

# The Caravan

OCTOBER 2022 ON THE JOURNEY TOGETHER



# MATTERS

**Money Matters, Life Matters**  
sermon series begins Oct 9

**Church Matters**  
2023 Generosity Campaign launches

**Money Matters**  
Small Group series under way



Covenant  
Presbyterian  
Church

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## ***What Do You Treasure?***

### **A Letter from Pastor Charlie**

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*  
-Matthew 6:21

Shortly after I began full time work as an Associate Pastor, the Senior Pastor suggested I go to a financial advisor, so I made an appointment. I was expecting a nuts-and-bolts conversation about salary, IRAs, mortgages, etc.

To my surprise, the meeting felt like a pastoral visit or even a therapy session. The financial advisor asked me lots of questions about life and meaning and purpose. He encouraged me to think about what was important to me, what my priorities were, and where I saw my life heading.

Looking back, it makes sense that financial planners ask these kinds of questions.

Jesus was right: where our treasure is, our hearts will be there too. (It's interesting that this teaching is right in the center of the Sermon on the Mount, the best-known collection of Jesus' teachings.) What we do with our money reflects our priorities and direction in life.

**Money can be a great blessing.** It provides comfort and pleasure for us, while also being a tool to bless our neighbors through our generosity.

**However, money can also be a problem.** Financial issues are a leading factor in divorces and family stress. Worrying about money causes stress. Greed leads people to fill their lives with too much stuff and not enough love. Temptation leads too many people to cheat on their taxes or steal from others.

The Bible has much to say about money and possessions, much of it cautionary. God invites us to have clear priorities, to love God and neighbor, and to avoid the love of money. This sounds good, but it's hard to put into practice.

On Sunday, October 9, we start a four week sermon series called *Money Matters, Life Matters*, with the hope of getting our priorities straight and discovering the abundant life Jesus offers us all. Come join us, as we count our blessings and remind each other about what we really treasure.



## **Generosity Campaign: *Church Matters***

You might notice a theme revolving around the word **matters** by now. Charlie mentioned our new sermon series *Money Matters, Life Matters*. You also have seen publicity for our Fall small group series *Money Matters*. The Generosity Campaign this year falls right in line, with the theme *Church Matters* and the verse Genesis 12:2 the focus ("blessed to be a blessing"). Generosity packets will be mailed out soon, and as you will notice, they will be a bit lighter in our attempts to stay green. The hope is to have commitment cards returned by or on Commitment Sunday (October 30). Thank you!



## Happy Birthday This Month to...

**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 Cattellino  
Susan Kau

**October 18**

Jim Davis  
Jeanette Hyland  
Katie Heal  
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

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



## Money Life MATTER

### October Worship Schedule

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**Sunday, October 2**

World Communion Sunday | Drum Circle!  
(Please have bread/juice available if worshipping from home)  
Charlie Berthoud | "What Happened to the  
Jebusites?" | Genesis 15:17-21

**Sunday, October 9**

*Money Matters, Life Matters* series begins  
Charlie Berthoud | "Problems and Possibilities"  
Matthew 6:24-33

**Sunday, October 16**

Charlie Berthoud | "Elizabeth Schuyler, Mick  
Jagger, and Timothy" | 1 Timothy 6:6-10

**Sunday, October 23**

Clara Thompson | "Collection or Offering?"  
Deuteronomy 12:5-7, Mark 12:38-44

**Sunday, October 30**

Charlie Berthoud | "Blessed to Be a Blessing"  
Genesis 12:1-2

Services offered at 9:00am & 11:00am in person and on YouTube

### Joys, Concerns & Prayers

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

**Lois Menninga**, Covenant friend

**Pauline Sparks**, Covenant member

**Tania Calovi Pereira**, sister-in-law of  
Mark Soderberg

**Elizabeth Piper**, aunt of Janice Walden

**Wolfgang Firnhaber**, brother-in-law of  
Friedemarie Farrar

**Mahlon F. Miller, II (Uncle Buz)**, uncle of  
Lisa Cantrell

Congratulations to Tosha Songolo and Rogelio  
Becerra on the baptism of their daughter, Nova  
Imani Becerra Songolo, who was baptized at  
Covenant on September 18th.

## Children's Ministries

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

**Kaleidoscope Kids**  
(3 years old through 2nd grade)  
Kaleidoscope Kids worship education meets during worship immediately following Children's Time (9am only). Come join the fun and learn all about what it means to worship!

**Note:** there is no Sunday School or Kaleidoscope on Sunday, October 2.

**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 8:45-12:15 for children ages 3 and under.

For more information, please contact Ministry Associate for Children, Youth & Mission Jo Wiersema at [jwiersema@covenantmadison.org](mailto:jwiersema@covenantmadison.org).

