living.

On the journey together,
Charlie

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Contact Us

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F 9:00-12:00

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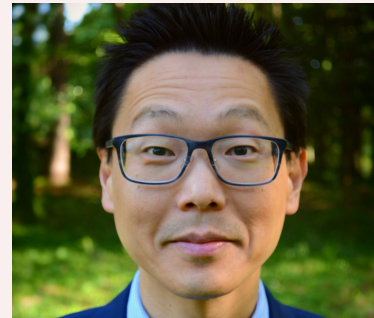


Coming Up @ Covenant

Dr. William Yoo Visits Covenant!

Sunday, October 1 - World Communion Sunday

We are very excited to welcome Dr. William Yoo to Covenant on World Communion Sunday! Dr. Yoo will preach and lead our Adult Education class for the day (more info on p.4 and 6). Dr. Yoo is the author of "What Kind of Christianity? A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church," which many Covenant members studied in the recent Racists Anonymous Fellowship book study.



First Wednesdays Potluck

Wednesday, October 4, 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.



UW Men's Soccer Game & Tailgate

Friday, October 6, 7:00pm/5:30pm

Join us at the Badger Men's Soccer game against the Michigan State Spartans! Entry to the game is FREE. We will meet in Parking Lot 60 at 5:30pm for the tailgate. Hot dogs will be provided! Bring your own beverages and a snack to share. This is a CONNECT event. CONNECT is a program of deacon-sponsored events with the intention of fostering connection between Covenant and the community.



Soul Sisters Potluck

Sunday, October 8, 7:00pm

Women of Covenant - you are invited to Soul Sisters! Soul Sisters is a group of women who gather once a month for fellowship, interesting discussions and Bible study, always in loving support of each other. We will meet the 2nd Sunday each month (Sept-May). Outings and weekend retreats are a possibility. For more info, contact Barb Eikenberry at barb.eikenberry@gmail.com.



Inquirer's Class

Sundays, October 8, 15, 22, 10:00am

Want to learn more about Covenant and the possibility of membership? Come join the Inquirer's Classes! Topics will include what it means to be a Christian, Covenant programs, and membership. Come to one of the classes, or all three. Contact Pastor Charlie at charlie@covenantmadison.org if interested.



Spiritual Stroll

Sunday, October 22, 2:00pm

Our October Spiritual Stroll will be held at Pope Farm 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

Covenant Honor Roll

Are you an active-duty service member or veteran? At Covenant, we would like to honor and support you, and let you know that we appreciate your service. Fill out our online informational form using the QR code here or at shorturl.at/sxyV4. Any info collected here will not be shared outside of staff without your permission. We thank you for your service!



Native Plants at Covenant

What's going on with those plants in front of the sanctuary? We have had a blank canvas on the grounds in front of the sanctuary for a few years while we contemplated how best to use the space. In keeping with having responsible "dominion over the earth," (Gen 9:7) the Green Team decided to go native. We have planted a native garden in front of the sanctuary. Hopefully in the years to come, all of these plants will act to attract more native insects and birds to the area, and generally improve the quality of habitat around the building. There will be 5 shrubs added to the planting soon.



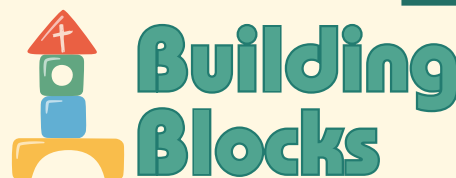
We will be looking for new volunteers in the Spring to help us maintain these new spaces - the first few years of native plants require a bit of maintenance to make sure they can establish their places. Many thanks to Steve Whayland for getting this going, and to Peter Hughes, Chris Barden, Dennis Joose, Dave Athas, Bob Schaefer, and Lee Jones for helping to dig, plant, and water!

Contact Rosemary Jones at rsjdds@gmail.com if you are interested in helping to maintain the gardens.

2024 Generosity Campaign - *Building Blocks*

"So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already." -1 Thessalonians 5:11

This verse is the inspiration for this Fall's theme of "Building Blocks." You have already been building blocks by offering your time, talents, and treasures to Covenant, and thus helped fortify the larger Church. We will be sending out packets soon for this year's Generosity Campaign. (At Covenant, we use the word **generosity** instead of stewardship.) As always, we encourage you to give as you feel called by God. If you haven't received a packet by mid-October, feel free to contact the office!



Volunteer Opportunities

Bradfield Cafe Volunteer: Visit shorturl.at/jJSV3 to sign up!



Greeter & Welcome Center Volunteer: Visit shorturl.at/hsQUZ to sign up!



Happy Birthday!

