

The Caravan

on the journey together

MARCH 2024

Pianos, Figure Skates, and the The Lenten Journey

A letter from Pastor Charlie

We are providing five invitations to our church community this season. I hope you'll take advantage of at least one of them.



In worship we are calling them “disciplines” and in other forums we are calling them “practices.” Either way these are opportunities for your to explore the Christian life, to reconnect with God—or maybe authentically connect for the first time.

Think about how much we admire a figure skater or a concert pianist. The spent hours and hours of practice. They showed great discipline.

Don't let thoughts of Olympic skaters and concert pianists intimidate you. We're just hoping for a little progress in the Christian life for all of us. So the skates are waiting for you; you just have to lace them up and start skating. The piano and the music are ready; sit down and start playing. Jesus called ordinary people like us into a new life—a life of purpose and meaning. One great way to move into this life is with these practices, one day at a time, one Lent at a time.

On the journey together,
Charlie

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Contact Us

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Coming Up @ Covenant

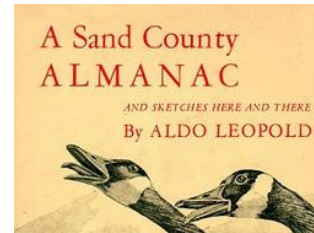
Clementines for Glenn Stephens Sunday, March 3

The Mission Committee collects fresh fruit for the students at Glenn Stephens School so every student has a healthy snack. In March, we are collecting clementines! If you'd like to help, please bring a bag (or two) to the gathering space on March 3.



Monthly Book Club (New!) Sunday, March 3, 12:00pm

We started a new book club in 2024 that will meet on the 1st Sunday each month! Join us as we read and discuss *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold. In March, we will look at the **second** essay, and one essay each month after that. Questions? Contact Melissa Hinz at mhinz@covenantmadison.org.



Lenten Suppers

Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20
5:30pm Supper | 6:15 Worship

This Lent, join us for supper, fellowship, and worship in Bradfield Hall. All are welcome to attend dinner and/or worship. **Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary or scan the QR code.** While RSVP'ing is appreciated, it is not required. We ask \$5 for supper, but it's FREE if you are a first-time attendee.



First Wednesdays Potluck

Wednesday, March 6, 12:00pm

Feel free to bring a friend as we enjoy a time of good food and warm fellowship! Cook something 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. Sarah Day will be our guest speaker, speaking on her experience as an actor.



Pi Day Celebration

Sunday, March 10, 10:00am

March 14 is National Pi Day! Get it? 3.141592653597932384. Ok, well we are celebrating with a different kind of pie for fellowship hour on March 10. Sign up in Bradfield Hall or the Welcome Center to bring a pie!



Soul Sisters

Sunday, March 10, 12:30pm

Women of Covenant are invited to Soul Sisters! Please bring your own lunch and we'll eat and chat for the first part of the meeting. Nan Schaefer will lead our discussion with the topic "What does being a Matthew 25 congregation mean to you?" Soul Sisters is a group of women who gather on the 2nd Sunday monthly (Sept-May) for interesting discussions and Bible study, always in loving support of each other. For more info, contact Barb Eikenberry at barb.eikenberry@gmail.com.



Coming Up @ Covenant

Guatemala Mission Trip Meeting Wednesday, March 13, 7:00pm

We are exploring the possibility of a Guatemala mission trip in early November to reconnect with our Presbyterian partners, learn about culture and immigration, and possibly assist with a work or mission project. If you're interested, contact Pastor Charlie or come to this informational session. The meeting will be in room C206.



Installation of Rev. Jess Scholten Sunday, March 17, 2:00pm

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, March 17, we will be holding an installation service for our Associate Pastor for Mission, Spiritual Care, & Growth Jess Scholten! Light refreshments will be provided afterward.



Spiritual Stroll Sunday, March 24, 2:00pm

Our March Spiritual Stroll will be held at Pheasant Branch Conservatory in Middleton! These strolls are part of CONNECT, a program of deacon-sponsored events with the intention of fostering connection between Covenant and the community. We visit a different green space every month.



Easter Sunday Sunday, March 31 9:00am New Day Worship 11:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Easter Brunch

On Easter Sunday, join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! Join us between services for our annual Easter Brunch, a standard continental breakfast. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!



Announcements

Easter Flowers

On Easter, the chancel is adorned with several types of flowers in celebration of the Resurrection and donated by members and friends of Covenant. Each plant is a \$15 donation. Checks can be sent to the office or put in the offering lectern (memo line: Easter Flowers). If you have someone you want to dedicate the flowers to ("in honor of, in celebration of, in memory of," etc...), send an email to info@covenantmadison.org no later than Thursday, March 21.



