



OCTOBER 2020

# The Caravan

ON THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

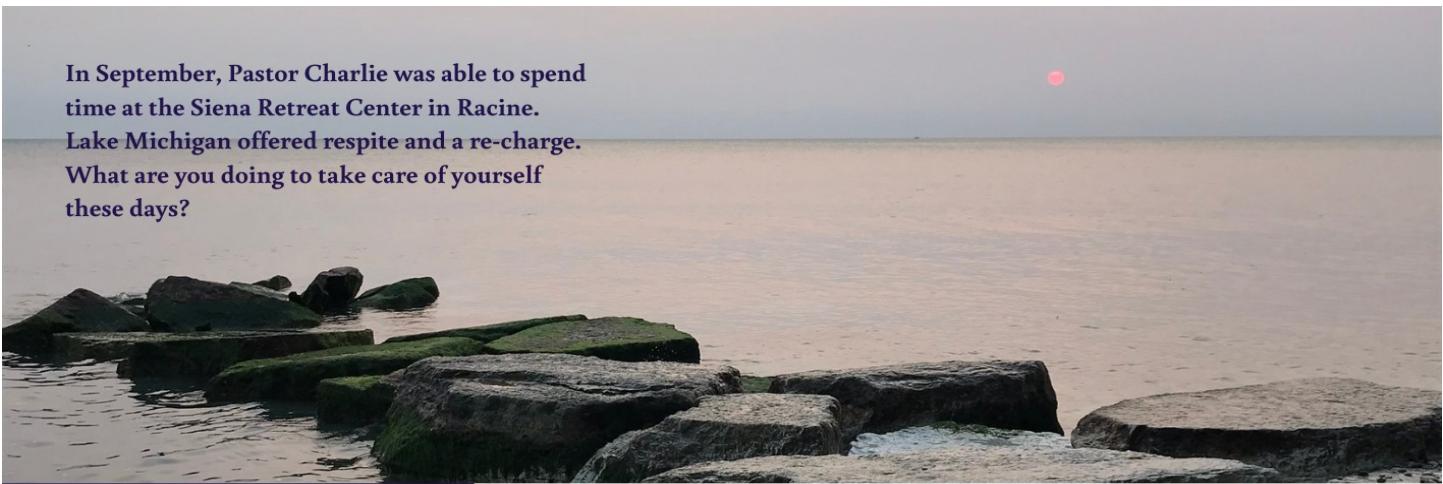
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In September, Pastor Charlie was able to spend time at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine. Lake Michigan offered respite and a re-charge. What are you doing to take care of yourself these days?



## Trusting God

### Pastor Charlie

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge the Lord, and he will make straight your paths.*

Proverbs 3: 5-6

I admit that I was a bit concerned.

Back in April, as the seriousness of the virus became clearer, I was concerned about new leadership at Covenant. With the growing uncertainty and stress, would anyone want to serve as Elder or Deacon?

My concern was unnecessary. Not only did the Nominating Committee find nine fine people who feel called by God to serve Covenant (4 Elders and 5 Deacons), but the NomCom finished their work earlier than any previous year since I arrived in 2013. And then our Zoom/phone/email congregational meeting went smoothly and we're moving forward. Thanks be to God!

Brenda Moten, the chair of the NomCom, opened every meeting by reading Proverbs 3:5-6, encouraging us to trust in God. This faith helped to focus us in this challenging time.

Sunday, October 25 is Generosity Commitment Sunday, when we ask people to make financial commitments to strengthen our ministry. Your generous financial commitments help us plan for the year ahead and help people who are struggling. We encourage you to consider all the ways of being generous—not only with your wallet, but with your time, your prayers, your actions and your words.

I trust that God will provide us with what we need in order to do what God wants us to do.

Together as a church, we are one body with many different parts. Together we continue to learn about God's love and strive to make that love real in our world. Together we keep growing in faith, hope, and love, trusting God to guide our paths.

