

The Caravan

on the journey together

MARCH 2023

In Life and Death, We Belong to God

A letter from Pastor Charlie

This wonderful affirmation comes from Romans 8 and from “A Brief Statement of Faith” of the Presbyterian Church.

During the season of Lent, our sermon series “We Belong to God: A Series on Life and Death,” we will remind ourselves of this truth, as we reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, along with:

- Living with purpose in the time that we have
- Facing the reality of our death and the death of our loved ones
- Our resurrection hope as Christians

My hope for this series is for more theological conversation about what the death and resurrection of Jesus mean for us, as well as practical conversation about the reality of our deaths. We will have classes and gatherings to discuss estate planning, funeral planning, our experience with death and more. Plus we'll have an Adult Ed class exploring the theology of Jesus' death and resurrection.

We are also in the process of expanding the columbarium at church, as most available niches have been claimed. Stay tuned for construction updates. If you want more info, visit covenantmadison.org/columbarium or contact the church office.

Last year we had two engaging sermon & education series: “Let's Talk About Sex” and “Let's Talk About Jesus.” I almost titled this series “Let's Talk About Death” but that sounds a little too morbid. So as we talk about death, we also will be affirming the abundant and eternal life that God offers us in Jesus Christ.

“A Brief Statement of Faith” concludes with another wonderful affirmation, also inspired by Romans 8:

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

May this season of Lent be a time of good conversation, learning, and renewal for each of us.

On the journey together,
Charlie

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Contact Us

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Hours: M-TH 9:00-4:00

F 9:00-12:00

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covenantmadison.org



Coming Up @ Covenant

Wednesday Noon Potluck

Wednesday, March 1 & April 5 12:00pm

You are invited to 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.



Baked Potato Bar

Wednesday, March 1, 5:30pm

Ash Wednesday's FREE Baked Potato Bar was postponed until Wednesday, March 1. Come one, come all! The potatoes will be hot and the toppings will be yummy. Join us in Bradfield Hall at 5:30pm. Come for the fellowship and then stay for the 6:30pm Taizé service. All are welcome and bring a friend! No reservation needed.



Lenten Taizé Worship

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 6:30pm

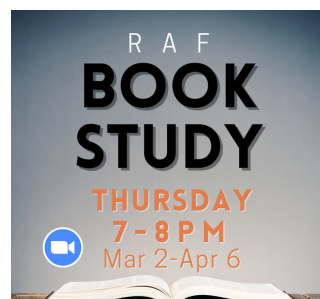
Join us for a service of scripture, music and prayer. These 30-minute services will alternate between Covenant (Mar 1, 15, 29) and Westminster Presbyterian (Mar 8, 22). Brother Roger Schultz (1915-2005), a Swiss reformed theologian (along with seven other Protestant brothers), committed to a life of prayer, simplicity, and service - forming the Taizé community in eastern France. Today, the music of Taizé has found a place in the hymnody of many congregations, including the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA).



RAF Virtual Book Study: *The Sum of Us*

Thursdays 7:00pm, March 2-April 6

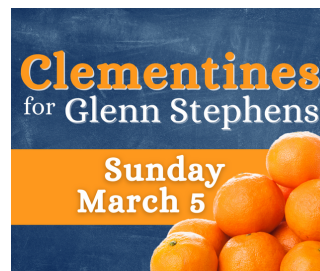
Racists Anonymous Fellowship has a new book study beginning Thursday, March 2 via Zoom on the book "The Sum of Us" by Heather McGhee. This thoughtful book discusses how racism has a cost for everyone, and emphasizes the importance of multiracial solidarity. If you are interested in joining and/or getting the Zoom link, please contact Jennifer Morgan or the church office.



Clementines for Glenn Stephens

Sunday, March 5

We are collecting clementines in March! The Mission Committee collects fresh fruit for Glenn Stephens Elementary School so every student has a healthy snack. If you would like to join in this fruit collection, **please bring a bag (or two) of clementines to the gathering space at church on March 5.** Thank you!



Guatemala Mission Trip Informational Meeting

Sunday, March 12, 12:15pm

Join us for an informational meeting about our first-ever teen and adult mission trip to Guatemala! The trip is scheduled from July 31 to August 7, 2023. Youth ages 12 and up are welcome to join the trip, and parents are welcome to come along as chaperones. We will send out additional information about travel, costs, housing, and more prior to the meeting. Please contact Pastor Charlie at charlie@covenantmadison.org with any immediate questions.



