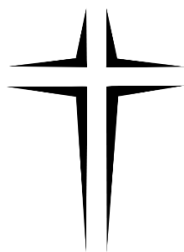


An abstract painting of a landscape with mountains and a sun. The sky is a mix of blue and white, with a bright yellow sun in the upper right. The mountains are painted in various shades of blue, purple, and green, with some areas of white and yellow. The foreground shows some green and brown patches, possibly representing fields or rocks.

**THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW SERMON SERIES**  
**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

# The Center of the Gospel

**JESUS SAID, "OTHER SEEDS FELL ON GOOD SOIL AND  
BROUGHT FORTH GRAIN, SOME A HUNDREDFOLD, SOME  
SIXTY, SOME THIRTY. IF YOU HAVE EARS, HEAR!"**  
**- MATTHEW 13:8-9**



COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*Welcome to Worship!*

January 18, 2026

9:00 & 11:00am

## PRELUDE

Prelude on “Old Hundredth” by Henry Purcell  
Doug McNeel, organist

## WELCOME

Pastor Charlie Berthoud

## MUSIC

#714 “God if the Fertile Fields” (v. 1-3)  
(9:00) Ben Johnson, vocalist

## CONFESSION, GOOD NEWS, & PEACE

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Jess Scholten

**Loving God, in Jesus Christ you have begun your Reign, and you call us to live in a new way as part of that Reign. Forgive us when we do not listen to your teaching. Forgive us when we fail to bear good fruit of justice and righteousness and love with our lives. Reawaken us, so we remember who we are and how we are called to live. Hear our prayers. Amen.**

Good News of the Gospel

Hymn of Praise

#441 “Hear the Good News of Salvation” (v. 1)

Passing of the Peace

*Please greet one another, sharing the peace of Christ. Also, please sign and pass the black friendship pad found in the pew rack.*

## CHILDREN’S TIME

Adam Brigham

*All children are invited to join us on the chancel steps. After Children’s Time, children 3 years old through 1<sup>st</sup> grade are invited to attend Kaleidoscope Kids in C208. See page 6 for more info.*

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

Pastor Charlie Berthoud

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9

Sermon: “The Center of the Gospel”

MUSIC

(11:00) #531 "Seed, Scattered and Sown" (v. 2, 3)

*Refrain: ALL, Verses: Choir only*

## OFFERING OUR LIVES & GIFTS TO GOD

*Offerings can be put in the lectern as you exit the Sanctuary. You can also give online, by contacting the office, or by scanning the QR code on the back cover.*

Special Music

(9:00) "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" by Handt Hanson

(11:00) "As Trees By the Waters" by Jayne Southwick Cool

Kris Lee, Susan Massey, & Greg Hinz, handbells

*Covenant Chancel Choir*

## JOYS, CONCERNS, & PRAYERS

MUSIC

#39 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (v. 1, 3)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"Herr Gott, Dich Loben Alle Wir" by Johann Walther

## Sunday Flowers

Today's white rose commemorates the life of George Hess, Covenant member.



*Thank you for joining us!*

If you are a visitor today, please visit our Welcome Center just outside the sanctuary in the gathering space where you can pick up more information about the church and chat with a member. If you have questions, please contact the church office!

*Masks are optional when in the building. Please be respectful of those who choose to wear a mask.*

*Masks and hand sanitizer are available at the Welcome Center.*

Email: [info@covenantmadison.org](mailto:info@covenantmadison.org) | Phone: (608) 233-6297

### **Worship**

#### **9:00am Piano-Led**

A piano-led service frequently with the New Day Ensemble

#### **11:00am Organ-Led**

An organ-led service frequently with choir or handbells

Livestream available here: [youtube.com/c/CovenantPresbyterianChurch](https://youtube.com/c/CovenantPresbyterianChurch).

### **Fellowship**

#### **10:00am Bradfield Café**

Come join us for donuts, coffee, and fellowship!

### **Nursery**

#### **Hours: 8:45am-12:15pm**

Our professionally staffed nursery is available for children 3 years old and below.

Follow the frogs from the Welcome Center to the nursery located in room C101.

