

The Caravan

on the journey together  DECEMBER 2022



Celebrating and Sharing the Good News of Great Joy

A letter from Pastor Charlie

We have lots of special events in December at Covenant. This Caravan is full of special opportunities for you to connect with God and other people in worship, fellowship, and mission. Get your calendar out and block out some time, as we seek to celebrate the “good news of great joy” (Luke 2:10) together in various ways.

Then think about inviting a friend to join you. Lots of people are hurting and lonely, and they might really appreciate an invitation to hear good music or share a meal or experience worship.

I’m particularly excited about the ordination of Chelsea Cornelius on Sunday, December 18 at 1:00pm. Chelsea has preached and taught many times at Covenant over the years, and it will be wonderful to celebrate the call of God in her life as a pediatric chaplain together in our sanctuary. Nancy Enderle will be preaching; they met soon after Chelsea got involved at Pres House over ten years ago. Natalie Handley, the Music Director at Pres House, will be providing the music.

While none of us could be at all church activities, I encourage you to be present when you can. December is a good month to be intentional about time management and priorities. Choose wisely. And don’t forget to invite a friend.

All throughout the month, even if you get busy or stressed, keep looking and listening for the good news of great joy for all the people. In Jesus Christ God loves us and calls us forward.

On the journey together,
Charlie

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Contact Us

(608) 233-6297

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

F 9:00-12:00

info@covenantmadison.org

326 South Segoe Rd,
Madison, WI 53705

covenantmadison.org



MATTHEW 25



Coming Up @ Covenant

Advent Event

Sunday, December 4, 10:00am

Come join us in Bradfield Hall for crafts, music and treats in between services! Plenty of entertainment for young ones, and holiday cheer to get you in the festive mood.



Soul Sisters

Sunday, December 11, 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.



Blue Christmas Prayer & Fellowship

Sunday, December 11, 2:00pm

Does all of the joy and tinsel of the Christmas season sometimes get you down? Do you feel blue, while everyone else seems to be celebrating? Have you suffered a loss that makes this Christmas particularly difficult?

Covenant will once again be offering a special afternoon service of worship where, together, we will remember those things that are heavy on our hearts, the loss of loved ones, the loss of opportunities, the shifting of hopes and dreams, and we will give thanks for the strength and the support we have in each other and in Jesus Christ.



Give yourself a gift this Christmas: Recognizing that not all in our lives is merry and bright, let us worship our God, together. Pastor Charlie and Pastor Clara lead the service, with Theo Wiersema providing special music. Light refreshments will be served following our time of worship. Please feel free to invite a friend.

Ordination Service of Chelsea Cornelius

Sunday, December 18, 1:00pm

Join us in gratitude and celebration as Chelsea Cornelius is ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The ordination service will take place in the sanctuary here at Covenant, with reception to follow. All are welcome!

Chelsea will be ordained in the John Knox Presbytery into her current role as the Pediatric Chaplain at UW-Health American Family Children's Hospital. Here, Chelsea will continue her work in pediatric and neonatal spiritual care,



offering her gifts of leadership, comfort, and counsel to children, families, and staff in the setting of life-changing and life-limiting healthcare crises.

Chelsea earned her Bachelor's degree at UW-Madison (BA, 2015) and her Master's degree at the University of Chicago Divinity School (M.Div, 2019). Chelsea lives in Madison with her fiancé Sarah; they are planning a wedding for May, 2023!

RSVP at forms.gle/hJCqRfG532NvSFud7! Service will also be livestreamed if you are unable to make it.

Coming Up @ Covenant (continued)

Christmas Carol Sing

Sunday, December 18, 10:00am

Join us in between services in Bradfield Hall for our annual Carol Sing-Along! Experienced and unexperienced singers welcome.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Saturday, December 24 - 4:00, 6:00, 8:00pm

Covenant will once again be offering three Candlelight services of worship on Christmas Eve as we welcome the Christ Child anew. The 4:00 service will be a more family friendly service, and 6:00 & 8:00 will both be traditional services.



Soup & Finger Food Potluck

Saturday, December 24 - 4:45 & 7:00pm

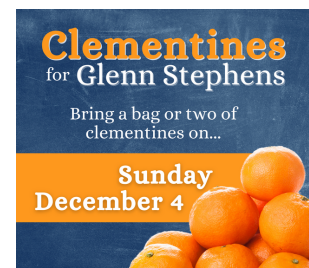
Join us for a bowl of hot soup on Christmas Eve between services! Soups and crackers will be provided; please bring a "Finger Food" to share with others... your favorite Christmas cookies, appetizer, plate of sausage and cheese, mini sandwiches, veggies and dip, or chips and salsa, or whatever finger food you like. Bring your family or come on your own. Invite some neighbors or friends! Christmas is a time to be together, so join us for some Christmas Eve fellowship as we enjoy a simple supper together! Merry Christmas, one and all!



Announcements

Clementines for Glenn Stephens

We are collecting clementines **on Sunday, December 4th!** The Mission Committee collects fresh fruit for Covenant mission partner Glenn Stephens Elementary School so every student has a healthy snack. Please bring a bag (or two) of clementines to church and drop them off in the gathering space. Thank you!



