

# The Tidings

Vol. 30, Issue 2

February 2020



## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP FEBRUARY 26, 7PM

Simplicity and sparseness, quiet and focus: these are the atmospheric touchstones for the Ash Wednesday service. Come for this time of reflection, the imposition of ashes (on your hand or forehead) readings, music, and a gentle yet powerful beginning of our Lenten journey with Jesus.

## NEW LOGO (PICTURED ABOVE)

The communications committee has been hard at work preparing to launch a new website in 2020. As part of this work, they've created a new logo that we can use on the website and in other materials to give us visual consistency. We hope this logo will come to represent Covenant among our members, as well as in the community. There are stickers of the logo available in the Gathering Space for members to take home and use. Put one on your water bottle or in your car window or get creative!

## A SOUPER BOWL OF AN AFTERNOON LUNCH AND GAMES AFTER WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES

On the **second Sunday in February (February 9)**, you're invited to stay after worship for lunch and an afternoon of games **for all ages**. We'll provide the lunch and a variety of games and you bring yourselves, a small donation to cover the cost of lunch (if you're able), and your favorite game (if you'd like). Regardless of whether or not you can stay, we're inviting everyone to help us make it a Super Bowl of a Sunday (a week late, we know) by **bringing a can of soup to donate to the Food Pantry**. Sign up on the bulletin insert at worship, or contact Kathy Miller in the church office (kmiller@covpres.org or 262-634-4597).

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

### Sunday, February 2 Communion

Rev. Jennifer Gleichauf Preaching

- |        |                                    |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| 8:15am | Choir Rehearsal                    |
| 10am   | Worship, Sunday, School, Nursery   |
| 11am   | Confirmation Worship Discussion    |
| 11am   | Bell Choir Rehearsal               |
| 11am   | Mission Outreach Committee Meeting |

### Sunday, February 9 Food Collection

**Bring a Can of Soup to Donate**

Rev. Sarah Walker Cleveland Preaching

- |        |                                 |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| 8:15am | Choir Rehearsal                 |
| 10am   | Worship, Sunday School, Nursery |
| 11am   | Bell Choir Rehearsal            |
| 11am   | Lunch and Games for All Ages    |

### Sunday, February 16 Change 4 Children Offering

Rev. Jennifer Gleichauf Preaching

- |          |                                     |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 8:15am   | Choir Rehearsal                     |
| 10am     | Worship, Sunday School, Nursery     |
| 11am     | Bell Choir Rehearsal                |
| 11:30am  | Confirmation Families Lunch & Class |
| 2-4:30pm | Welsh Hall in use                   |

### Sunday, February 23

Rev. Sarah Walker Cleveland Preaching

- |         |                                 |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| 8:15am  | Choir Rehearsal                 |
| 9:30am  | Bell Choir Rehearsal            |
| 10am    | Worship, Sunday School, Nursery |
| 10am    | Confirmation Class              |
| 11am    | Bell Choir Rehearsal            |
| 11:30am | Facilities Committee Meeting    |
| 11:30am | Communications Committee        |

# PASTOR'S PAGE

## FROM PASTOR JENNY

Dear Covenant,

Pastor Sarah and I are sifting through materials and readings for Lent preparing for the six weeks we will walk together to Easter. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 26 this year and so you have most of this month to consider how you will go through Lent. Perhaps you'll use a daily devotional. Maybe you'll give something up and allow its absence to remind you of God's presence. Perhaps you'll start a new spiritual practice – a new kind of prayer or reading. However you choose to spend your Lenten journey, it is meant to be a time which speaks to us of sacrifice, commitment, journeys and wilderness. I came across this poem about wilderness and thought I'd share it as something to meditate on this month as you think about how you'll spend Lent this year.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jenny

THE WILDERNESS IS SOMEWHERE WE'VE BEEN BEFORE  
Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

I'm not the first.  
That's what I tell myself when I wake up in  
the wilderness—  
Big sky, worried heart, wondering which way  
to start.  
I have been here before.  
We have been here before.  
For as long as there has been creation,  
There has been wilderness.  
First it was an endless void,  
Until God and God's paintbrush painted the  
sky gold.  
And then it was all that lies east of Eden,  
Which is everywhere that our story unfolds.  
So like a child memorizing their home address,  
You'd think I'd learn my way out of  
this wilderness.  
But like the Israelites who wandered for forty  
plus years,  
I think I'll spend most of my day to day here.  
For the wilderness is everywhere that I start  
to grow.

