

AUGUST 2022

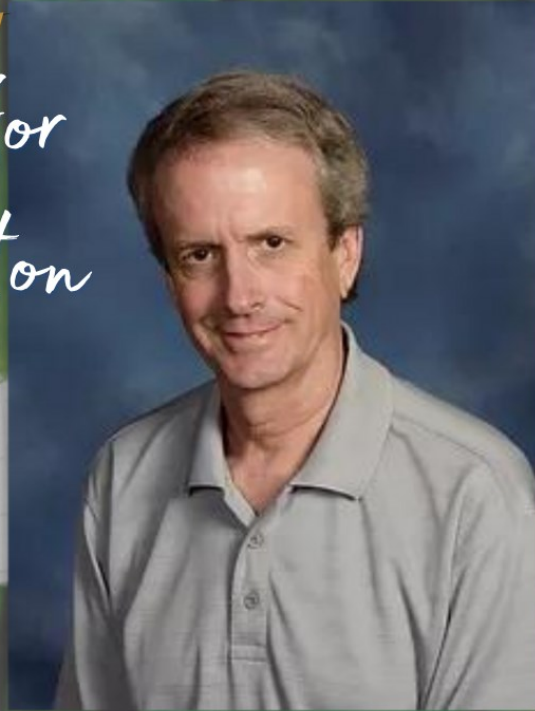
The Caravan

ON THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

*Celebration for
Steve Royalton*

**Sunday, August 7
10:45am**

more on page 4
including a letter from Steve!



SUMMER WORSHIP
Covenant Presbyterian Church

Sundays at 9:30
until Sept 11:
9:00 & 11:00



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Staff Update!

A Letter from Pastor Charlie

I hope you can join us on **Sunday, August 7 at 10:45am** to celebrate and thank Steve Royalton for his 26 years of youth ministry here at Covenant. We will have a basket for cards, so you can express your appreciation to him for countless trips, songs, Bible studies, and relationships. Thank you, Steve!

The Personnel Committee is working on staffing and planning for youth ministry in September, while also looking at long-term options. Stay tuned. Updates soon!

As for the Associate Pastor vacancy, we have a plan. In September, Rev. Clara Thompson will be back at Covenant, working approximately 15 hours per week with emphasis on pastoral care, along with worship and fellowship. Additionally, Jo Wiersema (who became our Children's Ministries Coordinator in November) will be working an additional 10 hours per week (up from 20 currently), helping in mission, education, pastoral care, and worship.

Melissa Hinz and I continue to help out with Adult Ed and other ministries as we navigate this season of transition. Having Clara and Jo here will be a big help.

If you feel like there has been a lot of staff transition at Covenant in the past 18 months, you're right! Seven (!) full-time staff positions have been through or are going through transition. (FT defined at 30 or more hours a week or more.) The staff roles that have been or are in transition are: Financial Coordinator, Custodian, Communications Coordinator, Children's Ministries Coordinator, Associate Pastor, Church Administrator, and Youth Ministries Coordinator.

With the recent retirements of four staff with 20+ years of experience here, we've lost some institutional memory, but we're doing our best to document things and keep moving forward.

I'm very pleased with our new staff: Janet, Richard, Derek, Jo, Bailey. And I'm confident we will find other staff to keep Covenant healthy and strong, as we continue learning and living God's love.

As we continue in this transitional season, please pray for and encourage your church staff.

We really are one body with many parts as Paul writes, and every part is important.

On the journey together,
Charlie

Summer Book Club

Sunday, August 21, 10:45am

With growing concern about climate change, we'll come together to read and discuss the acclaimed book *Under the Sky We Make: How to Be Human in a Warming World*, by Kimberly Nicholas. Visit www.kimnicholas.com/under-the-sky-we-make.html for more info on this book. Join Pastor Charlie and several folks from Covenant's "Green Team" for this important discussion.





Happy Birthday This Month to...

