The Caravan

on the journey together

APRIL 2023

Preparing for Death; Living Our Lives

A letter from Pastor Charlie

If you knew you had to run a marathon, you would try to get in shape, right?

If you knew you had to take an important test, you would study, right?

If you knew you were going to face death, you would do what you could to prepare, right?

During this season of Lent, we've been focusing on life and death, with our "We Belong to God" series. My hope is to help us prepare for the inevitability of death - our own and our loved ones.

Along with discussing logistics like burial vs. cremation, organ donation, and advance directives, we can prepare by continuing to nurture our faith in God and the hope of the gospel.

At the conclusion of the classic little book Good Grief, author Granger Westberg writes:

> "At the time of great loss, people who have a mature faith…demonstrate an uncommon inner sense of strength and poise that grows out of their confidence that such a relationship with God can never be taken away from them. With such a basic philosophy, they can face any earthly loss with the knowledge that they still have not lost everything." (p. 86)

After the joyful "Hosannas" of Palm Sunday, we enter Holy Week, and we have three special worship services on Thursday and Friday (see page 2) to remember the Last Supper, the arrest and trial, and the death of Jesus. I encourage you to attend at least one of these services. While remembering the last days of Jesus is not fun, it's important for our faith as Christians and for our lives as mortal human beings.

At Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and we sing alleluia at the hope of abundant and eternal life. We actually celebrate this good news every week in worship.

Consistent patterns of worship, scripture, and prayer build up our spiritual muscles, to make us even more prepared for the inevitable storms of life.

Together we lean on each other, and together we nurture our faith in the God of abundant and eternal life. See you in church!

Charlie

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MATTHEW 25

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

First Wednesdays Potluck
Wednesday, April 5 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.



Holy Week 2023

Maundy Thursday
April 6, 7:00pm
Holy Week in the Christian Church is the week that leads up to Easter (Resurrection Sunday). On Maundy Thursday, we commemorate the Last Supper, the night when Jesus shared his final meal with the disciples. The word "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word "command," referring to Jesus' greatest commandment - to love one another as Jesus has loved us.



Good Friday
April 7, 12:00pm
Join us for a midday Good Friday service **at Covenant**. Good Friday is the day that we remember Jesus' crucifixion.
April 7, 7:00pm - Tenebrae
Join us for a Good Friday Tenebrae Service (service of darkness) **at Westminster Presbyterian Church** (4100 Nakoma Rd) featuring the choirs of Westminster and Covenant. There will also be readings from the Gospel of John and the Passion Story.



Easter Sunday
April 9, 9:00am & 11:00am
Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus with Covenant at one of two services:

9:00 New Day Worship, our piano-led service, featuring the New Day Ensemble.

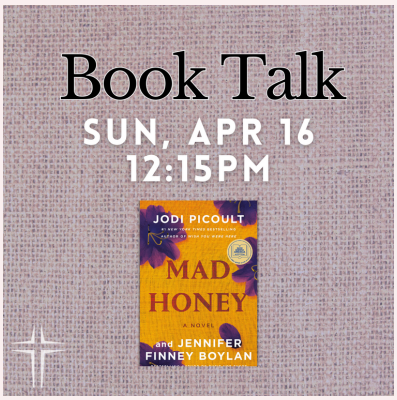
11:00 Traditional Worship, featuring Covenant Choirs, organ and a brass ensemble.



Soul Sisters
Sunday, April 16, 7:00pm
You are invited to Soul Sisters! We usually meet at Covenant the 2nd Sunday each month in person and on Zoom (rescheduled this month due to Easter). Soul Sisters is a group for women, members and nonmembers, to share fellowship and faith. Contact Barb at barb.eikenberry@gmail.com or 608-333-9746 if you'd like to join.



Book Talk
Sunday, April 16, 12:15pm



Join Pastors Charlie and Clara to discuss this engaging novel about families, starting over, teenagers, and more. With over 12,000 five-star reviews on Amazon, Mad Honey is a page-turner with courtroom drama and contemporary relevance. Charlie suggests that you do NOT read reviews, as many of them give away a vital part of the story. Attorney Chris Turner (wife of Charlie) was a consultant for the book. We'll enjoy some honey and snacks as we spend an hour talking together about the book. Everyone is welcome! There will be a Zoom option for this **on Wednesday, April 12.** Contact Charlie for the link.

Spiritual Stroll
Sunday, April 23, 2:00pm



Join us for a Spiritual Stroll at the Farley Center's Natural Path Sanctuary (2299 Spring Rose Rd, Verona). These strolls 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.

Announcements

One Great Hour of Sharing - PC(USA) Special Offering



On Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023, Covenant will collect a special offering for the PC(USA)'s One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Give via the QR code here, in person on Palm Sunday or at covenantmadison.org/pcusaoffering.