On the journey together,  
Charlie

## Joys, Cares & Concerns

••••• ♡ •••••

Prayers continue for the following Covenant families mourning the deaths of loved ones:

**Hal Rebholz**, father of Cindy Schally and Dave Rebholz; **Ken Scheid**, husband of Jean Scheid; **Katherine Felmeth**, grandmother of David Moore; **Dorothy Schaefer-Mehring**, mother of Bob Schaefer; **Micheal Bishop**, nephew of Brenda Moten.

Congratulations to **Leslie & Harold Blaize** on the birth of grandson Samuel Wyatt Rohrer, son of Leslie's daughter and son-in-law Jessie & Zac Rohrer; **Gordon & Eileen Durand**, on the birth of a granddaughter, Drew Aspen Joepeck, daughter of Danielle & Matthew Joepeck; and to **LeRoy & Martha** on the birth of grandson Apollo David Stoner, son of Matthew Stoner & Kristin Demanett.

Happy anniversary to **Dale & Molly Myrland** on October 4, celebrating 70 years of marriage!

## October Worship

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### Sunday, October 4

- **World Communion Sunday; Peace & Global Witness Offering;**
- **Holy Communion (please have bread & juice available)**
- Practicing the Christian Life Sermon Series (Including)
- Preaching: Charlie Berthoud
- Sermon: "A Bigger Table"

### Sunday, October 11

- Practicing the Christian Life Sermon Series (Mourning)
- Preaching: Sue Melrose
- Sermon: "Space to Lament"

### Sunday, October 18

- Practicing the Christian Life Sermon Series (Celebrating)
- Preaching: Charlie Berthoud
- Sermon: "This is the Day"

### Sunday, October 25

- **Generosity Commitment Sunday**
- Preaching: Charlie Berthoud
- Sermon: "Making a Difference"

Visit [covenantmadison.org/videos](http://covenantmadison.org/videos) for our online worship videos.



## 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!

October 3	October 10	October 15	October 21	October 27
Heather Marley Eric Miller Will Salmonowicz	Carrie Sanders Beth Wilson	Rod Heller TJ Sargent Jenn Sauer	Karen Best James Stadler	Peter Hughes Ginger McIntosh
Drew Walden Janice Walden	<b>October 11</b> Todd Friske Jack Sydnor	<b>October 16</b> Deri Cattelino Susan Kau	<b>October 22</b> Jim Griffith	<b>October 28</b> Pete Kechele Cheryl Krebs
<b>October 5</b> Henry Gibson	<b>October 12</b> Jan Minardi	<b>October 18</b> Jim Davis	<b>October 23</b> Nancy Gunder Ellen Stautz LeRoy Stoner	<b>October 29</b> Katie Rasmussen
<b>October 8</b> Jackson Girard	<b>October 13</b> Kristin Bauer Kurt Brink Rosie Dybdahl Piper Mace	Jeanette Hyland Katie Heal Chan Sommers	<b>October 24</b> Mary King Ian Soderberg Tess Stadler	<b>October 30</b> Frances Parker Don Peterson Patricia Thielbar Mary Tibbitts
<b>October 9</b> Hazel Dybdahl Rhys Enderle Colleen Gullickson Brenda Moten	<b>October 14</b> John Swartz	<b>October 20</b> George Hess Joann Pivotto	<b>October 25</b> Jason Potter	<b>October 31</b> Riess Perry

## Children's Ministries



### Fall Church Carry Out for Families

One grab-and-go take out bag with six Sunday School lessons on "Practicing the Fruits of the Spirit." The bag will include Bible stories, crafts, games and other options. Sign up here: <https://covenantmadison.breezechms.com/form/fall-church-carry-out>



### New for Fall 2020! Church Buddies

This program will match younger Covenant children and older Covenant children for writing letters, show and tell, reading, and other activities. Sign your child or children up here: <https://covenantmadison.breezechms.com/form/church-buddies>.

