

# The Caravan

on the journey together

MAY 2023

## We Are Hiring! And You Can Help!

### A letter from Pastor Charlie

We have TWO search committees at work right now, prayerfully seeking new staff members for our church. The open positions are:

- Associate Pastor
- Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator

The search committees have compiled position descriptions, background info, and more. Now they are beginning to get inquiries.

Here is how **you can help**. . . SPREAD THE WORD!

Think about other churches you know and maybe other church leaders you know—then reach out and let them know about our search. These people may not be interested, but they might know someone who is. Word of mouth is super helpful in a church search process.

All the info is available at [covenantmadison.org/employment](https://covenantmadison.org/employment).

Or you could chat with anyone on either committee.

**Associate Pastor Nominating Committee:** Brad Brown, Betsy Erickson, Bret Larget, Brenda Moten, Carrie Sanders, TJ Sargent, and Jenny Von Bergen.

### Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator Search Committee:

Brad Brown, Sally Lorenz, Arlene Kennedy, Ann Sydnor, Haila Conley, Grady Brown, and Steve Whayland.

In addition to spreading the word, you can pray for God to guide us and lead us and strengthen us. Please keep these search committee people in your prayers, and please pray for Covenant, as we continue through this transition time.

I continue to see great things happening here, and I'm excited about our future together.

Grace and peace,  
Charlie

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## Contact Us

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# Coming Up @ Covenant

## First Wednesdays Potluck

**Wednesday, May 3, 12:00pm**

You are invited to a good ol' fashioned potluck! This mid-week gathering will give us an opportunity to connect and catch up. Feel free to cook up a storm 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. Feel free to bring a friend as we enjoy a time of good food and warm fellowship! These potlucks are on the 1st Wednesdays of the month.



## Celebration Sunday!

**Sunday, May 7**

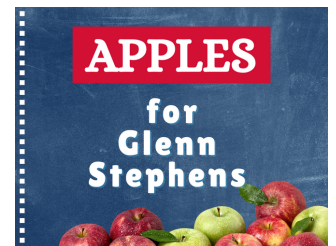
Over the past three years during Covid, we've received several new members and we've had several baptisms. Too many of these special events happened over Zoom or in a mostly-empty sanctuary. We want a second chance to welcome these folks into the Covenant community, so we'll have a beach-themed party. Feel free to wear beach clothes - Hawaiian shirt, shorts, flip-flops, etc. Cake will be served at 10:00 and we'll provide lunch at 12:00. Donations are appreciated but not expected (\$5 recommended).



## Apples for Glenn Stephens

**Sunday, May 7**

The Mission Committee collects fresh fruit for Glenn Stephens Elementary School so that every student has a healthy snack. If you would like to help with this fruit collection, please bring a bag (or two) of apples to the gathering space at church on Sunday, May 7.



## Soul Sisters End-of-Year Potluck

**Sunday, May 21, 6:00pm**

You are invited to join the end-of-year Soul Sisters potluck at the home of Nan Schaefer. Please bring a dish to share and ideas for next year's gatherings! Soul Sisters is a group for women who share fellowship and faith. 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 Barb at [barb.eikenberry@gmail.com](mailto:barb.eikenberry@gmail.com) or 608-333-9746.



## Pentecost Sunday

**Sunday, May 28 - 9:30am worship**

We celebrate the Day of Pentecost on May 28, the day the Holy Spirit descended on God's people. There's a lot going on at Covenant!

- Rev. Everett Mitchell preaches!
- Craig Wilson flies his specialized kites in worship
- PC(USA) Pentecost Offering - Free Bikes 4 Kidz (more info on p. 7)
- "Bike to Church" Sunday!
- Summer Worship schedule begins - ONE service at 9:30am
- Wear red!



### Spiritual Stroll

**Sunday, May 28, 2:00pm @ Pheasant Branch Conservatory**

May's Spiritual Stroll will take place at Pheasant Branch Conservatory in Middleton! These strolls are part of CONNECT, a program of deacon-sponsored events with the intention of fostering connection between Covenant and the community.