## Youth Connection

**Middle School Youth Connection (MSYC)**  
meets weekly **Sundays from 4:30-5:30pm.**  
**High School (HSYC) Sundays from 6-7:30pm.**

Youth Connection is designed to give youth the opportunity to become connected to Christ through participation in a wide variety of activities. Visit [covenantmadison.org/youth](http://covenantmadison.org/youth) for more information.

For more information, please contact Jo Wiersema at [jwiersema@covenantmadison.org](mailto:jwiersema@covenantmadison.org) or Bailey Green at [bgreen@covenantmadison.org](mailto:bgreen@covenantmadison.org).

***Halloween Party***  
**Sunday, October 30, 4-6pm**  
**Haunted house! Games!**  
**Open to kids ages 3-11.**

This event will be in place of the normal Youth Connection gathering. If you're interested in helping with set-up or clean-up, contact Bailey or Jo!

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## Session Report

*Laurie Jones, Clerk of Session*

Your Session met on September 27 for their regular monthly meeting. The primary topic was to discuss the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats) analysis conducted on September 17 at their mini-retreat with the Deacons and various staff. The Elders were excited by the opportunities seen for potential additional uses for our building and grounds and opportunities to focus on youth and young adults. As next steps were discussed, the primary topic was the writing of the Mission Study and nomination of members of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee in order to begin the search for a new Associate Pastor. The Session decided now is the time to begin discerning who should serve on this important committee. If you feel called to participate, or want additional information, please contact Amy Poland to be considered for service.

The Session determined that the church office will now be closed on Friday at noon. They also approved funding for new Sanctuary lighting in the chancel area, utilizing the proceeds realized as the beneficiary of Marsh Finner's insurance policy (technically part of the reserves now). In life, and in death, Marsh continues to serve Covenant. Thanks be to God!

Your Session thanks you for your continued prayers and works hard for the health and well-being of the congregation.

## Adult Education - October

Adult Ed classes meet **Sundays at 10:00am** in Bradfield Hall and are available on Zoom at: [us02web.zoom.us/j/89540028471](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89540028471).

- October 2**     *Racism and Poverty* - Justine Rufus  
As a continuation of our learning and living as a Matthew 25 congregation, Justine Rufus will join us virtually to discuss the challenges that structural racism and systemic poverty pose to tribal communities.
- October 9**     *Genesis (Week 2)* - Melissa Hardy  
Week 2 of a 6-week series on the book of Genesis (this is not a sequential series). Classes remaining are Oct. 23, Nov. 6, 13 and 20.
- October 16**    *Dear White Peacemaker* - Doug Poland, Brenda Moten  
Join us for the first of a 4-part discussion on the book *Dear White Peacemaker* by Osheta Moore. "Race is one of the hardest topics to discuss in America. Many white Christians avoid talking about it altogether. Written in the wake of George Floyd's death, *Dear White Peacemakers* draws on the Sermon on the Mount, Spirituals, and personal stories from Moore's work as a pastor in St. Paul, MN." Read more at [covenantmadison.org/adult-ed-classes](https://covenantmadison.org/adult-ed-classes).
- October 23**    *Dear White Peacemaker (Week 2) -OR- Genesis (Week 3)*
- October 30**    No class - Congregational Meeting

### Small Groups

Small Groups are under way for our new small group series *Money Matters*. Groups are meeting throughout the week at church or on Zoom, and discussing the book *Enough* by Adam Hamilton. It's not too late to join a group! Sign up at [covenantmadison.org](https://covenantmadison.org).



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

## Spiritual Stroll

***Sunday, October 30, 2:00pm | Owen Conservancy***

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.



## Soul Sisters

***Sunday, October 9***

All women are invited to Soul Sisters, which meets the 2nd Sunday of each month, with a time TBD but tentatively at 7:00pm **in-person and on Zoom**. Masks are currently recommended at Covenant. Soul Sisters is a group for women, members and friends of Covenant, to share fellowship and faith. If you want to find out more or would like to join Soul Sisters, please send your email and phone number to coordinator Barb Eikenberry at [barb.eikenberry@gmail.com](mailto:barb.eikenberry@gmail.com) or at (608) 333-9746.

