

**Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania**



**January 8, 2012**

**Baptism of the Lord**

"How can water do such great things? Indeed the water does not do it, but the Word of God, which is with and alongside the water, and faith, which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is plain water and not a baptism, but with the Word of God it is a baptism, that is... a bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit."

--Martin Luther (1483-1546)

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**The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor**

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# Order for Worship on the Lord's Day

January 8, 2012

Baptism of the Lord

Eleven O'clock, A.M.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson

Choir Director /Organist: Miss Beverly Antis

Liturgist Today: Enid Dunmire

## THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE ~ ALL ARE WELCOME HERE !

Even as the world seeks to judge or divide us according to our economic, racial and ethnic groups, ages, gender, abilities, preferences, politics and theological positions, we believe that in Christ there should be no such division. Our congregation is strengthened through difference and diversity, and in the name of our Lord, Jesus, we welcome all who come seeking peace.

PRELUDE                      *Ricercare on "St. Anne"*                      Gordon Young  
   *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*                      George Th. Miles

CHORAL INTROIT      *O Come and Sing Unto the Lord*      The Psalter  
                                 *O come and sing unto the Lord, To God our voices raise;*  
                                 *Let us in our most joyful songs The Lord, our Savior, praise.*

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 210

*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*                      ST. ANNE

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE PSALM OF THE DAY      Psalm 29:1-11      (*Pew Bible p. 487*)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Giving and forgiving God, we confess that we are a fearful people. Too often, despite the abundance of your creation, we are afraid there may not be “enough” to go around. We covet what our neighbors have. We hoard the gifts of time and talent and treasure. We store up for ourselves worldly goods and fail to challenge economic injustices.**

**Have mercy on us. Gently ease our grip, and open our hands and our hearts that we, trusting in your righteousness, may truly live out the greatest of all commandments: to love you completely and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We pray it in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
Friends, let us declare the good news of the gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

\*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (See insert)

*Kaydance Allie Helmstaedter*



PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER ("debts" and "debtors")

CHORAL AMEN

*Three-fold Amen*

Danish

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*      Lani Smith

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is high;  
Come then and hearken,  
for he brings Glad tidings from the King of kings.*

*Then cleansed be every Christian breast,  
And furnished for so great a guest!*

*Yea, let us each our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.*

*For thou are our salvation, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Once more upon thy people shine,  
And fill the world with love divine.*

*All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
Whose advent sets the people free;  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Ghost for ever more.*

\* DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*      OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**In gratitude and love, O God, we pour out our thanksgiving and praise for all your blessings. Receive our gifts and shape our lives by your grace so that we may work for peace and tell the good news of your love for all peoples. Amen.**

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN 326

*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* MORECAMBE

\*THE BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again* R. Vaughan Williams

*God be with you till we meet again;  
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
With a Shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.*

\*A TIME OF SILENCE

\*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor: Let us go now, remembering God's gift of baptism  
by which we are claimed and sealed  
and adopted into God's family with Christ as our brother.  
Take courage; reach out to others;  
be an ambassador for Christ.

People: **So may it be that in our labor and in our leisure,  
in our rising up and our sitting down,  
in hours of joy or in days of sorrow,  
we shall with gladness of heart commend our lives  
wholly unto Him who keeps us from falling.**

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

\*POSTLUDE *The Light From on High* David Paxton

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\* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Bill & Jennie Jamieson.



***The Flowers in the Sanctuary***

*are given this morning by:*

Betty Butler

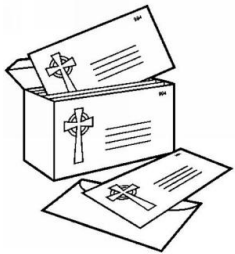
IN HONOR OF:

Michael, Ashley May and Kaydance Helmstaedter  
on the occasion of Kaydance's Baptism

***PLEASE JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME !***

*Immediately following worship each Sunday we gather for a time of "food and fellowship." This morning, our hosts, **The People for Peace Bible Study Class**, will be providing refreshments.*

*The People for Peace will be meeting during Fellowship Hour today to select a topic for their next study. This popular class will reconvene soon—so please watch for its return which will be announced in a future worship bulletin. For more information about The People for Peace Bible Study Class, please contact Nancy Rice, class leader, at 724-256-5366.*



**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2012** – are available in the narthex—If you do not see your name, please tell Pastor Jim, Tom Davidson (our treasurer) or call the church office at 724-287-7731.

*Also, Please Note: If you are in the habit of making monthly rather than weekly contributions, special Month-by-Month envelopes for 2012 are available upon request !*

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## *In The Life of Our Church*

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### Prayer Concerns:

Art Forbes . . . . . at home, receiving “Marcia care” and  
being grateful for your prayers

John Johnston . . . . . admitted last week to Butler Memorial  
Hospital, Room 5115

### Joys:



#### ***At last!***

Bob Heaton and Mary Ann Zeigler have finally made it to sunny Florida—the best prescription ever for Bob! We wish Bob and Mary Ann a pleasant, recuperative stay while they soak in the healing rays of the Florida sun.

