COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN | ADVENT 2026

HOPE and the PROPHET

PASTOR MEGAN BERRY





HOPE ✦ PEACE ✦ JOY ✦ LOVE

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcome to Worship!

November 29, 2026
9:00 & 11:00am

PRELUDE (9:00) Ben Welch, pianist
(11:00) Improvisation on "Veni Emmanuel" arr by Ken Sosinski (piano and harp)
Ken Sosinski, organist

WELCOME Pastor Megan Berry

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (9:00) The Sanders Family
Scott, Carrie, & Natalie
(11:00) Covenant Chancel Choir members

HYMN #92 While We Are Waiting, Come

CONFESSION, GOOD NEWS, & PEACE Pastor Jess Scholten

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence. Be gracious and awaken us again to your hope and glory so we may be grounded in your love and call on our lives. Amen.

Good News of the Gospel

Hymn of Praise #121 O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs 4)

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 Kate Sargent

All children are invited to the front near the chancel steps. During 9am worship, after Children's Time, children 3 years – 1st 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 Megan Berry

Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

Sermon: "Hope and the Prophet"

HYMN — (11:00) #82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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) "Messiah" by Larry Olson
New Day Ensemble

(11:00) "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" arr Andre Thomas
Covenant Chancel Choir

JOYS, CONCERNS, AND PRAYERS

HYMN — (9:00) #137 He Came Down

(11:00) #93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

BLESSING

POSTLUDE — (11:00) "Postlude in D" by Healey Willan

Sunday Flowers

This week's flowers are dedicated by Jane & Pete Kolakowski in memory of John & Jean Steffen.



Thank you for being here!

If you are a visitor today, please stop by our Welcome Center near the main entrance where you can pick up more information about Covenant and chat with a member.

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 | 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/@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 younger. Follow the frogs from the Welcome Center to the nursery located in room C101.

Next Sunday – Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2026 | 9:00 & 11:00am
Preaching: Jess Scholten
Text: Isaiah 11:1-10



General Announcements

Monthly Spiritual Stroll Sunday, TODAY at 2:00pm
Our November Spiritual Stroll has moved to the 5th Sunday of the month, November 29, and will be at Owen Conservancy. Every month we meet to hike and explore parks and spaces in the area. These strolls are part of CONNECT, a program of deacon-sponsored events with the intention of fostering connection between Covenant and the community.

2026 Advent Devotional Available in the Narthex
Covenant's selected Advent devotional, *Possibility,* by Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow invites you to embrace the roles of prophet, priest, pastor, and poet as you move from passive worry into active conviction. Each day's devotion includes an Advent scripture, reflection, and prayer. Copies are available in the narthex. There is a suggested donation of $5 per book.

Advent Worship – November 29 – December 20
As Christmas nears, we journey through the four Sundays of Advent, reflecting on HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE. On December 20, a Children's Musical will be held at a single 10:00am service. Come and prepare your hearts for the light that shines in the darkness as God comes to be with us in Jesus' birth.

The Road Home Hope for the Holidays Gift Program helps families rebuilding after experiencing homelessness have a warm and bright holiday season. As in the past, donors purchase one $75 gift card per person for whom they wish to donate to a store advised by The Road Home staff. The families are then able to purchase gifts, food, or holiday decorations for themselves for the holiday season. If you are interested in participating in this program, please email Nan Schaefer at Schaefer.nan@gmail.com. Please drop off gift cards at the Main Office by Friday, December 3. Thank you for your support!

Adult Education Opportunities

Sunday Adult Ed | 10:00am in Bradfield South
Today - November 29, 2026 "What is Advent Anyway?" with Pastor Jess and Deb Morris. Join us as we explore themes of preparing our hearts for the arrival of Jesus.

Closing out the year: December 6 and 13 "A History of Mystery: The Trinity" John Strikwerda will share the development of Trinitarian Theology as well as how ancient Christians and we ourselves experience the divine influence on our lives.