August 1

Sally Lorenz

August 2

Silvia Kammerzelt

Ann Perry

Patty West

August 3

Sandy Nuernberg

August 4

Jeri Erickson

Molly Peterson

Cindy Schally

August 9

Helen Madsen

August 10

Mac Crump

August 12

Jack Barden

Arlene Strikwerda

Ann Sydnor

August 13

Craig Sommers

August 15

Nancy Logan

August 16

Nancy Dubisz

Lynn Krebs

August 19

David Logan

Nancy McCulley

Bill Salmonowicz

August 20

Sally Carpenter

Kathryn Richardson

Maggie Smith

August 21

Orion Pevehouse

Nan Schaefer

August 22

Leslie Blaize

August 23

Scott Beestman

Al Crist

Eliza Hardy

Don Harkness

Bernie Maroney

Greggar Petersen

August 24

Peg Eklund

August 25

Dave Rebholz

Linda Schilling

August 27

Robbie Sonzogni

August 28

Doug McNeel

August 29

Jeremy Smith

August 31

Sherry Jordan

Charley Punt

Colin Punt

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

August Worship Schedule

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Sunday, August 7

Holy Communion

(Please have bread/juice available if worshipping from home)

Charlie Berthoud | "Give Me Strength Lord!" |

Colossians 1:3-12

Sunday, August 14

Rev. Tyler Nylen | "When God Accepts Those We

Won't" | Isaiah 56:1-8, Acts 8:26-40

Sunday, August 21

Rev. Kerri Parker | "Practicing our Words" |

Mark 1:9-15

Sunday, August 28

Rev. Kathleen Owens | "Trust in God's Presence" |

Psalms 139:1-18

*Unless otherwise noted, all Sunday worship services are at 9:30AM.

Joys, Cares & Concerns

••••• ❖ •••••

Prayers continue for the following Covenant families and friends mourning these loved ones:

Joanne Poweles, Covenant member; Phyllis St. Amand, grandmother of Abby Elman; Marian Wheeler, grandmother of Jason Potter; Marsh Finner, Covenant member; Elodie, great-niece of Nancy Gunder; Larry Poppelbaum, Covenant member.

Congratulations to Floyd and Ellen Stautz on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Lillian Wayne McQuaid, who is the granddaughter of Jeffrey and Jane Stautz, daughter of Stephen and Amy McQuaid, and sister of Evelyn.

Congratulations to Brendan and Lindsey Woods on the baptism of their daughter, Leila Austyn Woods, who was baptized at Covenant on July 17th.

Children's Ministries

Kaleidoscope Kids

(3 years old through 2nd grade)

Kaleidoscope Kids worship education meets during 9:30am worship immediately following Children's Time in room C208. Come join the fun and learn all about what it means to worship!

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 9:15-10:45 for children under age 3.

Sunday School

Sunday School is on hiatus during the summer. Classes resume **on September 11**.

For more information, please contact Children's Ministries Coordinator Jo Wiersema at jwiersema@covenantmadison.org.

Blood Drive

Wednesday, September 21
12:00-5:00pm

Save the date for the next Blood Drive at Covenant! Your donation is needed today to ensure patients get the help they need. For even further incentive - if you donate, you will receive a free haircut coupon for Sport Clips! Sign up at redcrossblood.org or 1-800-RED-CROSS.



Youth Connection

Where did the time go?

There have been countless numbers of young people. There have been so many incredible adults volunteering their lives for them. There have been hundreds of Sunday afternoons and evenings running around and getting into the tough topics of faith. We have driven, biked, paddled, and hiked thousands of miles. There have been hundreds of nights spent on air mats or bunk beds. We have sung songs just for the fun of it and for the love of God. We served so many in the name of Christ. We experienced the beauty of God's creation. We trashed and we treasured, and we did it well. We trusted each other. We cared for each other. We did it all for the glory of God.

When planning any type of gathering, I would always ask myself, "What do I want them to take away from this?" After 26 years with you, I am taking away a tremendous sense of knowing that we did some great things together. We lived out the community of Christ in so many ways. I take away a deep-down feeling that this was meant to be. You will forever be a part of me and for that I am truly grateful.