Cracks in the sidewalk, daisies take hold.  
And the wilderness is every single place  
of unknown,  
Or when shame and fear move into my home.  
And the wilderness is where dusty feet tread,  
Familiar with the truth that we have days left.  
So where is God, you ask?  
God is in the big sky and in my worried heart.  
God is the sidewalk cracks where new  
life starts.  
God is in the realization that I am not the first.  
So may we take these limited days left  
And remember that we've been here before—  
God and I and this untamed world.  
God and the Israelites and the  
gathered assembly.  
God and the horizon and the new  
day beginning.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### WE OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES

As you have heard, the Communications Committee is at work on the development of an upgraded Covenant website. We've identified a partner in the process, and find that we have room for pictures. Here's how *you* can help. If you're at a committee meeting, an event, helping with a Sunday School project, and have your phone, please snap pictures of Covenant activities. Please take horizontal as opposed to vertical photos when you can. Maybe even a selfie or two? And then send them (in the highest resolution -largest size- you can) to Kathy Miller (kmiller@covpes.org). It's a snap!

## FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR JOE DOMINIC

Welcome to February! I hope you're having a festive Carnival season! Carnival comes from the Latin words *carne vale* meaning "farewell to the flesh" *Mardi Gras* is French and translates as "fat Tuesday". While *Mardi Gras* specifically means February 25, 2020, the day before Ash Wednesday, it's come to mean the entire Carnival season.

Shrove Tuesday is the name in England for *Mardi Gras*. This name comes from the verb "shrive". To shrive, is to have your sins forgiven. People got ready for the beginning of Lent by telling their sins so that they could do penance, that is, make right what they had done wrong, as part of Lent.

We and other Christian traditions who use the Revised Common Lectionary refer to this season as the "Time after Epiphany", which is not a very poetic moniker to my mind! It's intriguing to me, that our common usage has shortened the name of this season to "Epiphany". This seems to have resulted in the theme of "light" becoming a common theme through all these days. In fact, in many hymnals, but not ours thank goodness, there's a separate Epiphany section with hymn texts focusing on Christ as light. Our hymnal puts some of these hymns, such as 152, What Star is This with Beams so Bright, under the heading "Jesus Christ: Birth", which, to me anyways, makes more sense, but I can also see how that might limit their use during the rest of the year. The rest of the light themed hymns appear scattered throughout the hymnal.

These Carnival days between Epiphany, January 6, 2020, and Lent, February 26, 2020, are a time, when in addition to celebrating, many folks from many Christian traditions ate the forbidden foods of the coming Lenten season, most notably, meat and fat, lest they go bad during the seven weeks of Lent. Hence, the Polish tradition of eating *Pączki*, a fried and filled doughnut, and the Latinx and French traditions of eating *Rosca de Reyes*, King Cake, during this season. Both of these traditions seem to be very popular in Southeast Wisconsin.

On Sunday, February 23, we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration when Jesus appeared to his disciples on the mountain top with Moses and Elijah. We, along with many other Christian traditions who use the Revised Common Lectionary, celebrate Transfiguration on the last Sunday before Lent. Our hymnal has four hymns with texts written specifically for this day, 189, 190, 191, and 193. It's worth noting that this year, we get to hear Matthew's version of this story twice; on this day and the second Sunday of Lent, March 8, 2020.

It's interesting, that other than hymn 189 in our hymnal, O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair, all the Transfiguration hymn texts are by Americans and written in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The text of hymn 189 is a translation by John Mason Neale, who was English and lived in the 1800s. Neale wrote or translated 12 of the texts in our hymnal! O Wondrous Sight is a translation of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Latin hymn, Coelestis Forman Gloriam, which translates to Form of Heavenly Glory. It was specifically written for the Transfiguration. In our hymnal and many others, the tune it is paired with is DEO GRACIAS. This song, with its original text, was written for the English king, Henry V, when he returned to London, England after defeating the French at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. Thus, this tune is also often called AGINCOURT HYMN because of this origin.

