

JULY 2021

# The Caravan

ON THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

*We are better together.*



## CHURCH OFFICE

Phone: (608) 233-6297

Fax: (608) 233-6489

E-mail: [info@covenantmadison.org](mailto:info@covenantmadison.org)

326 South Segoe Rd, Madison, WI 53705

[www.covenantmadison.org](http://www.covenantmadison.org)



Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
A thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past....  
The days of our life are seventy years,  
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.  
So teach us to count our days  
that we may gain a wise heart.  
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!

—FROM PSALM 90

## A Letter From Pastor Charlie

What will be written in your obituary? What will the pastor say at your funeral? Have you talked with loved ones about burial or cremation? Are your affairs in order?

I apologize for the blunt questions, but I've been involved with several families in grief this month, and I've seen the benefit of honest discussion about death.

We're all going to die. Our loved ones are going to die. So why not clarify if you want to be cremated or not and where you want your remains to end up? Why not think about any songs or scripture verses that you'd want to have at your memorial service?

And perhaps most importantly, why not think about what you want your legacy to be, how you want to be remembered, what kind of impact you want to make on the world, your community, your family?

The call of Jesus is to live with purpose—to love neighbors and enemies, to be kind and generous, to be courageous and compassionate, to serve the Kingdom of God. How are you doing with that calling?

My father died suddenly at age 72 many years ago. At his memorial service the pastor read part of Psalm 90, including the excerpt above, which reminds us that life is short. Ever since then many of my prayers have begun with gratitude for the gift of life, for the gift of today.

And I also pray regularly in the spirit of Psalm 90 that God would prosper the work of my hands, to help me live a useful and productive life.

Now is as good a time as any for heartfelt conversations—with family, friends, or church staff—about life and death and purpose. May God prosper the work of your hands and give you grace to make the most of every day.

Warmly, in Christ,  
Charlie







## Happy Birthday This Month to...

### July 1

Elise Hokanson  
Fred Peterson  
Christy Straavaldsen

### July 2

Theo Fields  
Steve Fulton  
Maribeth Gettinger  
Kelly Kick  
Betsy Wilson

### July 3

Joshua Douglas  
Erik Hyland  
Drew Simon

### July 5

Jane Antony  
Bette Duff

### July 7

Chris Gomez Schmidt  
Jacob Schmidt

### July 8

Dennis McMillen

### July 9

Pat Aune  
Molly Hinshaw  
Doug Rohn

### July 10

Karen Nelson

### July 11

John Hutchison  
Maia Sauer

### July 13

Vicki Alexander  
Lauren Coons

### July 14

Ellen Lawrence  
Cheryl Rebholz  
Chris Turner

### July 15

GiGi Thompson

### July 17

George Beestman  
Lynda Sharpe

### July 18

Jane Sebastian

### July 20

Joe Hack  
Meg Punt

### July 21

Rebecca Byrd

### July 22

Deborah Morris

### July 23

Marguerite Potter

### July 24

Joe Hanauer

### July 25

Steve Resan

### July 26

Friedemarie Farrar  
Beth Rasmussen

### July 27

Joe Mace

### July 28

Jan Morse  
Gary Navis

### July 29

Guy Mueller

### July 31

Blake Hutchison  
Jacque Leadley  
Kate Sargent



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

## July Worship Schedule

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### Important Notes:

- Online worship videos are still available.
- On the 4th Sunday of each month, the 9:00 service will be held in the parking lot.

### Sunday, July 4

6th Sunday after Pentecost; Holy Communion  
(Please have bread & juice available if worshipping from home; Communion will be provided in sanctuary worship)

Pastor Charlie | "A Preacher, A President, and a Patriot" | Mark 1:14-15

### Sunday, July 11

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Chelsea Cornelius | "Failing Forward" | 1 Cor. 9:24-27

### Sunday, July 18

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Jeff | "Oh My Goodness" | Psalm 23

### Sunday, July 25

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Parking Lot Worship at 9:00 am

Sanctuary Worship at 10:30 am

Guest Preacher Kerri Parker  
(Wisconsin Council of Churches)

## Joys, Cares & Concerns

..... ❖ .....