Children's Ministries

Kaleidoscope Kids - 9:00am (*For children 3 years old through 1st grade.)*
Kaleidoscope Kids teaches children about parts of the worship service and meets every Sunday during 9:00am worship immediately following Children's Time.

Sunday School - 10:00-10:50am - Begins in Children's Choir Room
Children who are **3 years old through 8th grade** are invited to be a part of Sunday School classes each week**.** *Parents: if your child(ren) are 3 years old through 3rd grade, please plan to pick them up from their classrooms at 10:50am.*

Family Worship Bags and **Children's Bibles** are available in 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 to!

Youth Ministries

Youth Connection, for grades 6-12, **meets tonight from 5:00-6:30pm.** Join us for some fun and fellowship!

2027 Generosity Campaign Update

The Generosity Campaign asks people to support Covenant's ministry with their time, talents, and treasures. 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/generosity. Commitment cards and Serving Surveys are available at the Welcome Center, or you can fill it out online.

For the 2026 campaign, 204 pledges were received totaling $1,050,841.95.
So far, for the 2027 campaign, we have received **162 pledges** totaling **$925,029.84.**

Upcoming Events

First Wednesdays Potluck – Wednesday, December 2, 12:00pm
Bring a dish to share and come to our monthly potluck! Beverages are provided. This month we will be enjoying some Advent themed fun and games in place of a guest speaker.

Parent Time Out – Sunday, December 6, 4:00-7:00pm
Parents, it's time for a Time Out! Drop your kids off at the church from 4:00 to 7:00pm on December 6, and the youth will watch them so you can have some time to do parent things: Go Christmas shopping, have dinner together, or take a nap! We will order pizza for dinner, so please sign your child(ren) up using the QR code included here so we can make sure we have enough food.

Soul Sisters, Sunday, December 13 at 12:00pm in room A106
All women of Covenant Church are invited to join the Soul Sisters gathering at church on Sunday, December 13 at noon (immediately after the second service) in Room A106. Please bring your own lunch and we'll eat and chat for the first part of the meeting. We'll be talking about part of Adam Hamilton's "Making Sense of the Bible" book and DVD series. Soul Sisters meet September through May each month for fellowship, interesting discussions, and Bible study, always in loving support of each other. If you want to find out more or would like to join Soul Sisters, please contact coordinator Barb Eikenberry (barb.eikenberry@gmail.com; 608-333-9746.

Wisconsin State Capitol Tour – Sunday, December 13, 2:00pm
Join us for a guided tour of the beautiful Wisconsin State Capitol on Sunday, December 13! The tour begins at 2:00pm, so please arrive at the Rotunda by 1:50pm. Tours last about 45 minutes, and they are a great way to learn more about our state's history and architecture. Please RSVP for the tour on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary no later than Friday, December 11th. Contact Ann Larget via email at larget.ann@gmail.com with any questions.

Families w/ Young Kids Christmas Party, Sunday, December 13, 4:00-6:00pm
Our Families with Young Kids Christmas Party is Sunday, December 13. Childcare is offered from 4:00-5:00pm with dinner starting at 5:00pm. This month, dinner is provided. We hope to see you there!

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
Jo Mahnke, 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 2026
Ann Larget
Cara Cavin
Randy Holveck
Chan Sommers

Class of 2027
Jane Bertram
Cornelia Hempe
Sherry Hershberger
Art Kanitz

Class of 2028
Shawn Conley
Raleigh Jones
Janice Walden
Pat Wilker

ELDERS/SESSION

Class of 2026
Barb Eikenberry
Skye Doney
Jane Kolakowski

Class of 2027
Tom Hershberger
Rhonda Rohn
JR Schmidt

Class of 2028
Brad Brown
Betsy Erickson
Tim Smeeding

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
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(608) 233-6297
M-TH 9-4, F 9-12
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