

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**



January 15, 2012

“Rather than succumbing to a sense of hopelessness, the servant nation is reminded that it has a greater purpose. Israel was to be a light to other nations, so that the entire world could be saved. Like Israel, the Church should not be limited by boundaries. God calls us to overcome the barriers which limit our work and our witness.”

-- From a vision statement by the Church of Scotland

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor

Pastor's Phone: 724-752-8383 / 724-712-1407

Church Office Phone: 724-287-7731

Website: <http://covenantbutler.org>

Order for Worship on the Lord's Day

January 15, 2012

Eleven O'clock, A.M.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson

Choir Director /Organist: Miss Beverly Antis

Liturgist Today: Nancy Blewett

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

PRELUDE *Adagio* John Bennett

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 426

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak CANONBURY

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (*Pew Bible p. 552*)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you are always ready to re-create a new heart within us and a new community where we shall live together in peace as brothers and sisters; so let this newness be in us!

Forgive what lies behind and turn our hearts and minds to what is ahead. Free us from the chains of guilt and fear which hinder our energy to love, and our ability to be loved.

Refresh our hope and vision as your church, and renew our commitment to the ministries of care and compassion in which we serve.

This we humbly pray, trusting in your grace.

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Hear and believe the Good News! Our past is finished and gone. In Christ everyone is being made new.

People: **Praise God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

*GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Based on Writings of Dr. King)*

We refuse to believe

that we are powerless to influence the events which surround us.

We refuse to believe

that we are so bound to racism and war, that peace and brotherhood and sisterhood are not possible.

We do believe

God has called us to overthrow oppression and violence without resorting to violence and oppression ourselves.

We confess

that we must discover a way to live together in peace: a way which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation.

We believe

that right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant.

We believe

that brokenness can be healed. "And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and everyone will sit under their own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid."

These things we do believe!

Be thou our aid, dear Lord, when we forsake what we believe; and call us back to faith.

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FREINDSHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A Heart to Serve Valerie Showers Crescenz

*O Lord, if I will wait for Thee, my heart's desire You'll give to me;
what I desire, Lord, most of all is but a heart that hears your call.*

*O Lord, create in me anew a heart that honest, pure and true;
a heart to love, a heart to learn, a heart to share, a heart to serve.*

*Whatever joy my future brings will not be found in earthly things;
I'll have the greatest of rewards: a heart whose joy is in the Lord.*

*Give me a heart that loves you best, a heart that finds in you my rest,
a heart to love, a heart to learn, a heart to share, a heart to serve:
a heart to love, a heart to learn, a heart to share, a heart to serve.*

* 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 525 *Here I Am, Lord* HERE I AM LORD

*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: Now go without fear, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Go in confidence and be God's "Yes" to the world.
Feed the hungry, visit the sick, bind up the brokenhearted.
Forgive one another.
Resist evil and embrace the truth.
Proclaim hope to all in despair.

People: **We go as ambassadors of God's good news.**

Pastor: Then depart in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*POSTLUDE

Cornet Voluntary

Henry Heron

* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY ~ by Bill & Jennie Jamieson.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME !

*Immediately following worship each Sunday we gather for a time of "food and fellowship." This morning, our host, **Connie Brown**, will be providing refreshments.*



OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2012 –
are available in the narthex—If you do not see
your name, please notify the church office at 724-
287-7731.

SUMMARIES OF CONTRIBUTIONS for 2011 have been
mailed out. If you notice a discrepancy or omission, please
contact the church office. Our treasurer will call you. Thanks!

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

Art Forbes at home, receiving “Marcia care”

Gary Lokovich continuing health concerns

For Continued Prayer

Marian Curran; the Dunmires; Dorothy Hershberger; John Johnston; Gladys Strobel; Phyllis Thoma; MaryLou Wilson

Birthdays:

Jean Lloyd (*January 18*)

Amy Beth (Voelker) Arnold (*January 20*)

Karen Ramsey (*January 22*)

Anniversaries: Chris & Amy Bole ~ *January 16*

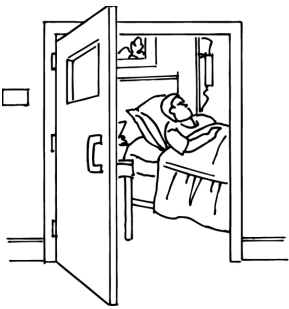
Committee Meetings this week:

Administration & Stewardship

Monday, January 16, 2012 @ 7 pm (*Connell Room*)

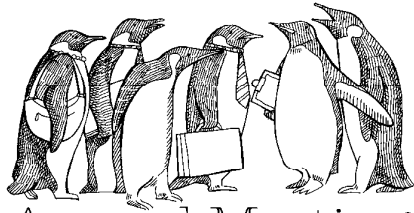
Session

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 @ 7 pm (*Assembly Room*)



Pastor Jim's Surgery

is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 23rd at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio. He will be on medical leave beginning January 23rd and we will have pulpit supply for five Sundays beginning January 29.