Prayers continue for the following Covenant families mourning the deaths of these loved ones: **Karen Jones**, wife of Dick Jones; **Kate Richardson**, wife of Bob Richardson; and family of **Yvonne Hottmann**.

Congratulations to **Bob & Mary Cole** on the birth of a granddaughter, Willa Cole Karch, daughter of Sally & Chas Karch.

Congratulations to Covenant friends **Stephanie Dresner & Mike Schoenleber** who were married June 5th.



## Children's Ministries

### NEW! Summer Church Carry Out for Families Compassion Camp: Changing the World with Lovingkindness



Explore what it means to have compassion for ourselves, others, and the world.

- For 3 year olds through 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- One church carry out bag; five lessons to do at home, on vacation, in your backyard, or on Sunday mornings
- Each lesson includes

Bible stories, create & play, movement, recreation, and coloring pages

- Order your carry out bag [HERE](#).
- Watch your email for pick-up times in June.

### Family Worship Bags for In-Person Worship

Families attending in-person worship should stop by the table in the gathering space for a Family Worship Bag. Items in each bag will be custom-made for each family and include colored pencils, fidget toys, paper, a children's bulletin about the scripture for the day, and other surprises.

### Mobile Ministry for Families Web Page

Check out the Sunday School lessons, ideas, and resources on the Mobile Ministry for Families website.

Visit [covenantmadison.org/mobile-ministry](http://covenantmadison.org/mobile-ministry).

### At Home Worship with Children

Are you looking for ways to engage children in virtual worship?

Click [here](#) for a PDF of at-home worship ideas!

**For more information about Children's Ministries, please contact Children's Ministries Coordinator Donna Monson**  
([dmonson@covenantmadison.org](mailto:dmonson@covenantmadison.org)).

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**For more information or to sign up for any of the Youth Connection events, please contact Youth Ministries Coordinator Steve Royalton**  
([sroyalton@covenantmadison.org](mailto:sroyalton@covenantmadison.org)).

## Youth Connection

### Middle School Youth Connection (Grades 6-8)

#### MSYC at Lake Wingra!

We'll be out on the water in rented canoes and kayaks on **Saturday, July 10**. Meet directly at Wingra Boats at **11:00**. They are located at 824 Knickerbocker Street. After we paddle around, we'll gather on shore for lunch and more! Cost is \$10. **Sign up by Wednesday, July 7**. Bring a sack lunch. We'll provide bottled water and coolers for the lunches. The activity wraps up at **2:00**. Contact Youth Ministries Coordinator Steve Royalton for information regarding permission form and Wingra Boats waiver. *Some parents will be needed!*

#### MSYC at the Zoo!

We'll be checking out the critters on **Saturday, July 24**, from **1:30-6:00**. We'll meet to the right of the main parking lot off Randall Street. (Details will be sent to those that sign up.) No cost for this activity, but we ask that participants bring their own sack supper. We'll provide bottled water and coolers for food. **Please sign up by July 21**. *Some parents will be needed!*

### High School Youth Connection (Grades 9-12)

#### HSYC Community Garden!

We'll be helping feed the hungry by working the "Goodman Youth Farm" community garden on **Thursday, July 8** from **10:00 – noon**. We have room for up to 6 youth. The farm is located on the east side of Madison at 5017 Sudbury Way, adjacent to Kennedy Elementary School. **Please sign up with Steve Royalton by July 6**.

#### HSYC Two Sunday Evenings

We will gather on two Sunday evenings, those being **July 11 & 18**, for dinner, activities, conversation, and devotions from **6:30-8:00**. This will be a good way to be fed in a variety of ways during the summer.