Boy Scout Troop 122 Bake Sale and Update



Troop 122 spent two weekends in March collecting and donating 1200 pounds of personal hygiene products for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. **The troop's next service work is a bake sale at Covenant, Sunday, April 16, 2023. All proceeds will be donated to support the Covenant youth trip to Guatemala.** The troop's big adventure this year is to backpack at Isle Royale National Park. Happy Trails!

Hospitality for Bikers?

A group of about 20 bicycle riders will spend two nights here at Covenant in June on their cross-country trip to raise money for cancer research. We're looking for a few people to help prepare a hearty dinner for them **on June 19,** with Covenant paying for the food. If you're interested, contact Bailey in the church office for more info, or sign-up is on the bulletin board by the Lounge!

Happy Birthday!

April 1
Scott Sanders

April 2
Anaya Olmsted
Ava Pevehouse

April 3
Dick Pearson
Emily Slobert
Randy Zirk

April 4
Rosie Herringa
Adam Watrud

April 5
Tara DeSciscio-Fussell
Linda Nylund
Anders Straavalsden

April 6
Callum Kennedy
Anne Sommers

April 7
Jim Blanchard
Mandy Bocanegra
Marcy Carlson
Joni Jaeger
Jennifer Morgan
Peggy Zimmerman

April 8
Addison Lanphear
Ellen Wright

April 9
Aaron Krebs

April 10
Eve Casta
Jim Ruhly
Ted Tibbitts

April 11
Rhys Courtney
Fern Lawrence
Barb Rewey
Keith Sperling

April 12
Gordon Enderle

April 13
Anne Gustafson

April 14
Donna Beestman
Linda Graebner
Craig Wilson

April 15
Ingo Bensch
Randy Holveck
Betsy Saar

April 16
Marketa Rasmussen
Celeste Smith

April 17
Tom Blewett
Diana Whayland

April 18
Laurie Nepstad

April 21
Matthew Berthoud
David Fields
Tom Wise

April 22
Brooke Von Bergen

April 23
Mason Sommers

April 24
Rachel Aune
Ann Hutchison

April 29
Amy Poland

April 30
Mary Fontaine
Laura Seybold
John Wedberg

*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, April 2
Palm Sunday | Holy Communion
(Please have bread/juice available if worshipping from home)
Charlie Berthoud | "Dinner and Denial"
Matthew 21:1-11, 26:17-35

Thursday, April 6, 7:00pm
Maundy Thursday Worship | Holy Communion

Friday, April 7
12:00pm Good Friday Worship **@Covenant**
7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service **@Westminster**

Sunday, April 9
Easter Sunday
Charlie Berthoud | "Don't Be Afraid!" | Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, April 16
Guest Preacher: Rev. Peder Johanson | "Resurrection Blessings" | John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 23
Charlie Berthoud | "On the Journey Together"
Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, April 30
Rev. Nancy Enderle | "Faithful Awe and Generosity"
Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23

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:

Grace Ann (Best) Hillyer, aunt of Karen Best
Bobby Hoeck, aunt of Jennifer Morgan
Marilou Angevine, Covenant member
Gayle Eckert, cousin of Fern Kanitz

Children's Ministries

Sunday School
Sundays from 10:00-10:55am
(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), and includes Bible stories from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament in addition to stories about Christian tradition.

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.**

Note: There is **no Sunday School, Kaleidoscope, or Nursery care** available **on Easter Sunday (Apr 9)**.

Visit covenantmadison.org/children for more information or contact Kathy Mohs at kmohs@covenantmadison.org.

Youth Connection

Middle School (MSYC)
Join us for fun, fellowship, and games!

April 2 - Regular MSYC (4:30-5:30pm)
April 9 - NO MSYC (Easter Sunday)
April 16 - Regular MSYC
April 23 - Regular MSYC
April 30 - Regular MSYC

High School (HSYC)

April 2 - Regular HSYC (6:30-8:00pm)
Join us for some laughs, good conversation, and good snacks. Bring a friend!
April 16, 2:45-4:45pm - HSYC Climbing
HSYC goes climbing at Summit Climbing & Fitness! Meet at church at 2:45, back at 4:45. **Deadline sign up is Thursday, April 13.** More info at covenantmadison.org/hsyc. All youth need to have a travel permission form on file AND complete the Summit profile/waiver, available on the website.

Visit covenantmadison.org/youth for more info, or contact the church office.

Search for Children's & Youth Ministries Coordinator

We are in the search process for a full-time Children's and Youth Ministries Coordinator. If you have questions or thoughts, contact Brad Brown (bbradb49@gmail.com) or Sally Lorenz (sallylor67@gmail.com). More information coming this month!

Library Corner

Book Review:

A Good Time to be Born: How Science and Public Health Gave Children a Future
Written by Dr. Perri Klass | Reviewed by Rev. Chelsea Cornelius

"A Good Time to be Born" is a compelling, complex, and meditative review of pediatric public health in the United States, and a reflection on the profound ways that science, medicine, and public health shape how and why we now expect that most children survive into adulthood—a profound achievement of the last 100 years.