DEO GRACIAS is often assumed to be written by the prolific English composer, John Dunstable, 1390 – 1453, but no one actually knows who wrote it for sure. Dunstable mostly wrote sacred vocal music for church services. However, he was not a priest, unlike most European composers of the late Medieval and early Renaissance periods. Even so, he greatly influenced contemporary composers and composers who came after him, both in England and continental Europe.

During the English reformation in the 1500s when the Church of England (now called Anglican or Episcopalian in the USA) broke from the Roman Catholic church, the English government destroyed most monasteries. This is where copies of Dunstable's music were. So the copies of his music we have now, were found in monasteries and churches in continental Europe. As a side note, the Church of Scotland (now called Presbyterian in the USA) would break, just a bit later, from the Church of England.

The tune DEO GRACIAS also appears in our hymnal at #618 to the text O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High. There's a very popular organ arrangement of this tune by the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century American composer and organist, E. Power Biggs. I remember Sue playing this arrangement as the postlude sometime in December. It would not surprise me if you hear the organist play that this day because of its long association with the feast of the Transfiguration.

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During the season of Lent, Christians in many traditions fast from saying and singing the word Alleluia and the text usually referred to in English as the Glory to God, or Gloria in Latin. Thus, we will probably sing several alleluias on the Transfiguration. Both the Choir and the Hand-Chime Ensemble will make music, so we may end the Time after Epiphany with a bang. In fact, the choir will sing a canon by the English composer William Boyce, 1711 – 1779, where the only text is Alleluia. In the middle ages, it was often customary to “bury the alleluia” – a scroll or piece of artwork with the word was placed in a box, which was not seen, spoken, or sung again until Easter. I wonder what those choirs replaced it with when they rehearsed!

Join the **Choir!** We rehearse Sundays at 8:15 to 9:30 AM in church. A schedule from now through Pentecost is available in the file box next to the choir pews. Please help yourself.

Join the **Handchime Ensemble!** We rehearse Sundays from 11:00 to 11:45 AM in church and at 9:30 AM on days we perform. A schedule from now through Pentecost is available in the file box next to the choir pews. Please help yourself.

May you enjoy a feast before our Lenten fast, Joe

## MISSION OUTREACH

### WINTER WEAR COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who brought in hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves (as well as a few coats) for our drive this month. Overall we collected approximately 70 items. We have taken the items to The Hospitality Center where they will be offered to those who need them.

### FOOD PANTRY—THANKS A TON!

When delivering food to the NorthSide Food Pantry on December 19 as they were closing for the day I was anxiously greeted. They had prepared for 18 families and 31 families came for help. They ran out of food so were happy to see me with food so they could help the last 5 families. (God does provide!) We have provided over 2500 pounds this year which was greatly needed as they have had an increase of 400 families served in 2019.

From Mary Lou (Mary Lou and Howard Short take the food donations to the food pantry each month.)

## ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

**The first Sunday of Lent is March 1.** In this season of preparation, many people find devotionals helpful guides to navigate the season. We’re continuing with our Devotional Lending Library, so look for Lenten devotionals on the bookcase in late February.

### BIBLE STUDY

**Bible Study meets on Wednesdays from 10:30am to 12pm.** Each week we look at the upcoming texts that will be used in worship. No prior knowledge of the Bible or experience of Bible Study is required. We read the texts together (and sometimes some commentaries, reflections, or sermons about the texts), and then talk about what we notice, questions we have, and where we see connections between the texts themselves and between the texts and our lives. We have folks join us who have been coming to Bible Study for years and others who are brand new to the idea of studying the Bible, so whatever level of familiarity or experience you have with scripture, you will not be alone and you would be very welcome. We hope you’ll join us.