### **Next Sunday**

**January 25, 2026 | 9:00 & 11:00am**

Preaching: The Rev. Devon Reynolds, Executive Presbyter of John Knox Presbytery

Text: Matthew 18





# Announcements

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## General Announcements

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### **Pasta Fundraiser – TODAY!**

Help our youth go to Guatemala this summer and have a lovely take-home meal! The youth will be selling pasta meals that you can take home and heat up to eat or take home and freeze for a later date. Come get your food on January 18 after both services.

### **Reclaiming the Good News: Book Discussion - TODAY, 12:15-1:15pm**

Join Pastor Charlie Berthoud on January 18 for a conversation on Christian nationalism, guided by the new book *Being Presbyterian in a Dysangelical America*. **You can still come even if you haven't read the book!**

**Office Closed – Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

### **Chancel Flowers – an Easy Way to Support Covenant!**

Want a simple way to support Covenant all while enhancing worship? Sign up to donate flowers! Head to the Welcome Center for more information and to sign up. Each arrangement is \$50. A dedication (“in honor/memory/celebration of...”) can be specified and then will be shared in the bulletin. Thank you!

### **Matthew Devotional – Subscribe!**

We have a new devotional to ring in the New Year on the Gospel of Matthew. Subscribe for daily emails using the QR code or contact the church office at [info@covenantmadison.org](mailto:info@covenantmadison.org). Hard copies of the devotional are available at the Welcome Center.



### **Covenant Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 1, 10:00am**

The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, February 1 at 10:00am. The 2025 Annual Report is available today at the Welcome Center or by scanning the QR code. Agenda includes: 1) Approval of the 2025 Annual Report, 2) Approval of the terms of call for Pastor Charlie, Pastor Jess, and Pastor Megan, 3) Presentation of the 2026 Budget.



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## Children's Ministries

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### **Kaleidoscope Kids – TODAY at 9:00am**

Kaleidoscope Kids teaches our children about parts of the worship service and meets every Sunday during 9:00am worship immediately following Children's Time. *Kaleidoscope Kids is for children 3 years old through 1<sup>st</sup> grade.*

### **Sunday School – TODAY at 10:00am**

Sunday School meets weekly from 10:00-10:50am. *Sunday School is for children 3 years old through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.*

**Families!** Be sure to grab the **Family Worship Bags** and a **Children's Bible** from the narthex. **Wiggles & Giggles:** Our Lounge is available to let your wiggles and giggles out while still participating in worship. Take advantage if you need!

Visit [covenantmadison.org/children](https://covenantmadison.org/children) for more info on Children's Ministries at Covenant.

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## Adult Education

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### **"Caregiver Awareness and Support" – TODAY at 10:00am**

National Caregivers Day is in February. Pastor Jess will present on our hopes for 2026 to support caregivers and encourage congregational care among members.

### **Upcoming Class:**

**Sunday, January 25 – "Ask the Executive Presbyter" with Rev. Devon Reynolds**

Visit [covenantmadison.org/adult](https://covenantmadison.org/adult) for more info on Adult Ed at Covenant.

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## Youth Connection

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### **Youth Connection – TODAY, 5:00-6:30pm**

Join us for some fun, fellowship, and snacks! *Youth Connection is for grades 6-12.*

Visit [covenantmadison.org/youth](https://covenantmadison.org/youth) for more info on Youth Connection at Covenant.

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## Generosity & Capital Campaigns

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The Generosity Campaign asks people to support Covenant's ministry with their time, talents, and treasures. We are also running a Capital Campaign to raise funds for our Parking Lot Project from 2026 to 2028. Please return commitment cards ASAP. You may place them in the offering lectern by the sanctuary entrance. To learn more or to fill out forms online, visit [covenantmadison.org/give](https://covenantmadison.org/give).

**Generosity Campaign:** So far, we have received **200** pledges totaling **\$1,044,801.99**.  
**Capital Campaign:** So far, we have received **154** pledges totaling **\$655,550 (not including the \$150,000 matching anonymous donation)**.

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## Upcoming Events

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### **Young Professionals Axe Throwing – Saturday, January 24, 6:00pm**

Covenant's Young Professionals are going axe throwing! Join us on Saturday, January 24 at 6:00pm at Madison Axe on Stoughton Road. We will plan to have dinner together either before or after the event. To sign up, scan the QR code or email Pastor Jess at [jscholten@covenantmadison.org](mailto:jscholten@covenantmadison.org).