## Announcements

### We Are Hiring!

**Search for Associate Pastor and  
Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator**

We are now accepting applications for the positions of: Associate Pastor and Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator. Our Employment page is now live! Scan the QR code or visit [covenantmadison.org/employment](https://covenantmadison.org/employment) for more info. Help us spread the word! If you have any questions, contact one of the nominating committees: [apnc@covenantmadison.org](mailto:apnc@covenantmadison.org) (Associate Pastor) or [employment@covenantmadison.org](mailto:employment@covenantmadison.org) (CYMC).



### Summer Arts & Crafts Displays

**June 11 - September 3**

Are you a painter? A carver? A sculptor? A photographer? We'd love to see your art! Every Sunday from June 11 through September 3, we will have a different art display (or two) in the Gathering Space outside the sanctuary. We ask that you be present to talk about the art, before and after the 9:30 service. There will be a sign-up in the coming weeks. We'd like to have a short bio of you as well. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Art Show Coordinator Nancy McCulley at [nancy.mcculley.cl@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.mcculley.cl@gmail.com).



### Good Samaritan Fund - Consider Donating

Did you know Covenant has a specific fund designated to help neighbors in need of help with rent, utilities, and food? The Good Samaritan Fund is currently depleted. If you would like to support it, please contact the church office. Thank you.

### Tiny House Update

The Sunday Middle School Class gratefully thanks you for your **\$4,269.95** donations to the Tiny House for the homeless. We will still take donations **until May 14** toward the \$10,000 price of a Tiny House, constructed by Occupy Madison. Contact Friedamarie Farrar or Bret Larget with any questions about this Tiny House project.

## Happy Birthday!

### May 1

Mary Kieta  
Scarlett Smith

### May 2

Eileen Durand  
Sophie Elsdon

### May 3

Dick Lovell  
Sophia Simon

### May 5

Jim Antony  
Sigrid Doney  
David Moore

### May 6

Barbara Griffith  
Rod Rynes

### May 7

Annette Fitzpatrick  
Jim Kurtz  
Jim Long

### May 8

Michael Fussell

### May 9

Leslie Griffith  
Bill Heiser

### May 10

Declan Kennedy  
Ben Welch

### May 12

Tom Hershberger  
Andrew Kick

### May 13

Raleigh Jones  
Sam Kures

### May 14

Peter Crump  
Caleb Sanders

### May 15

James Berthoud  
Lee Jones

### May 16

Eric Girard

### May 17

Susan Larson  
Cliff O'Donnell  
Shannon Smith

### May 18

Emilie Songolo

### May 19

Marsha Mueller

### May 20

Nancy Enderle

### May 21

Katie Mace  
Judy Stevenson

### May 24

Lynn Heller

### May 25

Bob Cole

### May 26

Peg Balistreri

### May 27

Sue Melrose

### May 28

Grady Brown  
Sherry Chase  
Caroline Potter  
Steve Sauer

### May 29

Esther Hedfield  
Anita Landry  
Jameille Narans

### May 30

Larry Dubisz  
Leah Kechele  
Tom Popp

### May 31

James Bridwell  
Peg O'Donoghue

\*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, May 7

Celebration Sunday! | Holy Communion  
(Please have bread/juice available if worshipping from home)  
Charlie Berthoud | "This is the Day!"  
Psalm 118:24

### Sunday, May 14

Clara Thompson | "Who's Got the Keys?"  
Matthew 16:13-20  
Guest Musicians: Natalie & Derek Handley

### Sunday, May 21

Charlie Berthoud | "Carry On!" | Luke 24

### Sunday, May 28 - 9:30am

Day of Pentecost | "Bike to Church" Sunday  
Guest Preacher: Rev. Everett Mitchell

**Summer Worship schedule begins!**

**ONE SERVICE at 9:30am**

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:

