



# DISCIPLE GOOD NEWS LEAST LIFE POWER CONVERSION JUSTIFIED LOVE FREEDOM SACRIFICE VICTORY MINISTRY

## Words for the New Year

What words would you use to describe 2020?  
Chaotic? Crazy? Sad? \$&+\*#@%?  
Worst-year-of-my-life?

  
Join Pastor Charlie's 12-week  
DISCIPLE Bible study course, focusing  
on the 12 theme words above. Click  
[HERE](#) to sign up, or email Pastor Charlie  
(charlie@covenantmadison.org).

As we enter into 2021, most of us are as happy as we've ever been to see one year end and a new year begin. Happy New Year indeed!

With political transitions and the hope of a vaccine, 2021 will be full of changes for us. To help us prepare for whatever comes this year, I have three word-related invitations for you.

**Engage with our Words of Wisdom, Words of Faith devotional and sermon series.** With a new word and scripture to ponder every day between January 1 and February 14, we will be blessed to hear God's word anew through mid February. Click [HERE](#) for a copy, or find a link to the devotional on the homepage of our website. Contact the church office if you'd like a hard copy.

**Join our DISCIPLE group for 12 weeks of Bible study and spiritual growth.** We'll start on **Wednesday, January 13** via Zoom, and together we'll read much of the New Testament and find ways to grow in faith together. The group will have a one hour Zoom gathering every Wednesday, with daily reading and reflection in between. No prior Bible study experience necessary. Beginners are welcome. If you're up for a challenge and really want to grow, this is for you.

**Find a good book and read it.** I find that a good book refreshes me and helps me be more mindful of my neighbors and even my enemies (the people Jesus calls us to love). We have books for loan at the church library—current events, theology, Bible study, and children's resources. Contact the church office if you want to schedule a visit.

May your 2021 be filled with good words and God's word!

Warmly, in Christ, the word-made-flesh,  
Charlie

YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.

PSALM 119:105

## Three Opportunities for Offerings!



Visit our website or check the latest CONNECTIONS email to learn more about three ongoing opportunities for offerings: the **Generosity Campaign**, the **PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering**, and **Covenant's Christmas Eve Mission Offering!**

## Joys, Cares & Concerns



Prayers continue for the following Covenant families mourning the deaths of loved ones:

**Frank Casta**, husband of Eve Casta; **Frank Balistreri**, husband of Peg Balistreri; **Rosemary Heitkemper**, mother of Joan Petersen; **Violet Konkol**, grandmother of Emily Bridwell; **Wolfram Fliegel**, second cousin of Kris Bauer; **Alice Stautz**, sister-in-law of Floyd Stautz; **Richard Salt**, father-in-law of Jessica Salt; **Richard Schmidt**, uncle of Art Kanitz; **Don Nappe**, friend of John & Linda Daly.

## Words of Wisdom | Words of Faith

### January Worship Schedule

#### Sunday, January 3

Holy Communion  
(please have bread & juice available)  
Charlie Berthoud | WORD | John 1:14

#### Sunday, January 10

Brad Brown | ABANDONED | 1 Cor. 16:13-14

#### Sunday, January 17

Lexie Ofe | LEARN | Mark 13:28-29

#### Sunday, January 24

Lorie Raihala | FORGIVE | Matt. 18:21-22

#### Sunday, January 31

Jeff Fox-Kline | ENMITY | Matt. 5:43-48



## Happy Birthday This Month to...

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

**January 1**  
Bob Lanphear

**January 7**  
Barbara Reynolds  
Adam Schmidt

**January 13**  
Chris Bugg

**January 17**  
Bob Knudtson  
Jennifer Price-Lehmann  
Carol Ruhly

**January 25**  
Dennis Joosse  
Beccah Raciti

**January 2**  
Ann Larget  
Stephanie Watrud

**January 8**  
Finn Smeeding

**January 14**  
Tom Farrar  
Wyn Salmonowicz

**January 18**  
Ethan Sanders  
Ben Smith

**January 27**  
Catt Piotrowski  
Ericka Williams

**January 3**  
Charlie Berthoud  
Nancy McMillen  
Lauren Sydnor

**January 9**  
Mike Houston

**January 15**  
Barb Larsen

**January 19**  
Irene Fox-Kline  
Young Il Kim  
Gladys Wackman

**January 28**  
Laurie Holman  
Sally Patti  
Don Wright

**January 4**  
Kim Huff

**January 10**  
Cindy Blewett  
Dick McGary

**January 16**  
Emma Elsdon  
Jim Kennedy  
Jane Pearson  
Grady Rasmussen

**January 20**  
Mae Kechele

**January 29**  
Jean Spilburg

**January 6**  
Gary Bertram  
Cheyenne Brink  
Brad Brown  
Winfred Byrd

**January 11**  
Judy Von Bergen

**January 12**  
Sally Jamison

**January 21**  
William Sengore  
Maya Watrud

**January 30**  
Katherine Qastin

**January 31**  
Arlin Brannstrom

## Children's Ministries

### Mobile Ministry for Families Web Page

Check out the Sunday school lessons, craft ideas, and videos of children's worship times on the Mobile Ministry for Families page of our website. Visit [covenantmadison.org/mobile-ministry](http://covenantmadison.org/mobile-ministry).