#### HSYC to The River Food Pantry!

We'll be handing out a lot of food to clients at The River on **Tuesday, July 27** from **10:45-1:30**. We'll meet directly at The River located at 2201 Darwin Road. **Sign up with Youth Ministries Coordinator Steve Royalton by July 25**. In addition to the packaged groceries, we'll also be handing out ready-to-eat meals made fresh that day. Clients stay in their cars for this drive-thru service.





## Smell the Flowers!

Now that we are easing back into more traditional worship, we are looking forward to our more traditional bouquets in the sanctuary. Our annual Sunday flowers chart is posted and awaiting donor signatures. The chart is located in the gathering space outside the sanctuary. Just pick a date for your flowers and fill out a form (found with the chart) with your name, date desired and honoree/s; and leave it on the front counter in the main office. The Adornment Committee will collect the form and make all the necessary arrangements, conferring with you about your wishes. Payment of \$65 can be made at sign up or at a time of choice. Thank you for contributing to the beautification of our sanctuary and worship experiences.

## Summer Sunday Scripture Study (SSSS)

Beginning July 11, meet with Covenant friends 9:30-10:15 Sundays for an informal, free-flowing conversation about the Bible text for the day's sermon. We'll meet in Bradfield Hall to read the text, share our thoughts, and ask questions....as the Spirit leads!

We will begin with prayer and reading the text for the day. A volunteer facilitator will start us off with a question or two, and perhaps some background information, and we will go from there. We will ask what God is saying to us in the day's scripture passage. Come whenever and as often as you wish. No advance preparation or expertise in Bible study is necessary! Come and share your thoughts and questions, or come and just listen.

Masks are suggested even for those who are vaccinated; and BYO coffee. The class will run through August. Scripture comes alive when we read it and share our thoughts together!

## Coming in September...

"Seeing Jesus in Daily Living" will be a series of adult education classes focused on our commitment to being a Matthew 25 church, learning and living God's love.



## From the Building and Grounds Committee

The Building & Grounds Committee (B&G) extends a HUGE thank you to the many who have gifted many hours of labor and love to our facility the past couple months.

Committee chair Bob Schaefer and his faithful work crew of Dave Athas, Chris Barden, Bob Cole, Peter Hughes, Lee Jones, Dennis Joosse, Ken Joosse, and Randy Zirk completed the task of installing the new pew supports over several days of three-hour shifts. The manufacturing of the pew supports was funded by the Capital Campaign, but the volunteer installation was halted last year as Covid descended. The crew was pleased to wrap up this project in time for the return to in-person worship!

Grounds care is spear-headed this season by Rosemary & Lee Jones. They have led a crew of Pete Anderson, Gary Bertram, Barb Eikenberry, Eric Eikenberry, Nancy Gunder, Randy Holveck, Peter Hughes, Dennis Joosse, Ken Joosse, Susan Lauffer, Evelyn McMillan, Jan Minardi, Mary-Beth Rolland, and Judy Stevenson on a mission of weeding, planting, watering, tree trimming, you name it, to spruce up the grounds for the season. Of course, these are ongoing tasks of the season and anyone is more than welcome to join the team! Contact Rosemary for further details.

Thanks, too, to Doc Parker on his study of and installation of a monitoring system for the narthex. This adds another avenue of communication for all who enter Covenant for worship, education, and fellowship.

More project news in the months to come!

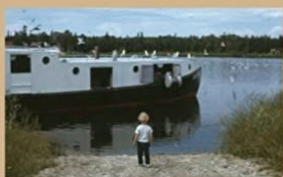


## Library Corner: *Glimpses*

Written by William T. King and Reviewed by Covenant Member Jenn Sauer



WILLIAM TORRIE KING



### Glimpses

If, like me, you've ever found yourself missing the warmth, wisdom, and wordplay of Covenant's late Pastor Emeritus Bill King, reading his 2012 collection of poems *Glimpses* will feel like a delightful reunion of sorts. Divided into three sections based on where he composed them (the Antrim Coast of Northern Ireland; Madison, WI; and the family cabin on Cut Foot Sioux Lake in the Chippewa National Forest), these wide-ranging poems take as their inspiration the seemingly pedestrian ("Jello Salad"; "Hangnail") as well as the weighty and philosophical ("Mourning"; "Reality"). What they share is King's commitment to finding evidence—glimpses, as he calls them—of the Kingdom of God in the very mixed bag of human experience.