**Ann Seybold**, Covenant member; **Neil Phelps**,  
brother of Judy Stevenson; **Mark Baker**, friend of  
Ben Welch; **Nancy Washburn**, friend of Bob Cole;  
**Johnnie Elliott**, brother-in-law of Ernie Perry

We celebrate births, baptisms, and new members:

Births - **Anna Elizabeth McGregor**, daughter of  
James & Emily McGregor; **Liliana June Hinojosa**,  
daughter of Emily Schroeder & Miko Hinojosa

Baptisms - **Gwyneth Grace Greeno** and **Evelyn Jane  
Greeno**, daughters of Amanda & Ryan Greeno

New members - Dave Rihn & Val Bailey, Heidi  
Hastings, Ken & Beth Koeritzer, James McGregor



## Children's Ministries

### Sunday School

**Sundays from 10:00-10:55am**

(3 years old through 8th grade)

**Note:** Sunday School concludes on May 21.

### Sunday School Festival - May 21

Come see what the Sunday School classes have been working on and studying this past year! Join us during Sunday School in Bradfield Hall for displays, music and more!

### Kaleidoscope Kids

(3 years old through 2nd grade)

Kaleidoscope Kids meets during worship (9am only) following Children's Time, and includes stories from the Bible and/or Christian tradition.

### Sunday Worship

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

**Our Nursery is open from 8:45-12:15 for children ages 3 and under.**

Visit [covenantmadison.org/children](https://covenantmadison.org/children) for more information or contact Kathy Mohs at [kmohs@covenantmadison.org](mailto:kmohs@covenantmadison.org).

## Youth Connection

### Middle School (MSYC)

**MSYC Cookout - Sunday, May 7, 5:00pm**

Join us for a MSYC cookout rain or shine! We will enjoy some great food, fun, games, and fellowship together as our **last meeting** before summer vacation begins. Families should have received an email with more information! Contact the office if you haven't.

### High School (HSYC)

**May 7 - Regular HSYC (6:30-8:00pm)**

Join us for good conversation, snacks, a game and maybe a song or two. Bring a friend!

**May 21 - End-of-Year Banquet (6:30-8:00pm)**

We'll serve dinner (Gino's lasagna!), honor our graduating seniors, and talk about summer plans.

Visit [covenantmadison.org/youth](https://covenantmadison.org/youth) for more info, or contact the church office.

### Vacation Bible Camp 2023: June 12-15, 3-5pm

Join Covenant and Bethany Methodist as we dive into Bible stories about **water**! We invite you for a week of Bible stories, activities, songs, snacks and more! VBC will take place at Covenant this year and is designed for children in preschool through 5th grade. Register at [covenantmadison.org/vbc](https://covenantmadison.org/vbc)!

## Library Corner

### Book Review: *How the Word is Passed*

Written by Clint Smith | Reviewed by Rosemary Jones

I read this book with the RAF group this fall, as it was being read as the Go Big Read book at the University of Wisconsin. It is a very interesting and readable book which turns much of the history of slavery as we know it on its head.

Smith focusses on places and how their history has been portrayed over the years, along with his own travels, interviews, and observations of how this portrayal fits with Black history and the history of slavery.

Read more at [covenantmadison.org/post/how-the-word-is-passed](https://covenantmadison.org/post/how-the-word-is-passed).

# Adult Education

## Sunday, May 7

No Class (Celebration Sunday)

## Sunday, May 14

### Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Q&A

The Presbyterian Church has a specific and thoughtful process for calling a new Associate Pastor. Come learn more about where Covenant is in this process on Sunday, May 14th. We will have members from the Associate Pastor Committee presenting.