### Looking Ahead to Valentine's Day

Watch for information in late January about making Valentines for worship, decorating the Covenant windows, and other surprises.

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

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## Youth Connection

### MSYC & HSYC in January

Via Zoom on Sunday, **January 3** and Sunday, **January 10**, MSYC will gather at **4:00 pm** and HSYC will gather at **6:30 pm**. Youth Ministries Coordinator Steve Royalton will send the links out to families in the weeks prior. We are keeping options open to safely gather in person on other Sundays, so stay tuned!

### Thank you for Hats & Mittens!

We had a terrific "Hat & Mitten Tree" this year thanks to the many wonderful people that took the time to deliver over 100 donations to the church! The donations were taken to The River Food Pantry where they are distributed to children and youth in the community.

### 2021 Trash & Treasure Canceled

Our Youth Ministries Committee, High School Youth Connection Advisors and I have decided that due to the pandemic, there is no way to safely conduct this beloved event in early 2021 as we have done for so many years. We look forward to the sale of the century in 2022!

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

### High School Youth Shop for Gifts for The River

HSYC used money (a little over \$1,000) from the 2020 "Trash & Treasure Sale" to purchase gifts for 30 children and teens served through The River Food Pantry. It is through this program that some will receive the only gifts they will get during this difficult economic time.

### High School Youth to Serve at The River

Plans are in the works for the youth to serve at The River in the coming months. Schedules seem to be changing on the fly these days. Steve Royalton will update families through weekly emails when the details are set.

### Confirmation continues to Zoom Along!

Our 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class continues to meet on Sunday mornings via Zoom. The class is co-taught by Youth Ministries Coordinator Steve Royalton and Pastor Jeff Fox-Kline.

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



**Be a hero.  
Save a life.**

## Covenant to host a blood drive on February 11 from 1:00-6:00 pm!

If you'd like to donate to help save a life, please sign up for a time slot:

1. Visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).
2. Enter Covenant's zip code (53705) in the red box on the top right.
3. Click "Refine Search" and scroll down to select "Choose My Dates."
4. Select February 11, 2021 on the calendar, then look for Covenant's event on the list. Select a time slot that works for you, then you will be prompted to create an account to finish the sign-up.

If you need any help signing up, please contact Pastor Jeff at [jfoxkline@covenantmadison.org](mailto:jfoxkline@covenantmadison.org).

Thank you for saving a life!



RACISTS ANONYMOUS

## Racists Anonymous: New Session Starting Thur. Jan. 7

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is clear that racism is a sin against humanity. Viktor E. Frankl, author of *Man's Search for Meaning*, has something to say to those of us who are feeling helpless to change the injustice and racism wreaking havoc in our world: "When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves."

We are given an opportunity to do just that. Covenant is offering a chance to address the sin of racism as a personal addiction through another Racists Anonymous (RA) educational session based on the AA 12-step program. RA is a fellowship of individuals seeking to achieve personal recovery from racist habits and the effects of racism. Its purpose is to help individuals address their own role in the sin and addiction of racism.

This 12-week session will be offered virtually on **Thursday evenings from 7-8 pm**. Members may join as they are able in this ongoing group. For anonymity and security, Pastor Jeff Fox-Kline will send a Zoom link to those who email him at [jfoxkline@covenantmadison.org](mailto:jfoxkline@covenantmadison.org).

Are you ready for the challenge? Join us on **Thursday, January 7th at 7:00 pm** to see the program format and learn more about this important opportunity for personal and spiritual growth.

## Upcoming Adult Ed Classes

### January 10 and January 17: Words of Wisdom, Words of Faith

We are starting this year by examining the words we use and what they mean to us. On Jan. 10 and Jan. 17, join Pastor Charlie and Pastor Jeff to examine words discussed in worship and in our 2021 devotional. The beginning of the year is a perfect time to slow down and refocus ourselves. This is a great opportunity to do so with your Covenant family. We hope to see you there so we can learn and grow together!

### January 24: "The Last Days of Theresienstadt"

"The Last Days of Theresienstadt" will be presented by Dr. Skye Doney, Covenant member and the Director of the George L. Mosse Program in History at UW-Madison. He translated, edited, and annotated Eva Noack-Mosse's Holocaust memoir *Last Days of Theresienstadt* (Madison, 2018).

Noack-Mosse was deported to the Nazi concentration camp of Theresienstadt in early 1945. Because she was a trained journalist and expert typist, she was put to work in the camp compiling lists of inmates arriving and being deported, possessions confiscated from inmates, and other details. She also had access to camp records, and she recorded statistics and her own observations in a secret diary. The book describes not only life in the camp, but also her eventual liberation and return home.

Dr. Doney's articles have appeared most recently in *The Catholic Historical Review* and *Environment, Space, Place*. Currently he is completing a manuscript on German Catholic religious practices between the 1830s and 1930s.

