

FEBRUARY 2022

The Caravan

ON THE JOURNEY TOGETHER



9am & 11am
VIRTUAL ONLY
WORSHIP
UNTIL MARCH 6

 Covenant YouTube channel
youtube.com/c/CovenantPresbyterianChurch



LET'S
TALK
ABOUT



continues!



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Message from Mary Kieta

Dear Covenant Friends,

I wish to share with you my decision to enter retirement after Easter this Spring. And I want you to know it has been both a great joy and privilege to serve you as Church Administrator; due in great part to the many words of appreciation and support you have showered me with these many years.

Though I'm leaving this path of service, I'm continuing my journey of faith beside you as we continue learning and living God's love.

My deepest thanks and God's grace and peace to you all,
Mary Kieta, Church Administrator

Potlucks and Possibilities A Letter from Pastor Charlie

Do you miss potluck meals at church? I sure do.

I am as disappointed as anyone that we cannot safely worship in person these days. I miss seeing people's faces, shaking hands, having donuts and coffee together. I miss small groups in the lounge, I miss visiting people at home, and I even miss in-person committee meetings! But we need to be careful with Covid.

Some of us recently heard author Parker Palmer speak (on zoom) about church life today, and how the church is changing. He mentioned that the pastor of a thriving church told him that the key to the church success was potluck suppers.

When it's safe, I'm hoping we can have potlucks and find other ways to connect and reconnect. While I look forward to meals and worship and small groups and even committee meetings in person, I look forward to pondering **new possibilities** of being the church together.

- Maybe we take walks around the church building and we recommit ourselves to not simply taking care of one another, but really loving our neighbors and serving our community.
- Maybe we ask lots of questions and listen to the needs in Madison.
- Maybe we find ways to welcome more neighbors into the building, unlocking some doors.
- Maybe we let go of programs and habits that don't seem to be helping and try something new.
- Maybe we remember that God is always doing new things and we recommit ourselves to following Jesus while praying "thy kingdom come, thy will be done."

Lots of possibilities ahead....

On the journey together,
Charlie Berthoud, Senior Pastor

Joys, Cares & Concerns



Prayers continue for the following Covenant families and friends mourning these loved ones: **Steve Strategos**, brother-in-law of Sandy Nuernberg; **Wanda Bocanegra**, stepmother of Jose Bocanegra; and **Jonah Wiegel**, cousin of Melissa Hinz; **Cindi Rauch**, mother-in-law of Greg Hinz's niece; **Elaine Quimby**, mother of a friend of Melissa Hardy; **Barry Courtney**, uncle of Craig Courtney; **Nancy Ohlinger**, aunt of Laura Tatar Courtney; **Jean Jervis**, sister of Miriam Cerveny and Margaret Hickman.

Special Offerings Update



During Advent and Christmas, we collected two special offerings. **The Christmas Joy Offering** is a PC(USA) offering collected from Presbyterian churches nationally for current and retired church workers; this year Covenant collected **\$3,500!** **The Christmas Eve Mission Offering** is collected by Covenant for 2021 recipient – The River Food Pantry; Covenant raised **\$5,756** for this offering. Thank God for the generous community we have!

LET'S TALK ABOUT 

February Worship Schedule

Sunday, February 6
Let's Talk About Sex: Week 5
Holy Communion
(please have bread & juice available if watching online)
Jeff Fox-Kline | "Belonging" |
Song of Solomon 1:15-2:2, 14-16

Sunday, February 13
Charlie Berthoud | "It's All About Love" |
1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Sunday, February 20
Jeff Fox-Kline | "Insufficient Funds" | Luke 6:20

Sunday, February 27
Charlie Berthoud | "Rediscovering Jesus" | Luke 9:28-36

SERMON BY PHONE IS BACK!
Dial **608-237-1739** to listen to
our Sunday worship
during the pandemic




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!

February 1 Emily Bridwell Mike Hoesly Corinne Hollar Marge Resan	February 5 Gretchen Bauer Estella Peterson	February 12 Carrie Fox-Kline Ruth Hutchison Brad McDowell Andrew Qastin Jan Schuster Ellen Sperling	February 19 Betsy Erickson Henry Marley	February 24 Beckie Fulton Davis Hardy Bob Pearson Floyd Stautz
February 2 Peggy Bugg Janna Doney	February 7 Lisa Davis Bob Roden Nathan Sorensen	February 14 Arlene Kennedy	February 20 Lauren Kures Jacob Larget	February 26 Russ McMillan Mary Zoroufy
February 3 Chris Locher	February 9 Barb Danahy Tommy Stadler	February 16 Dave Griffith Ellen Houston Gwen Long Danealle Parchment	February 21 Laurie Jones	February 27 Matt Gilles Derek Handley Pauline Sparks
February 4 Dave Athas Dan Danahy Patricia Herrling Kathy Wendorff	February 10 Sherry Anderson Melissa Schmidt	February 17 Rick Nuernberg	February 22 Jim Goetz	February 28 Ken Joosse Virgil Landry Melissa Olmstead
	February 11 Lesley Galway	February 18 Emily Lanphear		

Children's Ministries

At-Home Sunday School Lessons

As you know, Covenant has returned to all virtual worship and education. You can now access At-Home Sunday School Lessons at covenantmadison.org/sundayschool through February!