## NEW SOUND SYSTEM

On Friday, January 24, we had an entirely new sound system installed by MetroSound. Last fall, our sound system was compromised in an electrical storm just as we happened to begin discussions about upgrading our system. Our last system was installed over 10 years ago and there have been enough changes in technology since then to make an upgrade make sense. One of the biggest changes to this new system is that we will be able to run the sound from an iPad, which allows for many new possibilities.

We are particularly grateful for the gift from the Dickel Family in memory of Vivian Dickel which purchased the original system and has now allowed for this upgrade to our sound system.

## CARING FOR CREATION

### JOIN CARING FOR CREATION AT WOLF PRESENTATION

Wisconsin is one of the few states with a wolf population. In 1987, only eighteen wolves were estimated to live here. That year the Environmental Institute at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin began the Timber Wolf Alliance to assist promoting wolf recovery through public education, citizen science, and volunteer activities. Today, Wisconsin is home to over 900 wolves! The Timber Wolf Alliance relies on investigation and research to dispel myths and unfounded fears associated with wolves. **Join Caring for Creation Committee members at a Timber Wolf Alliance presentation on Saturday, February 29, from 10-11:30am at Richard Bong State Recreation Area's Visitors Center** to learn more about these amazing animals and how to share our state with them. The presentation is free but you will need to have, or purchase upon arrival, a daily park pass or annual state park vehicle admission sticker. For questions, contact Maureen Potter at [ondalake55@gmail.com](mailto:ondalake55@gmail.com).

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

**Sunday, February 2**

Service projects together in Welsh Hall

**Sunday, February 9**

Music with Adam Walker Cleaveland

**Sundays, February 16 and 23**

Classroom - Jesus at the Wedding of Cana

### CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

**Sunday, February 2, 11am**

Worship discussion group for 15 minutes following worship

**Wednesday, February 5, 5:30-7pm**

Dinner and games together at church

**Sunday, February 16, 11:30am-1:30pm**

Class with Families

**Sunday, February 23, 10am**

Class with Claudia during worship

\*Meet with your mentors. And don't forget to get your faith interviews done!

### YOUTH GROUP DINNER

Because our usual time on the first Sunday is during the Super Bowl, this month we will meet for **dinner and games at the church on Wednesday, February 5 from 5:30-7pm.**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES POTLUCK SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 5-7PM

All Sunday School families are invited to come to this casual potluck to get to know each other better by enjoying each other's company and some good food. **We will send out a link for a SignUp Genius so you can RSVP. If you do not receive the email with the link please inform Kathy in the church office** ([kmiller@covpres.org](mailto:kmiller@covpres.org) or 262-634-4597). High School students will be here to help watch the kids so parents can spend more time visiting with each other. **We ask each family to pitch in \$5** to thank the High School students.

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Feb 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

**Communion**

10am - Worship  
11am - Conf. Disc.  
11am - Mission Outreach

**Food Pantry**

10am - Worship  
11am - Lunch/Games

**Change & Children**

10am - Worship  
11:30am - Conf.  
1:30pm - Mission Trip  
2pm - Welsh Hall In Use

10am - Confirmation  
10am - Worship  
11am - Communications  
11am - Facilities

9am - Habitat

9am - Habitat  
5pm - SS Fam Potluck

10am - Wolf Presentation

9am - Yoga  
10:30am - Yoga

6pm - Deacons

8:30am - Prov Rm In Use  
9am - Yoga  
10:30am - Yoga  
6pm - W & M

9am - Yoga  
10:30am - Yoga

5:30pm - Trustees  
6:30pm - Session

9am - Yoga  
10:30am - Yoga

6pm - CF  
6pm - Steph. Min.