To read these poetic glimpses into Bill's rich inner life—his searching, ponderings, questions, appreciations, and doubts—is to feel like a cherished guest who has been granted the gift of a wise friend's honest vulnerability and loving attention.

Check out *Glimpses*, and many other books, from the Covenant Library!

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## Presbywheelians Ride Again on July 17<sup>th</sup>!

Members of Covenant Presbyterian, Pres House, and other Presbyterian denominations have been putting together teams for Bike 4 Boys & Girls Club since 2012. In total we have raised \$72,441 for the charity. We will be fielding another team for the ride at McKee Farms Park in Fitchburg on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Boys & Girls Club is active in our community and making a difference every day. Our local chapter does a lot beyond the great work of providing after-school activities. In 2021 and beyond, BGC is developing a Skilled Trades Training Center to mitigate the opportunity gap and provide long term skills training for youth. Our offering supports a brighter future for youth in our community.



**Runners and walkers also welcome!** There are many options for participating in this event. You can register for an 8-mile, 20-mile, or 50-mile bike ride, or for a 2-mile walk/run or a 5-mile run. Register **HERE** ([classy.org/team/354312](https://www.classy.org/team/354312)) and make sure to join the Presbywheelians team.

Not comfortable with large groups just yet? Pastor Jeff will lead a smaller group that same day on a more socially-distanced ride or walk through the UW Arboretum. Contact Jeff for more details. ([jfoxlkine@covenantmadison.org](mailto:jfoxlkine@covenantmadison.org))

Feeling more adventurous? To raise awareness for the ride, as well as for issues of racial justice in Madison, there will be a pre-event 50 mile walk on **Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**. The walk will start and end at the Sun Prairie club and touch every Boys & Girls Club property in Dane County. Steve Whayland and Eric Girard will be representing the Presbywheelians and Covenant Presbyterian on the walk. Others are welcome to join for all or part of the walk. Contact Steve Whayland ([swhayland@tds.net](mailto:swhayland@tds.net)) or Eric Girard ([ericdavidgirard@gmail.com](mailto:ericdavidgirard@gmail.com)) for more information.

Please consider joining the team or supporting a virtual rider. Visit the website or email Eric Girard or Pastor Jeff with questions. You can also search @presbywheelians on Facebook.



## Mission Spotlight: JustDane



A year ago, Madison Urban Ministry (MUM) received a new name to reflect its expanding reach; JustDane. Covenant has provided both financial and volunteer support for many years to this vital organization. JustDane is a private, non-profit agency that provides a range of services to individuals and families caught up in the criminal justice system. Those services include prison reentry programs such as job training in JustDane's Just Bakery program, and Circles of Support, in which Covenant participated a number of years ago, providing a support system to individuals recently released from prison. JustDane, along with our friends at the Road Home, also runs Healing House, an 8-bed facility that provides a place for children and adults who are homeless but need to recuperate after a hospital stay, to receive care and meals. Covenant members provide meals to Healing House on a regular basis.

During the pandemic, JustDane adapted to rapidly changing circumstances. For example, Just Bakery began offering online classes and baked thousands of loaves of bread for area food pantries. The agency also distributed rent assistance to numerous individuals. More recently, JustDane has received a Rapid Rehousing Project contract from the City of Madison with the goal of assisting participants to find stable housing by May of 2022.

For more information about JustDane's programs or to donate or volunteer, visit [justdane.org](https://justdane.org).