### January 31: Birds of Wisconsin

Birds of Wisconsin will be presented by Covenant member Rosemary Jones. Rosemary has been birding off and on since she was in college and is happy to share her love of birds and her photography of them. She's hoping to get you hooked as well! She will talk about local birds and share her pictures of them. It's another example of God at work in our lives and a chance to appreciate and understand these marvelous creatures.

**All classes meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am via Zoom.**

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83189424277>

## Lussier Center Christmas Gift-Giving

By Ginger McIntosh

Once again Covenant has helped with Lussier Community Center's Christmas gift-giving program. Every year our Mission Committee helps with this activity. Lussier has each child and/or parent create a wish list, then an adult/family from Covenant is assigned to that child, spending about \$30 on the gift(s). In the past our Mission Committee would "recruit" Covenant members to "sponsor" 12 different youth, usually by going around before or after services asking for volunteers.

This year, due to COVID, we had to make all of our connections virtually; but because of Covenant's generosity, we were able to secure 12 members to "sponsor" a child! We were also able to collect 7 additional \$30 gift cards that Lussier will share with more children or families. Thank you Covenant for your constant support of our Madison community, and happy new year!

## Lussier Center Household Goods Collection

Throughout January we are collecting toiletries and household items for our friends at the Lussier Community Education Center! All this month from **9:00-12:00AM Monday-Friday** you can bring household goods to Covenant and leave them in a bin outside the front door. If you can't come during that time, contact [jfoxkline@covenantmadison.org](mailto:jfoxkline@covenantmadison.org) to set up a special drop-off. Thank you all for your generosity!

Need some ideas for what kinds of items to donate? See below for a top ten list from Lussier:

- |                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Paper Towels     | Size 2-4 feminine pads             |
| Toilet Paper     | Toothpaste & toothbrushes          |
| Body Wash        | All purpose cleaner (disinfectant) |
| Baby wipes       | Laundry detergent (at least 50 oz) |
| Liquid hand soap | Shampoo & Conditioner              |



Several Covenant elves worked hard to deliver this Christmas surprise. Thank you to everyone who helped plan, pack, and deliver over 400 boxes filled with Christmas cheer!

*We implemented stringent COVID protocols to keep everyone safe. Only one family unit packed boxes at a time. Undesignated memorial gift funds covered all costs.*



# January Session Update

By Laurie Jones, Clerk

Your Session met on December 15 and began with a combined meeting including the Deacons. It is a requirement of the Book of Order that the Deacons and Elders meet jointly once a year; however, it is also a great opportunity to have all these church leaders gather together to examine the new officers and approve their appointments. Following the combined meeting, the Deacons and Elders dismissed to separate Zoom meetings to complete their business.

The Elders received an update on the pledge commitments made. To date (12/15) **192** pledges have been received for **\$866,349**. The 2021 preliminary budget was also reviewed at a high level. At this point the expected income doesn't meet the proposed budget.

This is not unlike other years; however, the pandemic has likely had an effect on the lower than usual commitment level. If you have not yet sent in your commitment card, please do so as soon as you are able.

The Mission Committee will host a toiletries and household goods drive to benefit the Lussier Community Center in January. See page 6 for more info.



The Mission Committee also provided additional funds to the COVID-19 relief fund and to the students and families of Glenn Stephens School for Luna's Groceries for food.

Your Session extends gratitude to three outgoing elders for their years of dedicated service: Ann Athas, Brenda Moten, and Steve Sauer. They look forward to working with the newly elected Elders: Eric Girard, Doug Rohn, Amy Poland, and Faith Windsor-Leonard.

## A Moment for Generosity: We Are One in the Spirit

By Donita and Cliff O'Donnell

In 2010, Ronnie Robinson, a member of the Coastguard Rescue Team in Great Britain, was honored by Queen Elizabeth. The honor recognizes his career and his years of volunteer service in the community. Humbled, Ronnie sought more opportunities to serve others in England and beyond. With England's ancestral records, he shared six generations of his families' fishing and shipping in New Biggin-by-the-Sea.

Covenant Presbyterian's history is a bit shorter than Ronnie's family tree. However, like Ronnie, we value the property and the people who are part of our church family. We have many spaces to maintain, programs and services to share and opportunities to nurture and support one another.

God has provided us with the resources we need to maintain our beautiful church and the programs we provide. God's gifts remind us that all we have has been given to us. Each of us owes our life and possessions to a Benevolent God. We have an opportunity to do just that!

## Job Opportunity at Covenant!

Do you know someone with accounting skills who is looking to work at a wonderful church?

Click [HERE](#) to learn more & to share this job opportunity for a Financial Coordinator/Accountant at Covenant, or email Pastor Charlie for the link.

PEACE

HOPE

It's time to open your

Epiphany star envelope!

If you need a star, please contact the church office and one will be mailed to you.

FAITH

JOY

LOVE



Stop by the church courtyard to take a puzzle and leave a puzzle! Look for the cabinet under the overhang by the picnic tables.