Peace,

Steve Royalton sroyalton@covenantmadison.org
Youth Ministries Coordinator
(for a little longer)

A graphic celebrating Steve Royalton's retirement. It has a blue background with colorful triangular flags at the top. On the left, it says "Celebration for Steve Royalton" in a cursive font, followed by "Sunday, August 7 10:45am" in a white box. On the right is a photo of Steve Royalton, a man with short brown hair wearing a light blue shirt. Below the photo, the text reads: "After 26 years of youth ministry at Covenant (30 years total!), Steve Royalton is retiring as of early August. We are grateful for Steve's faithful service over the years. With gratitude for his service, we will hold a celebration on **Sunday, August 7 at 10:45am**. Refreshments provided! There will be a short presentation and a basket to leave Steve a card showing your appreciation."

Adult Education

At Covenant, we take a break from Adult Education classes in the summer. However, we like to keep the church engaged with other Christian Education opportunities.

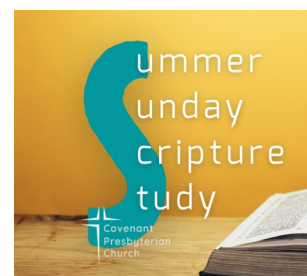
Black History for a New Day Course

Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development's Justified Anger course "Black History for a New Day" is coming up in the Fall! Covenant has had a dedicated group that attends this informative and eye-opening 9-week virtual course from September 12 – November 21, 2022. Stay tuned for more info on how to sign up to be in the group that attends from Covenant. If you have not taken this course before, **there is an info session Monday, August 1 from 4:00 -5:00pm via Zoom.** If you are interested, email sjackson@nehemiah.org. The Adult Education Committee here at Covenant could not endorse this course enough!



Summer Sunday Scripture Study (SSSS)

Scripture comes alive when we gather to read, share, and ponder the message God wants us to hear. Join us this summer for a closer look at sermon texts for each Sunday's sermon. We will meet each Sunday through August in Bradfield Hall. A different person will facilitate each week, opening with prayer, reading the scripture passage, and asking a couple prepared questions to initiate the discussion.



For more information on Adult Education at Covenant, visit covenantmadison.org/adult. You can view resources from past classes and/or view videos from past classes as well.

Ukraine Benefit Update

A Program for Peace was a beautiful collaboration of musical and financial gifts. The concert took place on Sunday, July 17 at Covenant and was sponsored by us, Christ Presbyterian, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Between online giving and in-person offerings, we have raised **\$16,506.01!** All proceeds from this benefit are split evenly between Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Wisconsin Ukrainians Inc. You can still give at covenantmadison.org/give.

Make a Joyful Noise at Covenant!

Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? Are you looking for a way to share those gifts during worship at Covenant?

Covenant Chancel Choir and New Day Ensemble are looking for singers (and, in the case of the New Day Ensemble, instrumentalists) for the beginning of the season in September. Both rehearse on Wednesday evenings, and then before services on Sundays. No experience is necessary, so please consider joining us and "making a joyful noise!"

For more information, please reach out to Ben Welch (New Day Ensemble) or Melissa Hinz (Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir).

Ben - bwelch@covenantmadison.org

Melissa - mhinz@covenantmadison.org

Mission Spotlight

RISE Wisconsin



In April 2017, Center for Families, One of Covenant's long-time mission partners, merged with Community Partnerships, Inc., another Dane County non-profit agency focused on children, families and young adults, to form **RISE WISCONSIN**. Together the organizations have more than 60 years of experience providing services in our community and serve more than 3,000 individuals, including children and families, annually.

Early Childhood & Home Visiting Programs include **Early Childhood Initiative**, a voluntary home visiting program in Madison/Dane County that provides comprehensive and community-based support for pregnant women and families with children ages 0-4K, **ParentChild+**, an evidence-based early literacy and school readiness program for children ages 2-4 that supports parents and caregivers in providing the skills and materials needed to prepare children for success, and **Welcome Baby & Beyond**, a home visiting program that offers education and support for parents with children ages 0-5, and aims to promote a safe, healthy, and positive environment to support families and children.