### For Continued Prayer

Marian Curran; the Dunmires; Dorothy Hershberger; Gary Lokovich; Gladys Strobel; Phyllis Thoma; MaryLou Wilson

### Birthdays:

Mika Marie Hobaugh (*January 14, turning 2 yrs old*)

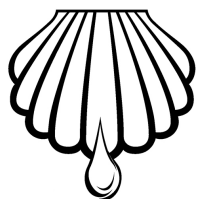
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### **No choir rehearsal this Thursday,**

**January 12<sup>th</sup>.** Regular Thursday rehearsals resume on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.



**The Worship & Music Committee will meet this Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm in the Connell Room.**



*An order for the  
Sacrament of Holy Baptism*

*Kaydance Allie Helmstaedter*

Born ~ November 11, 2011

Parents:

*Michael K. & Ashley M. (Butler) Helmstaedter*

Assisting Elder: *Elizabeth (Betty) Butler*

Great-Grandmother of Kaydance

Officiating Pastor: *Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson*

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**THE INVITATION**

Friends, baptism is a special occasion in Christian life when we recognize the grace of God living in each newborn creature. God offers us new life and the miracle of transformation, a continuing process of the renewing of body, mind, and spirit, which takes place within faith communities. So it is that Ashley and Michael now bring their infant daughter to be baptized today.

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.*

Obeing the word of our Lord, and sure of his presence with us, we baptize those whom he has called to be his own.

In Jesus Christ, God has promised to forgive our sins and has joined us together in the family of faith which is his church. He has delivered us from darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, Jesus – the Light of the world.

God has promised to be our Father, and to welcome us as brothers and sisters of Christ. Know that God's promises are sure. By baptism, God puts his sign on us to show that we belong to him, and gives us Holy Spirit as a guarantee that, sharing Christ's reconciling work, we will also share his victory; that, dying with Christ to sin, we will be raised with him to new life. Let us remember with thanksgiving our own baptismal covenant as we celebrate the sacrament today.

### **THE PRESENTATION**

*Elder:* On behalf of the Session, and with great joy, I present my great-granddaughter, Kaydance Allie Helmstaedter, born November 11, 2011, to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

### **THE QUESTIONS TO THE PARENTS**

*Pastor:* Michael and Ashley, we are pleased that you have chosen this time and place to present Kaydance for baptism. Within this sacrament we celebrate new life and give thanks to God, who guards us from evil and nurtures us in love. Having received this tender life as a gift from God, you have been entrusted with her nurture and care. I ask you, therefore, to affirm your own faith in Jesus Christ and your allegiance to him:

1. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? *(I do.)*
2. Do you acknowledge one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior? *(I do.)*

3. Is it your desire for Kaydance to receive the sacrament of baptism and be joined to the whole household of God's children in faith; and is it further your desire that she would grow in knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ, become his disciple, and grow to serve him and to follow where he leads? *(It is.)*

4. Will you, to the best of your ability and with the support of your family and this church, strive to live a Christian life; will you teach your child by word and deed about the love of God; and will you seek the fellowship of a community of believers wherever you may be?

*(We will, with God's help.)*

### **THE QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION**

Elder: Our Lord instructed us to nourish one another in the faith and to pray for each other at all times. Do we, the people of Covenant Presbyterian Church, promise to uphold this baby and her family in our prayers, and by our fellowship, to strengthen their ties with the whole household of God?

People: Yes, we so promise.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

*The Elder pours the water into the font*

Pastor: O God, our loving Father: we thank you for your faithfulness, promised in this sacrament, and for the hope we have in your Son Jesus.

May all who pass through these waters be delivered from death to life, from bondage to freedom, from sin to righteousness. Bind us into a true household of faith. Guard all of your children from evil and strengthen us to serve you with joy until the day you make all things new.

O God, as she is baptized with water, baptize Kaydance with Holy Spirit, so that what we say may be Your Word and what we do may be Your Work.

To you be all praise, honor, and glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever, world without end. Amen.

## **THE BAPTISM**

### **INTRODUCTION TO GOD'S FAMILY**

#### **CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 492**

*Baptized In Water*

BUNESSAN

### **PASTORAL PRAYER OF BLESSING**

#### **\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** *(please stand)*

**Gracious God, we thank you for your great love and for the gift of new life. Give Kaydance, we pray, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of joy in your presence, both now and forever.**

**O God of the ages, God of the present, and God of our future: keep this family always in your love. Guide them as they walk in faith. Give Ashley and Michael your wisdom and grace in the challenging but rewarding task of parenting. Protect them all through the dangers and temptations of life; and grant them a full measure of health and strength.**

**In time, we pray, bring Kaydance to confess Jesus Christ as her own Lord and Savior, and call her to be your faithful disciple, following where you lead. Amen.**

#### **\*THE WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*Come forward to congratulate the Helmstaedter family*