Read more: covenantmadison.org/post/a-good-time-to-be-born

Adult Education

Sunday, April 2
"Good Grief?!" - Pastor Clara and Jim Spilburg
Everyone grieves, each in their own way. What are some commonalities? What is "normal?" Am I okay? What if I'm not?? Pastor Clara Thompson and Jim Spilburg will co-lead this class. Come to learn or come to share ... whatever you need!

Sunday, April 9
No Class (Easter Sunday)

Sunday, April 16
"Whose Planet is it Anyways? Stewardship Challenges for a Crowded World" - John Seager
World population has more than tripled since the middle of the 20th century. By removing the barriers that now prevent women and girls from achieving their own chosen destinies, we can foster a better, safer, less-crowded future for people and for our living planet. John Seager is the President of Population Connection - America's leading grassroots population organization. He has been a guest lecturer at more than 80 colleges and spoken to numerous environmental, religious, and community groups across the U.S. on the costs of rapid population growth. Read more at covenantmadison.org/adult-ed-classes.

Sunday, April 23 & 30
"Revelation" - John Strikwerda
Adult Education on April 16 and 23 will delve into the Book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible. You are encouraged to read it beforehand. Approach the book as though it were an action movie with weak plot but awesome special effects. Experience it. Do not try to figure it out. It is as violent as any action movie ever made. Not suitable for all audiences. Read more at covenantmadison.org/adult-ed-classes.

All classes meet Sundays at 10:00am in Bradfield Hall and on Zoom at us02web.zoom.us/j/89540028471. Visit covenantmadison.org/adult for more information about Adult Education at Covenant.

Guatemala Scholarships Update



Gracias from Santo Domingo, Guatemala!

Greetings and many blessings to every member of the Covenant Presbyterian Church, Madison... I really appreciate the support. I inform you that thanks to God and your good work, the Monte Hebron Church has received the contribution for scholarships for 2023. God bless you, hugs in Christ. -Pastora Flor de Maria Alvarez

This was Pastora Flor's response to Covenant's scholarship money for the 47 students from Monte Hebron Presbyterian Church in Santo Domingo. Covenant was able to provide the entire 129,364 Quetzals requested for schlolarships ($16,670) as well as a 5% donation ($835) to the Presbytery of Suchitepequez for their help in processing the funds. This was made possible by your support of the Guatemala Auction in December 2022 and the $4000 in the Covenant mission budget. Many thanks to all who donated items, worked on the auction committee, bought items, and donated to Covenant's operating budget. It takes a village . . . and a generous church.

Session Report

Laurie Jones, Clerk of Session

The Session met Tuesday, March 28 for their first in-person meeting in **three** years! It was a blessing to be together, and for some, it was their first in-person meeting since joining the Session.

The Session reviewed and approved the Ministry Information Forms for both the Associate Pastor and the Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator positions. These documents are used in the national search engines of the PC(USA) and are an important tool for Covenant to convey to prospective employees who we are and the nature of our ministry. The forms now go to the Committee on Ministry at the Presbytery level for approval, then the search committees can enter them into the system and see what matches are received from those who have entered their own Personal Information Form. This is good progress and our prayers continue for their successful work.

Additional business was conducted including:

- The summer and fall sermon series topics were shared and discussed
- Membership at Covenant was discussed as related to what the Book of Order says; look for more interpretation of this in the coming months
- Materials shared with Inquirer's Classes were reviewed; we are fortunate to have new members joining on April 16 and 23
- A day of celebration is planned to re-welcome those who joined or had children baptized during the pandemic. May 7 will be a Celebration Sunday! Come join the fun!
- The Elders were asked to read the book Real Good Church by Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette for discussion at next month's meeting.

Covenant is a welcoming place for all who seek to learn and live as Jesus' disciples. May you continue your journey through Lent and enjoy a blessed Easter.

Mission Spotlight

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. -2 Corinthians 1:3-4

As members of Covenant Church, we are called to manifest God's love for all people by responding to those in need throughout the world. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), which is the emergency and refugee program of PC(USA), enables congregations to "live God's love" by helping communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events. PDA support may be provided through financial/material giving, volunteering, as well as praying. Core funding for the work of PDA comes primarily through **One Great Hour of Sharing** (see p. 3); donations from congregations and individuals may also be designated for a specific relief effort. For example, through PDA financial donations, Covenant Church is responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and continues to aid our neighbors in Turkey and in Syria impacted by the recent earthquakes. As another example, the Covenant Church High School Youth Group recently assembled "Gift of the Heart" personal hygiene kits for distribution through PDA as part of its disaster recovery mission. For further information on the national and international work of PDA and how you can respond by giving, volunteering, and praying, please visit the pda.pcusa.org.

Visit covenantmadison.org/missions for more information on Missions at Covenant.

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