## Mission Spotlight

**Save the Date for our  
30th Birthday Party!**

### CELEBRATE WITH US

**We Are Throwing A Community-Wide Cocktail Party  
To Celebrate 30 Years Of Community Impact**

**November 11**

6-7 PM: Social Hour and Mingling  
7-8 PM: Main Event  
8-10 PM: Dance Party with Kinfolk Band

**Monona Terrace**  
Community Terrace, 2nd level

**NEHEMIAH**

**30 Years**  
OF BLACK COMMUNITY IMPACT

nehemiah.org    info@nehemiah.org



## Guatemala Mission Trip

On Tuesday, October 18, a group of 12 Covenant people are heading to Guatemala. Hosted by Rev. Betsey Moe (a PC-USA mission co-worker), we will visit longtime Covenant partner church communities in Coyolate and Santo Domingo, to help with construction of a church building and to help with a medical clinic. We will also worship with the church in Santo Domingo and meet with families who have received scholarship funds from Covenant. Betsey works with CEDEPCA, (the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America). Covenant has been in partnership with various churches and organizations in Guatemala for over twenty years, and dozens of people have visited there. Participants in the 2022 trip are:

Charlie Berthoud, Sarah Day, Nancy Gunder, Melissa Hinz, Carolyn Lorenz-Greenberg, Sally Lorenz, Jennifer Morgan, Jane Pearson, Carrie Sanders, Bob Schaefer, Martha Stoner, Jo Wiersema

## Guatemala Auction - Save the Date Sunday, December 4



- **Plan to DONATE**

Items accepted **November 6-22**

- **and SHOP**

to support Covenant's mission partners in Guatemala

Look for more information this month in bulletins and weekly *Connections* email.

## Library Corner

### ***Book Review: Gilead***

Written by Marilynne Robinson | Reviewed by Barbara McCall



I have a treat for all Presbyterians! A Pulitzer Prize winning novel written by a Calvinist! *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. *Gilead* is the first-person account of the life of Reverend John Ames, a Congregational minister living in a fictional small Iowa town in the 1950s. Writing is an act of prayer for Rev. Ames. He has spent his entire life writing sermons that are now neatly piled in boxes in the attic, fifty years of disclosing his innermost life.

Read more here: [www.covenantmadison.org/post/book-review-gilead](http://www.covenantmadison.org/post/book-review-gilead)

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## **Election Day Treats!**

### ***Tuesday, November 8***

Covenant will again be a polling place on Tuesday, November 8. Let's provide a hot cup of coffee and a treat for all who come to vote! Watch the bulletin boards at church for the sign-up sheet to help provide homemade treats as well as the sign-up sheet to serve as a host for a two-hour shift on November 8. Questions? Talk to Pastor Clara (or email her at [cthompson@covenantmadison.org](mailto:cthompson@covenantmadison.org)) or Deacon Chris Turner (or email her at [clturner412@gmail.com](mailto:clturner412@gmail.com)).

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## **Covenant Turkey Dinner**

### ***Sunday, November 13, 12:15pm***

Covenant's Turkey Dinner is back - gobble, gobble! Mark your calendar and plan to join your Covenant friends for a **turkey dinner potluck** immediately following the 11:00 service. Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and gravy will be provided; please bring a potluck dish to share ... whatever you like to eat at Thanksgiving! Watch the Sunday bulletins for further information. Questions? Talk to Pastor Clara, or email her at [cthompson@covenantmadison.org](mailto:cthompson@covenantmadison.org).

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## **Reopening Task Force Update**

The Reopening Task Force continues to meet on a fairly regular basis to monitor the current Covid situation and determine what steps, if any, Covenant should take to maintain a safe environment for our building. We will soon be getting air purifiers for rooms without forced air circulation (Sunday School rooms and lower level) because of this team. The safety of our congregation and visitors is always top of mind.

The task force feels it is very important that the congregation be aware that the primary way to fight Covid and stay healthy is to keep your vaccinations current. A new vaccine for the Omicron variant recently became available. Additionally, we are entering the flu season. Please consider keeping yourself and the congregation safe by getting your flu shot and keeping up to date with your Covid vaccine. You are an important part of the congregation here at Covenant!

Task Force members include: Laurie Jones, Pastor Charlie, Steve Veasie, Sally Lorenz, Colleen Gullickson, Julie Sadowsky, Tom Blewett, Mark Soderberg, Bob Schaefer, Drew Simon, Bailey Green, Jo Wiersema, and Melissa Hinz.



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### **Caravan Mailing Update!**

Starting in November, we will no longer be mailing hard copies of the Caravan unless requested. The Caravan will be sent digitally via email, and it will be available on our website. You may also pick up a hard copy of the Caravan at church. If you would like to stay on the mailing list, please contact Bailey via email at [bgreen@covenantmadison.org](mailto:bgreen@covenantmadison.org) or call the church office at (608) 233-6297.