### Children's Celebration Choir

Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade children still have the opportunity to sing and contribute to the video worship services. Director Arlene Kennedy is working on ways to engage children without overwhelming families with video calls, technology, and recording.

**For more information or to sign up for any of these events, please contact Children's Ministries Coordinator Donna Monson (dmonson@covenantmadison.org).**

## Middle School (Grades 6-8) Youth Connections

### Sunday, October 4, 11, & 18

We will gather at Covenant from **4:00-5:00** for some get-to-know-you games, small group discussions, and devotions that feature scripture, a message from one of our adult leaders, and a closing prayer.

Weather permitting, we hope to spend some time outside. Gathering together safely is so important!

### Saturday, October 24

Working through the [NewBridge nonprofit](#) of Dane County, we'll be raking yards for some of the older members of our community from **1:00-3:00**. We are not carpooling to events right now, so parents will be asked to join us in raking and transporting their youth. Sign up by October 22.

## High School (Grades 9-12) Youth Connections

### Beginning Sunday, October 4

Confirmation classes begin for youth in grades 9 & 10. Classes will be held via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 11:00.

### Sunday, October 4 & 11

We will gather at Covenant from **6:30-7:45**. This community of Christ is alive and well with laughter, good discussion, listening, sharing, worship, and prayer.

### Sunday, October 18

Our annual "Shop & Bake" from **6:30-7:45**! Some of the youth will be baking cookies at Covenant for last year's grads now in college, while other youth will shop for food for [The River Food Pantry](#). Funding for the groceries comes from our most recent "Trash & Treasure" Sale. Logistical details for the evening will be emailed to parents.

### Friday, October 23

Serve at the River Food Pantry! Since students from Madison and Verona high schools are off from school on this day, they are invited to meet at the River from **10:45-1:30**. Sign up by October 21.

### Saturday, October 31

We will be raking yards for older folks in our community from **1:00-3:00**. Yes, it's Halloween! Come in full costume if you wish! Sign up by October 29.

**For more information or to sign up for any of the Youth Connections events, please contact Youth Ministries Coordinator Steve Royalton (sroyalton@covenantmadison.org).**



## All Saints' Day, Nov. 1

Following tradition, on All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, we will read aloud the names of loved ones we've remembered with a white rose this past year. You are welcome to submit a name to be included to the church office by Oct. 25.

# Adult Education Upcoming Classes

## “Justified Journey” October 4 & 11 at 10:00 am

Adult Ed will be watching and discussing the 40-minute video “Justified Journey” in which the Reverend Dr. Alex Gee of Madison, a black man, takes an amazing journey to the US South to meet his white relatives after a DNA test revealed his surprising family genealogy. Look for the Zoom link in the Friday Connections and Sunday morning worship emails. You can view the 40 minute video here: <https://www.alexgee.com/justified-journey/>.



## “How to Read the Bible” October 18 & 25, November 1 at 10:00 am



“While the Bible is one unified story, it cannot all be read in the same way.

The ‘How to Read the Bible’ series walks through each literary style found in the Bible and explains how each uniquely contributes to the overall story of Scripture. By understanding how the Bible was written, we can better understand what the Bible actually *is*.”

This fall, Adult Ed begins a new video series that will last throughout the 2020-2021 program year. Using the BibleProject, a non-profit animation studio that produces short-form, fully animated videos to make the biblical story accessible to everyone, we will explore the literary art of the Scriptures and trace the themes found in them from beginning to end. Videos can be found at [Bibleproject.com](https://bibleproject.com).  
© Copyright 2020 BibleProject



## Racists Anonymous Informational Session Thursday, Oct. 8; Sessions Begin on Thursday, Oct. 15

Our church, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is clear that racism is a sin against humanity. Viktor E. Frankl, author of *Man's Search for Meaning*, has something to say to those of us who are feeling helpless to change the injustice and racism wreaking havoc in our world: “When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.”