Soul Sisters

Sunday, March 12, 7:00pm

Women of Covenant, you are invited to Soul Sisters! We meet at Covenant the 2nd Sunday each month in person and on Zoom. Soul Sisters is a group for women, members and nonmembers, to share fellowship and faith. If you would like to join Soul Sisters, please contact Barb at barb.eikenberry@gmail.com or 608-333-9746.



Spiritual Stroll

Sunday, March 26, 2:00pm

Join us for a Spiritual Stroll on the 4th Sunday of the month at a different trail/conservancy/state park. 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

John Knox Presbytery Report

On Saturday, February 18, the John Knox Presbytery met via Zoom with a number of representatives from Covenant Church in attendance: Pastor Charlie, Doug Rohn, Jennifer Morgan, Doug Poland, Jim Spilburg and Carol Phillips.

A major highlight of the meeting was the installation of Pastor Charlie Berthoud as Vice-Moderator of the John Knox Presbytery! Other items on the agenda were updates from a very busy Committee on Ministry and an interesting report from a group of small churches in Montana (of varied Protestant denominations) who had each been struggling to find ministers. They pulled resources together and have a plan in place that allows for shared mission and worship, while still maintaining their identity. This is of special interest, as our Presbytery is in the process of "revisioning", finding a way to balance traditions, congregations and culture in today's world.

These meetings are a great opportunity to see the inner workings of the Presbyterian Church, and witness all the amazing people who serve and live out the mission of this body of Christ.



Happy Birthday!

March 2
Margaret Hickman
Brynn Leonard
Alicia Mundy
Linda Schmidt

March 4
Marilou Angevine
Kelsey Durand
Craig Hutchison

March 5
Linda Daly
Soon Aie Kim

March 6
Elvia Doney

March 7
Jim Vergeront

March 9
Doc Parker

March 11
Tim Smeeding

March 15
John Strikwerda
Nan Zimdars Hoesly

March 16
Lorie Raihala
Eric Wendorff

March 17
Melissa Hinz
David Treu

March 18
John Raihala

March 19
CC Girard
Jenny Von Bergen

March 20
Kathy Mohs

March 21
Basil Mundy

March 22
Theo Sargent

March 23
Debra Dybdahl

March 24
Regina Millner
Mickey Rath
Bob Schaefer

March 26
Gina Fritz

March 27
Judy Gundersen
Tracey Hokanson
Jonah Lenius
Lee Narans
Susan Stautz

March 28
Maeve Sebastian

March 29
Evelyn Jennings
Andrew Schmidt
Jennifer Simon
Jeremyah Williams

March 30
Bob Graebner
Joyce Leichtenberg

March 31
Kris Anderson



Wednesdays, March 1, 15, 29, 6:30pm
Lenten Taize Worship @ Covenant

Sunday, March 5
2nd Sunday in Lent | Holy Communion
(Please have bread/juice available if worshipping from home)
Clara Thompson | "We Belong to God, Today
and Forever!" | John 3:1-17

Wednesdays, March 8, 22, 6:30pm
Lenten Taize Worship @ Westminster

Sunday, March 12
Charlie Berthoud | "The Water of Life" | John 4:7-15

Sunday, March 19
Chelsea Cornelius | "Pixie Dust" | John 4:46-54

Sunday, March 26
Charlie Berthoud | "Tears and Hope" | John 11:1-45

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:

Chelsea Monroe, cousin of Brenda Moten
Carla Duffy, sister of Drew Walden
Sheryl Rocke, sister of Jan Swartz

We celebrate the marriage of:

Julie Wood & Abdoulie Touray, who were married
on Sunday, February 12. Julie is the daughter of
Bill & Sue Wood.

*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 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.**

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

Youth Connection

Middle School (MSYC)
Sat, Mar 4, 12-2pm - Feed My Starving Children
March 5 - NO MSYC (service project weekend)
March 12 - NO MSYC
(Guatemala Mission Trip Meeting)
March 19 - Regular MSYC (4:30-5:30pm)
March 26 - Regular MSYC (4:30-5:30pm)

High School (HSYC)
Sat, Mar 4, 11am-1pm - Tubing @ Cascade Mtn
Meet at church at 10am, will return at 2pm. It's FREE, so bring a friend! Questions? Contact Brad Brown or Kris Bauer. **Sign up by Wed, Mar 1** by contacting office.
Sun, Mar 19 - Regular HSYC (6:30-8pm)
HSYC will begin meeting regularly the **1st & 3rd Sundays monthly**. We are not meeting Mar 5 because of the tubing trip on Mar 4.

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), the search committee co-chairs. More information coming soon!