Parents Talkback

As we make our way through the *Let's Talk About Sex* series, we wanted to offer a space to parents to talk through their questions, comments, and concerns. We will be offering two post-church talk-back sessions: **February 20 & 27**. Please let us know if you are interested in attending at forms.gle/9W2TjPHTKJ1ByDts5.

A Children's Time Video is shared each Sunday and explains the morning's scripture lesson.

The Puzzle Exchange Is Always Open!

Stop by the church courtyard and find a puzzle to take home to assemble. Puzzles are for children and adults. Look for the cabinet under the overhang near the picnic tables.

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

Youth Connection

Middle School Youth Connection (MSYC)
Grades 6-8

High School Youth Connection (HSYC)
Grades 9-12

Our Youth Connection ministries strive to continue to provide the middle school and high school youth a place in which they can connect with each other and grow as the community of Christ. During the course of the pandemic, we have had to make some considerable changes in how we do things. We have utilized zoom and masked in-person time together. Our 9th grade confirmation class is meeting through zoom for the second year in a row. We have served at The River Food Pantry and Second Harvest food bank. Our weekly adult leaders, the "Advisors," have been tremendous. The Middle School Youth Connection Advisors, all of whom grew up at Covenant, are Rachel Aune, Grady Brown, and Chantel Pivotto. The High School Youth Connection Advisors are Chris Barden, Kris Bauer, Brad Brown, Marge Resan, and Mary-Beth Rolland.

During the month of February, we will look to meet in person on a weekly basis. With the changing dynamics of the pandemic, we may have to be flexible and switch an indoor gathering to outdoors (weather permitting) or go with an on-line zoom on a given week. For that reason, we are not publishing a schedule in this space. Families will be sent the schedule for a given week as we go along. Generally, the Middle School Youth Connection will meet late Sunday afternoons and the High School Youth Connection on Sunday evenings.

For more information, please contact Youth Ministries Coordinator Steve Royalton (sroyalton@covenantmadison.org).

Trash & Treasure CANCELED

Due to the on-going pandemic, our "Trash & Treasure Sale" will not happen in 2022.

Adult Education February

All classes meet on Zoom only at 10:00am on Sunday mornings: us02web.zoom.us/j/89540028471.

Our calling at Covenant is to learn about God's love and to live it, to make it real. In February, we continue this sermon and education series focused on sex and sexuality. With a variety of perspectives, sermons engage biblical texts and help us have more conversations about topics that we too often ignore: the goodness of the body and sex, the challenge of making good choices and building healthy relationships. Worship is at 9:00 and 11:00. Each Sunday at noon, we have a "sermon talk-back" opportunity on Zoom for questions and conversation - us02web.zoom.us/j/84492410900.

The Sunday morning Adult Education classes (Feb 6 and 13) help us understand gender and sexual identity, encourage more conversation with children and grandchildren, recognize and respond to sexual trauma, and more. Join us online!

February 6: "What's Love Got To Do With (Doing) It?: Youths' Perspectives" - Brad Brown

February 13: "What Have We Learned?" - Drop-in session

February 20: TBD

February 27: TBD

Coming in Lent - I AM

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 2), and we will be doing a congregation-wide devotional called "I AM", based on the book of John and Jesus' "I am" statements. If you would like to be a part of this devotional, please sign up! www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4daaab23a3f85-covenant5. There will be Adult Education Classes that correlate with this devotional as well.

CONNECT: Sledding and Potluck Cookie Party!

Sunday, February 6 from 2:00-4:00pm

"Then Moses turned and went down the mountain..." – Exodus 32:15

Come one, come all to Garner Park - this is an event for all ages! Bring your sleds, saucers, skis, snickerdoodles, or just yourself, to enjoy the slopes and hot cider and cocoa. There's no football on TV, so what's your excuse? Don't let the virus get you down and come see the Covenant faces you've been missing. We will have lots of folding chairs for those who need a rest but aren't wearing snow pants. See you there! "Rain" date is Sunday, February 20. This will be the first of a series of Deacon-sponsored events called CONNECT, in which Covenant members/visitors being able to CONNECT with one another. Questions? Contact Michael Carlson.