Worship Schedule



October 1
Marta Cantrell
Hee Soo Jung

October 3
Heather Marley
Eric Miller
Will Salmonowicz
Drew Walden
Janice Walden

October 5
Henry Gibson

October 8
Jackson Girard

October 9
Hazel Dybdahl
Rhys Enderle
Colleen Gullickson
Brenda Moten

October 10
Carrie Sanders
Beth Wilson

October 11
Todd Friske
Jack Sydnor

October 12
Jan Minardi

October 13
Kristin Bauer
Kurt Brink
Rosie Dybdahl
Piper Mace

October 14
John Swartz

October 15
Rod Heller
TJ Sargent
Jenn Sauer

October 16
Deri Cattelino
Susan Kau

October 18
Jim Davis
Jeanette Hyland
Chan Sommers

October 20
George Hess
Joann Pivotto

October 21
Karen Best
James Stadler

October 22
Jim Griffith

October 23
Nancy Gunder
Ellen Stautz
LeRoy Stoner

October 24
Mary King
Ian Soderberg
Tess Stadler

October 25
Jason Potter

October 27
Peter Hughes
Jon Lenius
Ginger McIntosh

October 28
Pete Kechele
Cheryl Krebs

October 29
Katie Rasmussen

October 30
Frances Parker
Don Peterson
Patricia Thielbar
Mary Tibbitts

October 31
Riess Perry

Sunday, October 1

World Communion Sunday

Dr. William Yoo | "To Hunger and Thirst for Justice and Righteousness" | Amos 5:18-24, Matthew 5:6

Sunday, October 8

Charlie Berthoud | "Where is the Offering Plate?"
1 Peter 4:10, 1 Corinthians 12

Sunday, October 15

Charlie Berthoud | "Beyond Charity"
Luke 10:25-37, Amos 5:21-24

Sunday, October 22

Megan Berry | "Put Your Mask on First"
Genesis 1:34-2:3

Sunday, October 29

Charlie Berthoud | "Never Stop Improving"
Ephesians 2:8-10

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:

Jessica Kennedy Matthews, friend of Betsy Erickson
Jeanne Marie Sullivan, mother of Dierdre Frees
April Durand, sister-in-law of Gordy & Eileen Durand
Gordon Byrd, father of Winfred Byrd

We celebrate the birth of:

Damien Chain Singh, son of Emily & Dill Singh, grandson of Doug & Rhonda Rohn
Eleanor Mundy Manansala, great-granddaughter of Basil & Alicia Mundy
Clark Conrad Tilden, son of Anna & Hanna Tilden, grandson of Betsy Saar

Prayers for our Sunday School teachers: Kate Sargent, James McGregor, Janna Doney, Melissa Schmidt, Cindy Lovell, Ron Crabb, TJ Sargent, Heather Marley, Bret Larget, and Friedemarie Farrar; **and Youth advisors:** Rachel Aune, Grady Brown, Mary-Beth Rolland, Brad Brown, Kris Bauer, Marge Resan, and Marco Mascitti

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

Children's Ministries

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:00-10:50am

(3 years old through 8th grade)

Children's Choir: B103 | Grades PreK-1: C207 | Grades 2-3:

C205 | Grades 4-5: B105 | Grades 6-8: A106 |

Confirmation: A101

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**.

Register Your Children!

If you haven't done so already, please register your children for Sunday School, Kaleidoscope, and Nursery to help us know who to expect on Sunday morning and which grown-ups to contact if we have questions. Register here: shorturl.at/gjknC

Visit covenantmadison.org/children or covenantmadison.org/youth for more information or contact Megan Berry at mberry@covenantmadison.org.

Youth Connection

Youth Connection

Sundays, 6:00-7:30pm

Join us for fun, fellowship, and friendship! This year, we are combining MSYC & HSYC into one big YC that meets weekly on Sunday evenings. They meet all together and then 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.

Halloween Party

Sunday, October 29, 4:00-6:00pm

Mark your calendars for our Halloween Party!

Join us for fun, games, and candy in your costumes. This is hosted by Youth Connection, however all ages are welcome to attend!



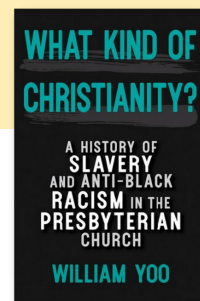
Library Corner

Book Review: *What Kind of Christianity? A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church*

Written by Dr. William Yoo | Reviewed by Jennifer Morgan

In this well-researched and timely book, Dr. Yoo provides a necessary insight into the complicity of most Presbyterians (in both the north and the south) during the long years of slavery in the colonies and the United States. Many, including myself, do not know our history as Americans and Presbyterians well enough to be truly honest about this complicity. In a time when there are those trying to limit the teaching of only positive views of our past to our children, this book is a valuable lesson.