Road Home Gift Giving Program

The Road Home is an organization that works to provide housing for homeless families. Most of the families supported by the Road Home do not have much money to spend on Christmas (or alternate holiday) gifts, so the RH is seeking volunteers to provide gift cards to give to the families to help them celebrate the holidays. This year they are asking for cards equaling \$75/person. If you wish to participate, please contact Nan Schaefer at schaefer.nan@gmail.com.



No Mercy Mats in December

There will be no Mercy Mats small group meetings in December. A mercy mat is a hand-crocheted bed roll made from reused plastic shopping bags. For more info, visit covenantmadison.org/smallgroups.

Happy Birthday!

Worship Schedule

December 4

Sally Davis

December 5

Steve Whayland

December 6

Michael Curtis

December 7Anne Lawrence
Gary Pivotto**December 8**Norah Brigham
Ken Yuska**December 10**Jim Angevine
Nancy Crabb
Louis Hinshaw**December 11**

Marilyn Wedberg

December 12

Brad Schmidt

December 15

Mary-Beth Rolland

December 16Ashlyn Brigham
Dervon Parchment**December 17**John Daly
Cindy Lovell
Donita O'Donnell
Jacob Stadler**December 18**Kody Durand
Grace Sommers**December 19**Katie Herringa
Steve Larson**December 20**

Don Schalch

December 22Joan Colburn
Gianna Fussell
Mary Harkness
Bill Lawrence**December 23**

Jo Wiersema

December 24Amelia Brigham
Nolan Durand
Noel Pearson**December 25**Bob Aune
Janet Cresson**December 27**Laverne Joesse
Honner Cooper**December 28**Mollie Moore
John Schilling**December 29**Evan Antony
Bill Breuch
Bob Richardson
Jan Swartz**December 30**

Ernie Madsen

December 31Natalie Sanders
Ann Seybold
Matt Vande Sande**Sunday, December 4**2nd Sunday of Advent (Peace) | Holy Communion
(Please have bread/juice available if worshipping from home)

Charlie Berthoud | "Time to Repent!"

Matthew 3:1-11

Sunday, December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent (Joy)

Jo Wiersema | "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, December 18

4th Sunday of Advent (Love)

Christmas Pageant & Musical Celebration

Saturday, December 24

4pm (Family), 6pm & 8pm (Traditional)

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day | 10am (one service)

"The Christmas Pageant" | Story by Michael Lindvall

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:**Bill Miller**, brother of Sherry Anderson**Pete Fuhlbrigge**, cousin of Kris Bauer**Dan Leuthold**, cousin of Tom Blewett**Eric Stewart**, son of Carol and Terry Stewart**Lois Plekenpol**, sister-in-law of Fern Lawrence**Anna Shoeman**, niece of Judy Von Bergen and
cousin of Nick Von BergenCongratulations to Dale Myrland on the birth of his
great-grandson, Felix Dale Myrland!We also celebrate Sally Nesser, Marco Mascitti, and
Dacia Giordana for joining as new members of
Covenant on November 20!*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

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18, 9am & 11am

Our children will take you around the world in this exciting Christmas play! They have been working hard, so this is something you won't want to miss!

Parent's Afternoon Out!

Sunday, December 11, 1:30-3:30pm

Want to join us for Blue Christmas but don't know what to do with your kiddos? Need to get some Christmas shopping done? Drop them off at Marcus Point Cinema at **1:15pm** for Polar Express and some popcorn, while you have a few hours alone. Children will need a medical release form. Register at forms.gle/hkCsRZutMfaej9Co9.

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:00-10:55am

(3 years old through 8th grade)

- **December 4 - NO Sunday School**
- **December 11** - dress rehearsal for pageant (all children involved should be present)
- **December 18 - Christmas Party** to celebrate the hard work put in for the pageant!

Kaleidoscope Kids

(3 years old through 2nd grade)

Kaleidoscope Kids meets during worship following Children's Time (9am only).

Note: there is no Sunday School, Kaleidoscope, or Nursery care on **Sunday, December 25 or January 1**.

Visit covenantmadison.org/youth for more info, or contact Jo Wiersema at jwiersema@covenantmadison.org.

Youth Connection

Christmas Party!

Sunday, December 18

MSYC 4:30-5:30pm | HSYC 6-8pm

Youth are welcome to join us for our Christmas Party! There will be sweet treats and plenty of Christmas music. HSYC should bring a wrapped present for White Elephant.

Hat & Mitten Trees

Hat & Mitten Trees are up! Bring hats, mittens, snowpants, and winter jackets. All donations go to The River and Open Doors for Refugees.

Montreat Youth Conference

MS July 18-23, 2023 | HS July 15-23, 2023

We are planning on taking both Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers to Montreat this summer. More info to come. Please save the dates!

YC Gatherings

Middle School (MSYC) Sundays, 4:30-5:30pm

High School (HSYC) Sundays, 6-7:30pm

Note: there is no Youth Connection on **Sunday, December 25 or January 1**.