Soul Sisters

Sunday, February 13 at 7:00pm

Soul Sisters are meeting virtually now via Zoom, ironically decided upon even before the church building shut down due to Covid numbers. Soul Sisters meets on the second Sunday evening of each month (occasionally altered due to holidays) at 7:00pm. If you are interested in joining, please contact Nan Schaefer at schaefer.nan@gmail.com or 608-772-3399. Soul Sisters is a gathering of women of faith, members and non-members of Covenant, who choose to spend time together learning, sharing, laughing, sometimes shedding tears, caring, and loving each other. Currently we are mid-way into the study of women of the Bible, learning how their lives, like the lives of our grandmothers, relate to and affect our lives today.

Library Corner: *Last Days of Theresienstadt*

Written by Eva Noack-Mosse, translated by Skye Doney and Birute Ciplijauskaite

Reviewed by Deborah Little Cohn



[Excerpt] In January 2021, Covenant member Skye Doney, one of the translators of *Last Days of Theresienstadt*, discussed the book during a virtual Covenant Adult Education class. He explained that Eva Noack-Mosse (1902 - 1990) kept a diary over the five months following her deportation in February 1945 from Germany to Theresienstadt, a ghetto and concentration camp located in Terezin, Czechoslovakia. She was the cousin of George L. Mosse, a prominent professor of European History and Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, beginning in 1955, for over 30 years. Skye Doney is currently the Director of the George L. Mosse Program in History at UW-Madison.

Read more here: www.covenantmadison.org/post/book-review-last-days-of-theresienstadt

Covenant's Winter Blood Drive

Thursday, February 17, 1:00-6:00pm

Covenant's Winter Blood Drive is coming up! Drive will take place in the Fellowship Hall. For an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: **Covenantpresmadison**. Walk-ins are welcome as space permits!



Job Opening at Pres House

Pres House is the campus ministry for the PC(USA) on the UW campus, and mission partner of Covenant. A beautiful and historic church, and also an apartment complex that houses students. They are now seeking a dynamic individual to join their team as **Associate Director of Residential Community (ADRC)**. This person will provide strategic leadership for, and primary management of, the residential programs at Pres House Apartments. For more information, visit preshouse.org, or contact Mark Elsdon or Laurie Jones.



As we pivot back to all virtual worship and education, you should know that we now have a [Worship Headquarters](http://covenantmadison.org/worshipqh) page on our website - covenantmadison.org/worshipqh. Everything you need to worship will be on this page - bulletin, online welcome pad, prayer list, etc... If you watch on YouTube, there will be a link to the web page from there as well. This will continue after we resume in-person services as well.

Mission Spotlight

The Road Home



The Road Home (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network), founded in 1999, has been a mission partner of Covenant for over 20 years. For many years, Covenant was a host church for Interfaith Hospitality Network, collaborating with First Baptist Church of Madison, Blackhawk Evangelical Church and Mount Olive Lutheran Church, to provide temporary shelter and meals in our church building to homeless children and their families for a week at a time, four weeks a year.

In 2018, The Road Home transitioned from coordinating temporary shelter for homeless families at area churches, to developing rapid rehousing programs and permanent supportive housing programs, both of which include case management services. In 2018, The Road Home also opened Healing House, a joint effort with Just Dane. Healing House, a recuperative care facility located near the UW-Madison campus, provides housing and meals for up to 30 days, to homeless families experiencing medical challenges. To learn more about The Road Home, click [HERE](#) or visit trhome.org.

Session Report

Laurie Jones, Clerk of Session

Your Session met on Jan. 25 for their first meeting of the year. Valuable time was spent getting to know one another and sharing personal journeys as they welcomed new member Jo Wiersema. The Elders elected Gordon Enderle as Treasurer, Laurie Jones as Clerk of Session, and Carol Philipps as President of the Corporation. All three are seasoned volunteers, willing to continue their service to Covenant. With joy, the Session heard that the word “interim” has been removed from Jo Wiersema’s job title and she is now the official Children’s Ministries Coordinator. The 2022 Budget was finalized (available Feb. 6 on the website) and will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Feb. 13 (see below). Pastor Charlie introduced the Session to a book to be read as they look toward long-range planning and a post-covid church. Doug Rohn and Mark Soderberg were elected as Presbytery Commissioners to attend the first meeting of the year on Feb. 19. Your Elders serve you with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love – this is going to be a great year!

Coming Soon!

The Annual Meeting

The Session has called the Annual Congregational Meeting for **Sunday, February 13 at noon**, via Zoom. The agenda includes:

- Approval of the 2021 Annual Report
- Approval of the terms of call for both pastors
- Presentation of the 2022 Budget

The Annual Report will be available on the homepage of the website by Sunday, February 6.

Inquirer’s Class

For those who are interested in learning more about Covenant and the possibility of membership, we will have our next Inquirers Class **on Sunday, March 6**. Contact the church office or Pastor Charlie Berthoud if you have questions.

**Covenant's Winter
Blood Drive**
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1:00-6:00pm
Fellowship Hall
(More info on page 6)