## Sunday, May 21

### Rev. Kirk Morledge, Chaplain Ministry Aboard U.S.S. Mercy

Rev. Kirk Morledge will be here to talk about his deployment on U.S. Naval Ship "Mercy." Rev. Morledge also served as pastor at First Presbyterian Church Waunakee (FPC) for 32 years, retiring in June of 2022. **This is the final Adult Education class of the program year.**

### Adult Education resumes in September

And that's a wrap for the 2022-23 Adult Education program year! Adult Ed takes a break for the summer, but we try and keep the Covenant family in the loop with any other Christian/Adult Education opportunities (i.e. Racists Anonymous or other book/Bible discussions) in the community. Check [covenantmadison.org/adult-ed-classes](https://covenantmadison.org/adult-ed-classes) for recordings of classes you missed or want to re-watch!

All classes meet Sundays at 10:00am in Bradfield Hall and on Zoom at [uso2web.zoom.us/j/89540028471](https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89540028471). Visit [covenantmadison.org/adult](https://covenantmadison.org/adult) for more information about Adult Education at Covenant.

## Reach Dane Sneaker Drive

The Mission Committee is sponsoring a Sneaker Drive at Covenant during the month of May to benefit children in **Reach Dane** programs. Reach Dane, formerly known as Head Start, serves children and families in Dane County through education and supportive services. The number of infants and toddlers enrolled in their programs who are experiencing homelessness has tripled over the last four years. Currently, 32% of the children in their programs are homeless.



You can help by donating the following items! Please drop off in the gathering space **by May 28:**

- New shoes
- New socks
- New underwear

Sizes needed are those to fit children from ages 2-5. (Toddler 2T-10T and Little Kid 11-13). Financial donations are also welcome and will be used to purchase the most needed sizes. Please make checks out to "Reach Dane" with "Sneakers" in the memo line. Thank you from the Mission Committee! For more info on Reach dane, visit [reachdane.org](https://reachdane.org).

The regularly-scheduled Session meeting took place virtually on April 25. It has been decided that the meeting will alternate between in-person and virtual meetings for the remainder of the year. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the book "Real Good Church" by Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette. The group talked about the "ten reasons you should go to church." The consensus was that Covenant is doing much of what the book recommends.

In church business news, the Finance Committee brought a Fixed Asset Policy forward which was approved. Their current focus is to get as many policies developed and approved as possible during the summer to satisfy many of the finance review recommendations. The Personnel Committee brought news that when Pastor Clara retires (again) on May 28, Donna Monson will return on a part-time basis to do pastoral care. She will be at church every other Sunday and stay on until one week after the new Associate Pastor starts. Finally, the next Presbytery meeting is on May 16 and Covenant will send two representatives to participate at the Union Presbyterian Church in Monroe, WI.

Thank you for your continued prayers of support.

## Mission Spotlight



One of the four special offerings of the PC(USA), the Pentecost Offering, is a church-wide effort to support and inspire young people. Local congregations are allowed to retain 40% of the total amount collected to be directed to local agencies that support children and youth. This year, Covenant's Mission Committee has chosen **Free Bikes 4 Kidz Madison** to be the beneficiary of our portion of the Pentecost Offering, which will be collected on Pentecost Sunday (May 28).

Adventure! Freedom! Do you remember the joy of pedaling off on your own first bike? Each year, Free Bikes 4 Kids Madison collects thousands of donated bicycles and refurbishes them to give away to marginalized communities in Dane County, Racine and Milwaukee. As an added bonus, they keep thousands of bikes out of landfills by repurposing them into rideable bikes.

Since 2017 Free Bikes 4 Kids Madison has given away over 8,200 bikes to young people. Bikes are distributed through schools and other nonprofits. Covenant's mission partners The Boys & Girls Club of Dane County, Lussier Community Education Center, RISE Wisconsin and JustDane are among over 100 organizations who have received free bikes from FB4K.

In addition to financial support, FB4K accepts donations of used bikes. They are also looking for volunteers to help refurbish bikes and help with distribution. For more information or to volunteer, visit their website at [fb4kmadison.org](http://fb4kmadison.org).

Visit [covenantmadison.org/missions](http://covenantmadison.org/missions) for more information on Missions at Covenant.



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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