Election Day Treats

Covenant is a polling place on April 2. Let's provide coffee and treats for all those who volunteer! Sign up at church on Sundays if you can help provide homemade treats (cookies, bars, etc.) for polling place volunteers on Election Day.



Happy Birthday!

March 2
Margaret Hickman
Brynn Leonard
Alicia Mundy
Linda Schmidt

March 4
Kelsey Durand
Craig Hutchison

March 5
Linda Daly
Soon Aie Kim

March 6
Elvia Doney

March 7
Jim Vergeront

March 8
Beth Koeritzer

March 9
Doc Parker

March 11
Tim Smeeding

March 13
Rodrigo Morales

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 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

*If we missed your birthday, we apologize! Please contact the office and we'll include it next year. Thank you!

Worship Schedule

the DISCIPLINE *of* DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday, March 3
Holy Communion
Charlie Berthoud | LISTENING | Mark 1:35-39

Wednesdays, March 6-20
5:30 Supper | 6:15pm Worship
Lenten Suppers (Bradfield Hall)

Sunday, March 10
Jess Scholten | SIMPLIFYING | Matthew 6:19-21

Sunday, March 17
Baptism of Dill and Damien Singh (11am)
Charlie Berthoud | UNPLUGGING | Mark 6:30-34

Sunday, March 24
Palm Sunday
Charlie Berthoud | "Practicing Downward Mobility"
Mark 11:1-11, Philippians 2:5-11

March 28, 7pm - Maundy Thursday
March 29, 12pm - Good Friday

Sunday, March 31
Easter Sunday
Charlie Berthoud | "Practicing Resurrection"
Mark 16:1-8

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:

Russell Wright, brother of Don Wright
Henry Gladstone Medlin, friend of Marilyn Krichko
Robert & Mary Gow, brother and sister-in-law of
Nancy Crabb
Linda Wolf, sister of Lee Jones

We celebrate the birth of:

Faris Jones Ismail, son of Kirsten Jones' & Ahmed
Ismail, grandson of Raleigh & Laurie Jones (February 20)

Children's Ministries

Sunday School
Sundays, 10:00-10:50am
(3 years old through 8th grade)

Kaleidoscope Kids
Sundays during 9am Worship
(3 years old through 2nd grade)

Kaleidoscope Kids teaches our children about worship and helps prepare them to know what's happening in the sanctuary. Kaleidoscope meets every Sunday **except 1st Sunday/mo.**

Nursery Care
Sundays, 8:45am-12:15pm
(3 years old and under)

Visit covenantmadison.org/children or [/youth](https://covenantmadison.org/youth) for more info or contact Megan Berry at mberry@covenantmadison.org.

Youth Connection

Youth Connection
Sundays, 6:00-7:30pm

Join us for fun, fellowship, and friendship! Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers meet in Bradfield Hall first, then they break off into small groups.

Video Game Afternoon
Saturday, March 16, 3:00-5:00pm
Come over to Covenant for some healthy competition! We'll play some Mario Kart and/or Super Smash Brothers, and snacks will be provided. Looking ahead: we'll have a follow-up game afternoon on April 6.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering - Sunday, March 24

On Palm Sunday, we collect a PC(USA) special offering. Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through OGHS to share God's love with our neighbors in need. We are offering these fish coin banks for families to participate! You can grab one for your family on Sundays in March.



Behind the Scenes

It takes many hands to do the work that keeps Covenant running smoothly, and many of those tasks happen behind the scenes.

Thank You to:

- Bob Schaefer and Peter Hughes for installing new coat hooks on the lower level.
- Peter Hughes for installing new projectors in the Youth Room and A101.
- Church groups for hosting Lenten Suppers.
- The adornment team for decorating the sanctuary for Lent.
- Sunday School teachers for helping run last month's Heifer Celebration.
- Those who volunteered and donated to last month's blood drive.

If you would like to take part in one of these ministries, please contact the church office at info@covenantmadison.org.

Adult Education

Sunday, March 3, 10:00am

“Practice Spiritual Disciplines” - LISTENING

Join Adult Education for a series of classes on spiritual disciplines. We will be using the “Follow Me” curriculum that focuses on biblical practices for faithful living. Each week, facilitators will lead a conversation and/or have participants reflect on a specific spiritual practice. Each class stands alone, so **participants do not need to have attended a previous class** to join in!

Sunday, March 10, 10:00am

“Practice Spiritual Disciplines” - SIMPLIFYING

Sunday, March 17, 10:00am

“Practice Spiritual Disciplines” - UNPLUGGING

Sunday, March 24, 10:00am

“Try Other Disciplines” - Pastor Jess Scholten

Through time, people of faith have been bold and tried hundreds of spiritual disciplines with the goal of freeing up space to draw near to God. After exploring spiritual disciplines in Lent of fasting, praying, listening, simplifying, and unplugging, come hear about the wide range of spiritual practices through which we can more fully connect to God. Some you'll already know like reading the Bible and attending worship, but what about watching bees or listening to a friend, prayer beads, chanting, advocating? Pastor Jess will walk us through a number of other practices in Scripture and faith communities.