Care Coordination & Mental Health Services include **Children Come First**, an intensive care coordination program for children living with mental health needs that helps them remain in their home and community, **Comprehensive Community Services**, a community-based and recovery-oriented program that provides coordination of services for youth and adults living with mental health needs, and **Court Ordered Evaluations**, an evaluation and assessment program that serves Dane County Courts for outpatient mental health assessments ordered under specific statute areas.

RISE WISCONSIN also operates **The Respite Center**, an emergency childcare and parent support program that provides respite, childcare, support and resources to children ages 0-14 and their families. The Respite Center provides planned childcare while parents or caregivers attend appointments, look for employment or search for housing, as well as planned childcare with trusted adults when parents or caregivers need a break or relief. It also provides emergency childcare and support when a crisis occurs, as well as information and referral to community services, parenting resources, and additional programs specific to a child and family's needs.

Refugee Volunteers Training

Covenant has started a new ministry for refugee families in Madison in partnership with Jewish Social Services. We had a training and discussion last month. Stay tuned for more information. Anyone interested in serving in this ministry is welcome to contact Jo Wiersema or Friedemarie Farrar. They can answer any questions you have as well.

Spiritual Stroll

Sunday, August 28, 2:00pm

Join us for our next Spiritual Stroll! Location is yet to be determined but save the date! These Spiritual Strolls are on the 4th Sunday of the month and are part of a Covenant program called **CONNECT**, a program of events sponsored by the deacons of Covenant Presbyterian Church with the intention of fostering connection within the congregation and community.



Library Corner

Strange Glory: A Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Written by Charles Marsh | Reviewed by Doug Poland



[Excerpt] One of the most valuable functions that a biography can serve is to speak to us through a life lived well long ago in a context that has become clearer with the passage of time, and to provide insights and guidance that allow us to comprehend our own still-developing context more clearly and from a broader historical and cultural perspective.

Read more here: covenantmadison.org/post/book-review-strange-glory

Session Report

Laurie Jones, Clerk of Session

Note: The following report is from the June Session Meeting as the July Caravan went to print before session met. Session did not meet in July.

Your Session met on June 28 for their regularly scheduled meeting and had a very full agenda. The meeting began with an excellent review of the Covenant finances by Treasurer Gordon Enderle. This is an annual learning session so that new Elders can understand how money goes in and out of Covenant and the various funds involved in keeping the church going. It also provides a welcome refresher for continuing Elders.

The business of the church conducted included:

- The lighting in the Sanctuary, specifically the spot lights in front, are being updated. Many are out and in need of repair. New LED lights will be used in the fixtures going forward. The lighting in the rest of the sanctuary has been fixed and the outage discovered the weekend of June 18/19 was likely the result of the storm on June 13.
- Covenant is working with a neighbor who wants to build an addition onto the back of their home on Marathon Drive and will require access to their backyard through our parking lot. The Session agreed to grant this access and you may see progress this summer.
- Pastor Charlie announced that Youth Ministries Coordinator Steve Royalton is retiring effective in August after 26 years on staff at Covenant. A celebration is being planned.
- A task force will be created to explore the current state of our children's/youth/young adult ministries and determine what the best way forward is as we explore ongoing staffing.
- The Personnel Committee brought a Pastoral staffing model forward to Session which was approved. We will welcome Pastor Clara back this fall and Jo Wiersema will add an additional 10 hours to her work contract at Covenant for the coming programmatic year.
- The Mission Committee brought a motion to work with the Jewish Social Services agency to sponsor a family for resettlement. The funding will be provided out of their new mission initiative line item. The Session agreed with the committee and passed the motion.
- Ruling Elders Julie Sadowsky and Jennifer Morgan will serve as Commissioners to the John Knox Presbytery Meeting on August 20.
- Funding for a new pan/tilt/zoom camera for the sanctuary behind the organ was approved using Gifts, Memorials, and Bequests funding so that additional video may show Doug playing the organ.

The meeting was ended with prayers for one another, the congregation, and the world in which we make our way to follow Jesus.



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