### **Spiritual Stroll – Sunday, January 25, 2:00pm**

The January Stroll will be at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton. These strolls are part of CONNECT, a program of events with the intention of fostering connection between Covenant and the community.

### **“From the Holocaust to Civil Rights” – Monday, January 26, 6:00pm**

Covenant member Debbie Konkol and her sisters will present the story of their pilgrimage to Germany and France to learn about their grandmother's tragic and shocking murder during the Holocaust, as well as presenting on their father's lifelong response to what happened to his family by becoming a Presbyterian minister and marching with Dr. King in the Selma March. Pizza and salad will be provided for dinner at 6:00pm with the presentation to follow at 6:30pm. Childcare will be provided during the event. To RSVP for dinner and/or childcare, scan the QR code or contact the church office at [info@covenantmadison.org](mailto:info@covenantmadison.org).



### **Clementines for Glenn Stephens Elementary – Sunday, February 1**

We will be collecting **clementines** on Sunday, February 1, for Glenn Stephens students as part of our Healthy Snack Program. Look for the wagon in the narthex to drop them off. Thank you for your support!

### **First Wednesdays Potluck – Wednesday, February 5 at 12:00pm**

Cook something at home or pick something up at your favorite restaurant to share and join us for good food and warm fellowship! This month's speakers are Covenant's Mercy Mats small group members. Beverages, plates, and utensils will be provided. Feel free to invite a friend!

### **Heifer Sunday Volunteers! – Sunday, February 8 at 10:00am**

February 8 is Heifer Sunday, when we raise awareness and funds to support the development work of Heifer International. We need volunteers to help set up games for the event, exchange and count money, and clean up afterwards. Scan the QR code to sign up!



## Covenant Staff and Officers

**Charlie Berthoud**, Pastor/Head of Staff  
**Megan Berry**, Pastor for Children,  
 Youth & Families  
**Jess Scholten**, Pastor for Mission,  
 Spiritual Growth & Care  
**Melissa Hinz**, Minister of Music &  
 Pastoral Care  
**Megan Angriawan**, Assistant Music  
 Coordinator  
**Arlene Kennedy**, Children's Music  
 Director  
**Doug McNeel**, Organist  
**Bailey Green**, Church Administrator  
**Janet Cresson**, Financial Coordinator  
**Ann Perry**, Administrative Assistant  
**Vicki Alexander**, Nursery Supervisor  
**Eileen Durand, Anne Lawrence**,  
 Nursery Assistants  
**Jay Petrie**, Livestream Operator  
**Mary Kieta**, Sunday Host  
**Rodrigo Morales**, Custodian  
**Rick Bartz**, Maintenance Assistant

### DEACONS

*Class of 2025*  
 Bob Cole  
 Sherry Hershberger  
 Mary Kieta  
 Lynn Vande Sande

*Class of 2026*  
 Ann Larget  
 Cara Cavin  
 Randy Holveck  
 Chan Sommers

*Class of 2027*  
 Jane Bertram  
 Melissa Hardy  
 Cornelia Hempe  
 Art Kanitz

### ELDERS/SESSION

*Class of 2025*  
 Christine Barden  
 John Guequierre  
 Marilyn Krichko

*Class of 2026*  
 Barb Eikenberry  
 Skye Doney  
 Jane Kolakowski

*Class of 2027*  
 Tom Hershberger  
 Rhonda Rohn  
 JR Schmidt

*Clerk of Session*  
 Laurie Jones

## COVENANT IS A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH

In accepting the PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 invitation, we commit ourselves to the work of dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty, and building congregational vitality. In everything we do – worship, education, mission, fellowship – we think about how we love God through loving our neighbor.



Covenant Presbyterian Church  
 326 S. Segoe Road  
 Madison, WI 53705  
 (608) 233-6297  
 M-TH 9-4; F 9-12

[info@covenantmadison.org](mailto:info@covenantmadison.org)  
[covenantmadison.org](http://covenantmadison.org)



scan to give