Sunday, March 31

No Class

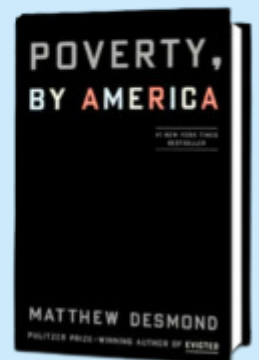
Note: Online access to Adult Ed classes is on hold temporarily as we explore options.

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

Discussion - Book Study: “Poverty, by America”

Sunday, March 10, 12:15pm

We would love to do a book discussion with those of us from Covenant who participated in the PC(USA) book study in February on the book “Poverty, by America” (and others who are interested). We'll host some discussion and then also brainstorm some follow-up ideas for how to incorporate this into our Fall ministries. Also, we'll come up with some strategic next steps so we aren't simply information hoarders, but actually working toward some purposeful actions. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Jess at jscholten@covenantmadison.org.



Introduction to the Enneagram

Saturday, April 20, 9:00am-3:00pm | Christ Presbyterian Church

The Enneagram is an ancient and modern way of understanding our personalities and how we live in the world. Rich Henderson of Type 3 Consulting will host this workshop at Christ Pres, with participating congregations: Christ Presbyterian and Grace Episcopal. Cost is \$50, which includes lunch. Participants will need to take a \$20 online Enneagram assessment (\$15). **Register by April 17.** Scan the QR code for more details and to register.



Your Session met for their regular meeting on February 27 by Zoom from several states. The meeting began by digging into several questions: What do we expect of members of the Covenant community? What is our purpose as a church? What are we trying to do? Why are we here? Big Questions! These and more will be explored as we study and discuss God's word and calling together in the coming months.

Covenant has a policy to provide sabbatical leave to Pastors and program staff after 5 years of service. At the request of the Personnel Committee, the Session approved sabbatical leave of 5 weeks for both Pastor Charlie and Melissa Hinz. Pastor Charlie's leave was to be taken in 2023, however with the staff situation, he delayed it and will now take it from April 5-May 10, 2024. It is expected that Melissa will take her 5-week leave sometime this summer. Both have worked exceedingly hard to keep Covenant going, especially through the Covid years, so they will benefit greatly from this time of rest and renewal.

Covenant has an opportunity to host an organ concert by Oliver Latry, Titular Organist of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. The Session has agreed to host and pay for fees associated with a concert on March 4, 2025. The Madison Association of Church Musicians has agreed to co-sponsor, and others are being sought, along with other forms of generating the fees (tickets, etc). Much more to come on this exciting opportunity. The Session approved a sandwich fundraiser to be held on April 21 to support the youth summer trips to Montreat and Massanetta Springs. The congregation will be asked to pre-order sandwiches and the youth will make them at a Lock-In. Look for how you can support our youth!

Covenant regularly receives money from the people of the congregation and is grateful for every financial gift. The church has recently received a substantial donor gift. The Session wishes to thank this donor for their generosity. We are so grateful for each donation of financial assistance, but also for the donation of time and talent shared as servants to the church and one another.

This fall, Covenant will reach another milestone: 70 years! The Worship Committee has formed a Task Force to plan the celebrations around this 70th anniversary. Stay tuned for more information.

Covenant Church is in a good place right now with a rich and vibrant community of people who work together for God's Kingdom here on Earth. The Session is very thankful for the support of the congregation.

Mission Spotlight

In mid-January, Jennifer Morgan, Deb Cohn, Melissa Hinz and Ann Athas traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, to take part in the first Matthew 25 Summit. This historic event, the first in-person gathering for people committed to and interested in learning more about the Matthew 25 initiative, was sponsored by the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PC(USA) and held at New Life Presbyterian Church.



Your Covenant representatives attended workshops on building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty, the three tenets of the Matthew 25 Initiative. One highlight was hearing Dr. William Yoo, who presented an adult education class at Covenant last October. The Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, welcomed the 350 attendees with a call to “serve Jesus by contributing to the well-being of the most vulnerable in all societies – rural and urban, small and large, young and not-so-young.”

There are many different ways to be part of the Matthew 25 movement. Covenant's Mission Committee will continue to discuss existing programming and new possibilities to discern how best to fulfill our promise as a Matthew 25 Congregation. If you are interested in being a part of this planning, please contact Deb Cohn at dlittlecohn@gmail.com or Ann Athas at afathas@mac.com.