9:30am - Al-Anon  
10am - Staff

4pm - Presbytery

9:30am - Al-Anon  
10am - Staff

9:30am - Al-Anon  
10am - Staff

2pm - Parkinson's

9:30am - Al-Anon  
10am - Staff

6pm - Ash Wednesday

10:30am - Bible  
11:30am - Welsh Hall In

5:30pm - Youth Dinner

8am - M. Breakfast  
10:30am - Bible  
4pm - Personnel

9am - W. Breakfast  
10:30am - Bible

10:30am - Bible  
6:15pm - Choir

7pm - Ash Wednesday

9am - Yoga  
10:30am - Yoga

5:45pm - AA

9am - Yoga  
10:30am - Yoga  
5:45pm - AA

9am - Yoga  
10:30am - Yoga

5:45pm - AA  
6pm - FFF

9am - Yoga  
10:30am - Yoga  
5:45pm - AA

# FEBRUARY SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

	Ushers	Nursery	Greeters	Acolyte	Communion
<b>Sunday February 2 10am</b>	<b>David Houser</b> Connie Eberly Paul Eberly Barbara Houser	<b>Linda Greeley</b> Lawson Kobriger	Mary Jones	Eden Jensen	<b>Naison Nyamatutu</b> Will Archer Chris Smith Eddy Huffman Steve Wolf
<b>Sunday February 9 10am</b>	<b>David Houser</b> Connie Eberly Paul Eberly Barbara Houser	<b>Linda Greeley</b> Gavin Thordson	Keith & Paula Hatch	Naisbert Nyamatutu	—
<b>Sunday February 16 10am</b>	<b>David Houser</b> Connie Eberly Paul Eberly Barbara Houser	<b>Linda Greeley</b> Josie Johnson	Steve & Susan Leger	Aleah Hackman	—
<b>Sunday February 23 10am</b>	<b>David Houser</b> Connie Eberly Paul Eberly Barbara Houser	<b>Linda Greeley</b> Ty Johnson	Clay Johnson & Debbie King	Drew Palmer	—

## NEWS OF THE CHURCH HOUSEHOLD

**Directory Updates...** Page 8 Vicki Hanchon, 1320 Kewaunee St, Upper, Racine WI 53404  
262-412-3810  
Page 14 Maureen Potter, ondalake55@gmail.com

## FACILITIES UPDATE

As mentioned in the last Tidings issue, we have replaced the vinyl tile on the stairs from the entrance to the lower level with ceramic tile. The new ceramic tile matches the tile used on the entrance floor and the stairs going up to the Gathering Space. It took us several years to complete the entire project but it was worth the wait. There are 3 pictures included in this article to show the before, during, and after. Take a stroll down the complete set of stairs for the overall effect.



Before



During



After



# THE TIDINGS

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
40 Ohio Street  
Racine, WI 53405-1916  
(262) 634-4597  
www.covpres.org  
facebook.com/welcometocovpres

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### **ELDERS AND DEACONS ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

Our new Elders and Deacons were voted into office at the Annual Meeting and they begin to serve on the Session and Board of Deacons, respectively, this month. They will be ordained and installed at **10 am worship on Sunday, February 16**. This part of the worship service allows them to confirm their vows as church officers and gives opportunity to all previous elders and deacons to pray with laying on of hands during the ordination and installation. We hope you will plan to be present and will participate in this special part of worship.

**Elders:** Michael Clickner, Karen Fretschel, Claudia Grace, Greg Hanchon, Eddy Huffman, Lori Jensen, Scott McDonald, Maureen Potter, Tim Risler, Janelle Rogers, Linda Webster, Carlton Winger

**Deacons:** Will Archer, Mary Bohn, Bob Bower, Kathie Eastman, Mary Jones, Candy Lively, Naison Nyamatutu, Sue Lange Pruitt, Chris Smith, David Steege, Tim Strand, Dawn Wolf

#### **Weekdays**

Church Office Open  
Monday—Friday  
9am—3pm

#### **Sundays**

10am Worship  
Sunday School  
Nursery

#### **In Ministry Together:**

The Congregation, *Ministers*

The Rev. Jennifer Gleichauf, *Co-Pastor*, jenny@covpres.org

The Rev. Sarah Walker Cleaveland, *Co-Pastor*, sarah@covpres.org

Kathy Miller, *Ministry Assistant*, kmiller@covpres.org

Joe Dominic, *Music Director & Co-Organist*, joe@covpres.org

Linda Greeley, *Nursery Caregiver*