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 for more info, or contact Jo Wiersema, or Bailey Green at bgreen@covenantmadison.org.

Library Corner

Book Review: *The Right Thing To Do*

Written by Doug Moe, reviewed by Chris Turner

Former Covenant member Kit Saunders came to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1964 for graduate school and spent the next 25 years challenging the status quo for women's sports. Doug Moe's book is an engaging story about Kit and her work, based on letters, news articles and past interviews with Kit, and interviews with those who worked with her and knew her well.

Read more: covenantmadison.org/post/book-review-the-right-thing-to-do

Adult Education

All classes meet **Sundays at 10:00am** in Bradfield Hall and on Zoom at uso2web.zoom.us/j/89540028471.

Sunday, December 4

NO CLASS due to Advent Event

Sunday, December 11

Christmas Traditions in Guatemala - Betsy & Eric Moe

Join us for our only Adult Education offering in December! Our mission partners in Guatemala Betsy & Eric Moe will join us via Zoom and introduce us to some Christmas traditions in Guatemala.

Sunday, December 18

NO CLASS due to the Christmas Carol Sing

Sunday, December 25

NO CLASS. Merry Christmas!

Justified Anger: Black History for a New Day Course

As part of our commitment to becoming a Matthew 25 congregation, the Adult Education Committee encourages members to participate in the Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development's Black History for a New Day course. Currently they are finalizing their information for the Spring 2023 course and the course will likely be from February 6 through April 16, Monday evenings 7-9pm. Once dates are finalized, we will publicize.

Due to Covenant's longstanding commitment to Nehemiah's ministry as well as generous support from GMB, the cost for Covenant members will be reduced to around \$125 and full scholarships are available for those who need one. Keep an eye out for an online signup, or contact Melissa Hinz at mhinz@covenantmadison.org if you are interested in this class.

Visit covenantmadison.org/adult for more information about Adult Education at Covenant.

Mission Spotlight

Is Covenant being the church out in the world? YES! You are Covenant, and every day you support your community through loving children and families, addressing housing needs, promoting racial justice, feeding your hungry neighbors, and so much more. Are you living God's love only in the church building? NO! Just look at all the ways you are being the church out where God needs you to be!

You can find the full list of Mission Partners at covenantmadison.org/mission-partners. If you are interested in working with or learning more about our mission work, reach out to Jo Wiersema, our Ministry Associate for Children, Youth & Mission at jwiersema@covenantmadison.org.

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



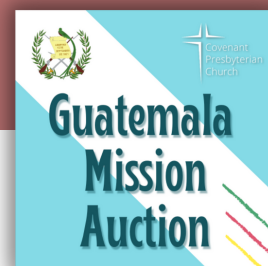
Your session met for their regularly scheduled meeting on November 22. They began the meeting digging into the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis conducted in September. There are several concrete recommendations that will be worked on in the coming year. The background work to begin the process of calling an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee continues.

In other news:

- Our church's financial health remains good. The 2023 budget is under development.
- The Columbarium will be expanded with 88 more niches and funding has been approved.
- The Lounge and Narthex will get new furniture in the not too distant future thanks to funding by the Gifts, Memorials, and Bequests Committee and generous donors.
- The Peterson Fund will support many mission partners whose focus is on women and children. This generous endowment fund provides annual proceeds to support our partners, including:
Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS), The Playing Field, RISE Wisconsin, Centro Hispano, Extended Hands Pantry, PC(USA) World Mission, CEDEPCA—Tamar Project and Jose Project Woman, Cradle of Abundance, Malawi Orphan Scholarship Foundation via Madison Community Foundation
- The Session has released one section of the sanctuary from social distancing restrictions. Two sections, the far-left section near the piano and the balcony, will remain taped off for social distancing.

Thanksgiving is a not-so-distant memory and Advent is upon us. Your Session is very grateful for the generosity of this congregation and works diligently to be sure that we are good stewards of the funds entrusted to Covenant.

Guatemala Mission Auction



Live Auction: Sunday, December 4, 8:00am-1:00pm

Soft Opening: Saturday, December 3, 10:00am-12:00pm

Please note above that bidding for the auction is on two days this year! Need a gift?

Want to support students in Guatemala? Come bid on items! There are many exciting items, including but not limited to:

UW football tickets, tickets for Overture/APT/Forward Theatre... Weekend retreats... Custom-made, personalized quilt to be made by Laurie Jones... Our usual homemade delicacies and original art... A large selection of hand-knitted hats, scarves, and shawls... Looking for a unique experience? How about a tour of the Van Holten Pickle Factory!

And, our auction wouldn't be complete without items from Guatemala. Our Guatemala mission team not only brought back stories of their trip, but they also hand-picked items for the auction. Purchasing items at the auction or making a cash donation will support our educational efforts in Guatemala.

Winning bidders can pick up items on:

Tuesday, December 6 from 3:00-6:30pm OR Sunday, December 11 8:40am-12:15pm.

Visit covenantmadison.org/guatemala-auction for more info on the Guatemala Mission Auction.



Covenant Presbyterian Church
326 S. Segoe Road
Madison, WI 53703

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