We are given an opportunity to do just that. Covenant is offering a chance to address the sin of racism as a personal addiction through a Racists Anonymous (RA) educational session based on the AA 12-step program. RA is a fellowship of individuals seeking to achieve personal recovery from racist habits and the effects of racism. Its purpose is to help individuals address their own role in the sin and addiction of racism.

This 12-week session will be offered virtually on Thursday evenings from 7-8 pm. Participants are encouraged to participate in all or most of the sessions. For anonymity and security, Pastor Jeff Fox-Kline will send a Zoom link to those who email him at [jfoxkline@covenantmadison.org](mailto:jfoxkline@covenantmadison.org).

Are you ready for the challenge? Join us on Thursday, Oct 8th at 7 pm to see the program format, ask questions, and learn more about this important opportunity for personal and spiritual growth.

## Soul Sisters Small Group

Soul Sisters is a group of women who get together once a month (via Zoom, for now, at 7 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month). They catch up on each other's lives and learn how others are coping with COVID times. All women who are interested should contact Nan Schaefer at 608-233-3778 or [schaefer.nan@gmail.com](mailto:schaefer.nan@gmail.com).



Look for an exciting  
invitation to  
Make a Difference  
out in the mail soon!

## making a difference



## 2021 generosity campaign





Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Presbyterian Mission

## Peace and Global Witness Offering

Sunday, October 4

25% of the money Covenant raises for the [Peace and Global Witness Offering](#) will go to support the [YWCA of Madison](#). The YWCA seeks to make peace in our community by working to eliminate racism and empower women. Their goal is “to eliminate barriers that exist for individuals looking to become self-sufficient, expand the thinking of individuals looking to explore privilege, and advocate around issues that most affect marginalized communities.”

In supporting this offering, you will be supporting peacemaking around the world and in our very own community.

## October Session Update

By Laurie Jones, Clerk of Session

Your Session met on Sep. 22 and began their meeting reflecting on how we are staying rooted and grounded and how the virtual worship service is going. Treasurer Gordon Enderle shared finance reports showing finances in a favorable condition. Session approved using the online platform 32Auction and creating a Covenant PayPal account to process purchases for the Guatemala Auction. Proceeds will benefit scholarship in Guatemala. Session was introduced to the new Adult Ed endeavor Racists Anonymous.

Your Session diligently seeks to serve you and God through Covenant Church.



## Healing House Ministry Volunteer Opportunity

One of Covenant's many area mission partners is The Road Home of Dane County, a program helping families experiencing homelessness find stable housing. One of its many services is Healing House, a residential “stopover” place for homeless people who either have newly delivered babies, or are recovering from a surgery, or have a child in the hospital. They can stay for one month, where they are housed near the hospital and provided meals. Covenant is one of many organizations working together to provide evening meals for them. We participate for one week at a time, four times per year.

Covenant folks recently worked with our friends from First Baptist and Blackhawk churches to provide a week's worth of meals for the Healing House guests. Covenant folks providing food were:

**Share Your Cabin?**

Our friends at the Lussier Community Education Center ([LCECmadison.org/](http://LCECmadison.org/)) are doing wonderful, hard, and exhausting work with at-risk communities in this challenging time. Executive Director Paul Terranova is wondering if any cabin owners might want to share their space for a weekend respite for staff members and immediate family. If you're interested, contact Paul directly (608-833-4979) or contact Pastor Charlie.

Chan Sommers, Eric Wendorff, Laura Courtney, Barb Eikenberry, Annette Fitzpatrick, Judy Stevenson, Betsy Saar, and Kate Sebastian. First Baptist took two nights and Blackhawk took one night.

Our next week is **November 15-21**. Every night is already filled with food providers (our church is amazing!), but there is always room for more help. If anyone is just learning about this service opportunity and would like to become involved, please contact **Nan Schaefer, at 608-233-3778 or schaefer.nan@gmail.com**.