Library Corner

Book Review: *The Need to Be Whole: Patriotism and the History of Prejudice*

Written by Wendell Berry | Reviewed by Doug Poland

I have long been a fan of Wendell Berry's poetry and essays. If there were someone who over the past 50 years might best represent the conscience of America, especially when it comes to the violence and injustice worked by armed conflict, unchecked industrialization, and our desecration of our environment, surely Wendell Berry would be a contender for that title. I therefore looked forward to reading and commenting on his most recent original work, *The Need to Be Whole: Patriotism and the History of Prejudice* (Shoemaker & Company 2022), in which Berry tackles many hot-button contemporary issues, including racial prejudice.

Read more: covenantmadison.org/post/the-need-to-be-whole

Sunday, March 5

"Memorial Services and Burials" - Pastor Clara Thompson and Judy Von Bergen

Death is certain for all of us. Planning ahead and making decisions about memorial arrangements can be a comfort for individuals as well as their families in times of grief. Join Pastor Clara Thompson and Melissa Hinz as we offer information about Memorial Service planning. Judy Von Bergen will also share about her family's experience with natural burial as we hold a discussion about burial options and alternatives.

Sunday, March 12

"The Atonement" (Week 1) - Doug Poland

The beginning of Lent offers the perfect time to study and reflect on the meaning of Jesus' life and death. This latter topic — the meaning and purpose of Jesus' death — is a particularly poignant one for Christians to contemplate as we embark on the path to Good Friday. Questions about Jesus' death are important for Christians to ask and to discuss: Why did God allow Jesus to die? Did Jesus have to die? What does Jesus' death signify? Why is his death important, and what does it mean for us today? This class (3 parts) will examine specific examples of atonement theory that pervade our religious and popular music and literature, explore the main historical theological bases for atonement theories, consider contemporary Christian criticisms of classic atonement theories, and allow time for discussion.

Sunday, March 19

"The Atonement" (Week 2) - Doug Poland

Sunday, March 26

"The Atonement" (Week 3) - Doug Poland

Sunday, April 2

"Good Grief?!" - Pastor Clara

Everyone grieves, each in their own way. What are some commonalities? What is "normal?" Am I okay? Pastor Clara Thompson will lead this class. Come to learn or come to share ... whatever you need!

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.

Let's Talk About Death

As part of our "We Belong to God" Lenten series, we're hosting three conversations about life and death issues, facilitated by our pastoral staff. Take some time to reflect on the challenging reality of death, and share stories with each other. Come join us for any of them to share your story or just listen.

- **Sunday, March 19, 12:15-1:30pm - Clara Thompson @ Covenant**
Snacks provided, but bring a lunch if you like!
- **Thursday, March 23, 9:00-10:00am - Charlie Berthoud @ Crescendo Espresso Bar (Hilldale)**
- **Thursday, March 30, 7:00-8:00pm - Melissa Hinz via Zoom**
Contact church office or Melissa Hinz for the link.



Your session met on February 28. Highlights of the meeting include:

- The election of Eric Wendorff to the Nominating Committee. Eric will fill the position of non-serving elder on the committee.
- The approval of a motion that Covenant's Associate Pastor Nominating Committee will conduct their search according to the John Knox Presbytery's Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Policies.
- The receipt of a "Wish List" from the Gifts, Memorials and Bequests Committee. The list will help the congregation be aware of giving opportunities for specific projects.
- The announcement of the election of Pastor Charlie as the Vice-Moderator of the John Knox Presbytery.

Mission Spotlight

The Triangle Community Ministry, Inc. (TCM) serves as supportive companions to over 300 residents living in the Triangle Neighborhood of Madison, Wisconsin, most of whom are challenged by chronic mental, emotional, physical, and/or developmental disabilities. They have been serving this community for over 44 years sharing in the journey of their resident to physical, mental and spiritual health. The ministry is a non-profit resourced with a few staff members and a Board. Resident involvement is highly encouraged. Triangle Ministry offers a variety of programs and services related to health and wellness, food security, and social activities.



One of their programs is Monday Meals. Three to four Mondays a month volunteers from organizations and churches in Dane County help provide a hot meal and a reason for residents to sit together and interact with members of the wider community and TCM staff and board members.

Covenant's Mission Committee is supporting Monday Meals three times in 2023. The dates are April 3rd, August 7th, and November 6th. There are multiple ways to become involved: grocery shopping, baking desserts, meal prepping the sides, and serving and eating with the residents. For further details, please contact Frances Parker at frances@xlk9online.com or (608) 620-3378.

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



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