Read more at covenantmadison.org/post/what-kind-of-christianity.



Adult Education

Sunday, October 1

"A History of the Gospel Paradox in American Christianity: When the Pursuit of Racial Justice Requires Confrontation" – Dr. William Yoo

We're thrilled to have Dr. William Yoo with us this Sunday. Dr. Yoo is an author and on faculty at Columbia Theological Seminary. He is author of the book "What Kind of Christianity? A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church," a book that our Racists Anonymous Fellowship did a study on this summer.

Sunday, October 8

2024 Generosity Campaign Presentation – Ann Perry and Colleen Gullickson

Sunday, October 15

"Living Out Matthew 25" – Arturo Ambriz

At Covenant, we seek not only to learn God's love but also to live God's love - to make what we have learned part of our daily lives. And as a Matthew 25 congregation, we have committed to actively engaging in God's mission in our community and the world around us. Join us for a presentation by one of our partners in that mission - Arturo Ambriz of the Lussier Community Education Center - to learn more about some of the work that Covenant and its mission partners are doing in the world today, and how that work helps make God's love manifest through our actions.

Sunday, October 22

"What is it Like to Be an Everyday Presbyterian?"

The teachings of the church influence our everyday lives in ways big and small, affecting how we see the world. We will hear from several Covenant members about what it is like to be a Presbyterian and how it shapes everyday experiences and service to others.

Sunday, October 29

No Class – Congregational Meeting

All Adult Education classes are offered in-person and on Zoom at us02web.zoom.us/j/89540028471. Visit 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:

- **Healing House** volunteers, who prepare food for families recovering from hospitalization.
- Volunteers who lead **CONNECT** events which foster connection between Covenant and community.

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

Your session met for its regularly scheduled meeting on October 19 after taking a month off. As is the custom, they began the meeting talking about a topic to “dig deeper” into a subject. This month was related to the sermon series with a focus on the sermon about Energy, specifically how each individual recharges and takes time to be in God’s presence. The conversation then changed gears to discuss how to make people (members and non-members) more comfortable and welcome at church. It was agreed that we collectively need to take care of and watch out for one another, those in the pews with us and those seemingly missing from the pews.

In other business, the Session approved two policies brought by the Finance Committee concerning cash receipts and operating reserves. It was reported that the church finances are healthy overall. The roster of Sunday School Teachers and Youth Advisors were approved as was the church school curriculum and confirmation class plan. A report about the Presbytery meeting in August was received and an article about it is included elsewhere in the Caravan. The Building and Grounds Committee shared that there are new plantings of trees to replace those lost in the windstorm. New shrubbery is also planted near the church to revitalize the visual appearance of the property.

The Ruling Elders of your Session work hard at their meetings and in their committee meetings to serve you with Energy, Intelligence, Imagination, and Love. If you have any questions or concerns any one of us would welcome your input.

John Knox Presbytery Report

Covenant was well represented at the August 19 meeting in Portage. Those present included: Jennifer Morgan, Jan Minardi, Rev. Megan Berry, Doug Poland, Laurie Jones, Raleigh Jones, Jim Spilburg, Carol Philipps, and Jo Wiersema. Laurie Jones moderated the meeting as Immediate Past Moderator because both the Moderator and Vice Moderator were on vacation. Key highlights included: 1) a report on the revisioning of the John Knox Presbytery with input sought from attendees regarding their concerns; 2) Doug Poland presented an Equipping the Saints session on vocation and calling, including several witness stories (Megan Berry among them) about how they came to the positions they hold and how/why they followed the nudge of the Holy Spirit to work for the Presbyterian Church; 3) Jo Wiersema and Natalie Handley (wife of Derek) were both examined to go from the Inquirer stage to the Candidate stage in the process to become ordained ministers, and were approved. They now enter their final year of seminary studies after which they will look for a call to ministry; 4) It was announced that September 21 is Gun Violence Prevention Day of Action at the Capital and that Gaia Magdalena Luczak, one of the 2023 International Peacemakers, will be in Wisconsin in October.

Mission Spotlight



NAMIWalks Dane County brings together families, friends, and neighbors to raise crucial funds and awareness of mental illness. Funds raised are used for education and support programs which are provided at no cost to participants. NAMIWalks is a day of support, connection, inspiration, celebration and hope, and will be held on **Saturday, October 7** at Olin-Turville Park.

This year, Jane and Gary Bertram will lead a team from Covenant and will be available in the narthex on October 1 to provide information about the walk, and how to sign up or support the Covenant team. For more information, visit shorturl.at/bjlm.



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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