# VIRTUAL 2020 GUATEMALA MISSION AUCTION


VIRTUAL
2020


**DONATIONS ACCEPTED**  
OCT. 4-11

**BIDDING ONLINE**  
OCT. 18-25

**Covenant's annual auction will benefit the Guatemala Scholarship Fund for children from Monte Hebron Presbyterian Church in Santo Domingo.**

**Artists, bakers, card makers, fly fish tyers, knitters, quilters, sewers and woodworkers ... go for it!**

**Think creatively about how you can help by donating items with a value of \$20 or more.**

For donation ideas, visit [covenantmadison.org/guatemala-virtual-mission-auction](https://covenantmadison.org/guatemala-virtual-mission-auction).  
The auction website will go live for previewing items on Oct. 11: [32auctions.com/CovGuate2020](https://32auctions.com/CovGuate2020)

## Donation Drop-Off Times

**Sunday, Oct. 4—10:30-12:30**  
**Monday, Oct. 5—2:00-6:00**  
**Thursday, Oct. 8—2:00-6:00**  
**Sunday, Oct. 11—1:00-3:00**

Contact Sally Lorenz (608-273-3272; [sallylor67@gmail.com](mailto:sallylor67@gmail.com)) if you need to make arrangements for porch pick-up.



## How COVID-19 Affected One Covenant Mission in Guatemala

By Helen Madsen, Mission Committee Member

Fifteen years ago, Covenant brought 12-year-old Jorge Ascención to Madison from Guatemala for a kidney transplant at University Hospital. Covenant provides his daily anti-rejection medications. We normally deliver them annually through our mission team or through Presbyterian mission co-workers. Of course, COVID has complicated that this year.

Over the last four months, Nancy Gunder and Sally Lorenz faced many road-blocks as they rushed to get Jorge his meds before he was due to run out at the end of September. Finally, after immense research and language hurdles, all pieces of the puzzle came together and we shipped the first three-month supply on August 25. Miraculously, it was delivered to Jorge at his home in Santo Domingo just 4 days later. Jorge called Nancy, overjoyed that the meds had arrived safely.

A supply package will be sent to Jorge via DHL every three months over the next nine months. We very much hope and pray for a vaccine so that Covenant can send a group to Guatemala soon!



## Donation Form

Please complete this form for each item you will be donating to the auction:  
<https://forms.gle/G7ZJufYzGLjt9Rvq9> .

If you prefer working with a hard copy, paper forms will be available during drop-off periods.

Contact Chan Sommers ([dcsommers@gmail.com](mailto:dcsommers@gmail.com)) with questions.



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Drive thru the Covenant church parking lot on Sunday, Oct. 4 to pick up individually packaged donuts, receive a devotional prayer, and wave to your Covenant community! We'll have treats for your pups, too, so feel free to bring them along. *Enter on Mineral Point Road; exit on Segoe Road.*



### ***All the Ends***

By Lisle Gwynn Garrity  
Inspired by Isaiah 52:7-10

#### **Artist Reflection:**

“All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God” (Is. 52:10). After reading that line, an image of water meeting land emerged in my mind. While this passage opens with visuals of the mountains, I found myself sketching a composition that places the viewer in the current, peering over the waves to the shoreline in the distance.

In this section of the Book of Isaiah, the prophet composes a vision of promise and peace for the people of Israel, one that seems to be materializing before their very eyes. But these words were proclaimed from the ruins of exile. Restoration was not yet a reality. They were still stuck in the deep—in the pain, in the suffering, in the waiting for a better world. We read these words some 2,500 years later on the other side of this promise fulfilled. We receive this vision with assurance that the messenger of peace yet again brings comfort and restoration to our battered world.

In this painting, the focal point is the swoop of current along the bottom. No matter what your life feels like right now, whether you feel stuck in the deep or swept up in the current, may you be buoyed by the promise that all the ends of the earth, all the edges of your life, are wrapped in God’s care.