## Covenant Habitat Workdays July 24 & August 28!

Matthew 25 tells us that when we help our neighbors in need, we also help Jesus. The Presbyterian Church invites us to help our neighbors by working to eradicate systemic poverty. Affordable housing is a tremendous barrier to breaking the cycle of poverty and an important way to dismantle systems that keep people in poverty. To help in this, we are joining our partners at Habitat for Humanity to build houses for our neighbors.

Twice this summer, on **Saturday, July 24** and **August 28**, groups from Covenant will put faith in action and serve our neighbor. If you are interested in serving, follow this link: <https://habitatdane.volunteerhub.com/lp/covenantpresb>. Sign-ups are limited to eight per build, so sign up quickly to reserve a slot! If you are interested in participating but are not able to make it to a build, or if you have any questions, please email Pastor Jeff ([jfoxkline@covenantmadison.org](mailto:jfoxkline@covenantmadison.org)).

## Mercy Mats Continuing to Meet this Summer

All are welcome to join a group of makers who teach and assist one another while creating gifts of love for unhoused people in our community—washable, warm mats ("Mercy mats") made from re-used plastic shopping bags. They will continue to meet on the **first and third Wednesdays of the month** throughout the summer from **1:30 until 3:00 pm** (no sign-ups required). Contact Nancy McCulley ([nancy.mcculley.cl@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.mcculley.cl@gmail.com)) or Polly Guequierre ([pguequierre45@gmail.com](mailto:pguequierre45@gmail.com)) for more information.

## July Session Update

By Laurie Jones, Clerk of Session

Your Session met for their regularly scheduled meeting on June 22. In-person worship seems to be going very well and, with the approval of the Reopening the Building Task Force, social distancing tape in the pews will be removed for the summer. Masks will continue to be worn in the building. A re-evaluation of the protocol will take place in September before the program year begins. Outside groups are slowly coming back and are required to follow our Covid guidelines. The staff and leadership are sensitive that people have varying degrees of comfort levels with gathering together again. It is our hope that people will return as they are comfortable and that each individual is seeking vaccination if they have not already done so.

The Building and Grounds Committee has been hard at work and brought several items to Session. The reconstruction of the Pastors' restroom was approved and will be completed following a successful bid process. The insurance policy for Covenant is being evaluated, as it's to be renewed in September. Finally, work continues to replace the boiler and heating system throughout the CE Wing. Completion of this work must precede the renovations of the counters in the Sunday School rooms, a project long delayed from the 2017-2019 Capital Campaign. By delaying the classroom renovations, we are able to avoid completing and paying for the work twice. The funding for the heating system replacement will come from Covenant savings/member equity.

The Ruling Elders work hard each month to ensure the work of the church is done in a timely and caring fashion. They have answered the call to lead. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any one of them. *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"—Isaiah 6:8*





Congratulations to **Steve Royalton** who marks 25 years this summer as our Youth Ministries Coordinator! He has been helping teens grow in faith at Covenant since 1996.

Ongoing congratulations to Church Administrator **Mary Kieta** who has worked at Covenant for 34 years, since 1987; to **Donna Monson**, who has been our Children's Ministries Coordinator since 1999 (She began working in the office in 1992, for a total of 29 years of service to Covenant!); and to **Vicki Alexander** and **Eileen Durand**, who have both worked in the Covenant nursery for over 25 years.

Thank you Steve, Mary, Donna, Vicki, and Eileen for your long-tenure and faithful service to Covenant!  
*From the Personnel Committee*



## School Supplies Needed for Glenn Stephens School

Help us gather school supplies for our partner school, Glenn Stephens! Donations can be placed in the wagon in the narthex gathering space. The Children's Ministries Team is sponsoring this outreach project.

### Supplies most needed are:

- Backpacks that can fit a folder
- Sharpie permanent markers
- Dry erase markers (Expo preferred)
- Composition books
- Colored pencils
- Crayola washable markers
- Monetary donations for a volunteer to purchase school supplies

**Thank you! Gracias!**