Annual Meeting

The Annual Corporation Meeting of Covenant Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012 at 12:30 pm following morning worship to receive financial reports for 2011. The meeting will be held in the Assembly Room during Fellowship Hour and will be moderated by “Rev. J.” (Bill Jamieson).

Preaching at the worship service that day (February 5) will be the Rev. Mr. Raymond Eichler, who will also officiate at the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper (seated).

Share Your Views

If you have concerns or joys to share about our community life here at Covenant, you are encouraged to communicate your thoughts (and feelings) to one or more of the Elders at any time.

Your opinions are important and will be considered as our leaders prayerfully direct all matters related to the common life and ministry to which God is calling us here at Covenant. Thank you.

Tom Butler Nancy Blewett Connie Brown Tom Davidson Leanne Heaton	Donna Hobough Mary Lee Marten Lars Morrison Pam Patterson Karen Swanson
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Next Session Meeting: this Wednesday, Jan. 18 at 7 pm



**in 2 weeks...
Sunday,
January 29th**

The *Souper Bowl of Caring* is a grassroots, faith-based crusade against hunger. Once again this year, we are joining other churches, schools, organizations and individuals across the country to fight hunger and poverty by collecting contributions in soup pots on Sunday, January 29th. (*See Insert*)

A ***Souper Bowl Soup Luncheon*** with a delicious selection of soups and breads (plus a few yummy deserts for sale) downstairs in the Assembly Room, will be held in the Assembly Room during the Fellowship Hour on the 29th.

**The Souper Bowl of Caring Offering
will be received at the luncheon**

If you are unable to join us for the lunch, you may still make a contribution to the Souper Bowl of Caring Offering by placing your donation on the offering plate during the morning worship service on January 29. Please make your check payable to "Covenant Presbyterian Church," designated "Souper Bowl" in the memo.

***All Proceeds will benefit our
Community Dinners mission outreach***

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love...
...by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love!*

“A Civil Hug” *by Richard J. Mouw**

As a person who has written and spoken a lot about civility, I regularly face situations in which I know I have to put up or shut up on the subject. Two closely related encounters stand out for the lessons I learned.

The first happened when I drove into a mini-mall one day to pick up some groceries. It was a crowded parking lot, and when I spotted an open space I pulled right into it. Then I heard some angry horn-blowing from a car facing from the opposite direction. The driver had obviously been waiting for the spot, and I had simply pulled in without noticing. She kept at the honking for several seconds, then gave me the middle finger and searched for another spot.

I decided to go looking for her. When I walked up, she was just getting out of her car.

"I'm very sorry," I said, "That was very thoughtless of me. I should have been paying closer attention to other drivers."

She sobbed. "If you knew the kind of day I have had ... But ... Oh, never mind!" And she walked away. After many steps she turned around. There were tears in her eyes. "Thank you," she said softly, and then she walked away.

The second encounter occurred a few weeks later when, returning a rental car, I got into an argument with the attendant. He wanted to charge me an extra hour, and I was convinced he was misreading the contract. Our heated exchange was interrupted by a supervisor, a middle-aged African American woman. She asked what was wrong, and I explained the situation to her in irritated tones. She looked at the contract, and said to her associate, "He's right."

Then she turned to me, and said, "Honey, you need a hug!"

After a brief embrace, I said, "Thank you," in the soft tone that I remembered from the woman in the mini-mall lot. Then I quietly apologized to the attendant for the tone I had used with him.

That little encounter reminded me that civility takes work. It takes spiritual work. Sometimes the Lord makes that point for us by sending someone to give us a hug!

* Taken from *Uncommon Decency: Christian Civility in an Uncivil World* (Intervarsity Press, 2010) by Richard J. Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary and a professor of Christian Philosophy and Ethics.

“And So Shall We”

Today is the day

God deplores violence in our homes and streets,
rebukes the world’s warring madness,
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

And so shall we.

Today is the day

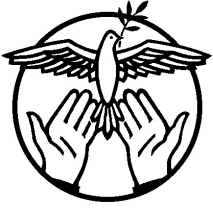
God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,
celebrates when justice and mercy embrace,
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

And so shall we.

Today is the day

God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives,
gives sight to the blind,
and sets the oppressed free.

God does this... And so shall we.



Coming Soon in February:

"People for Peace" Bible Study
Begins Wed., Feb. 1st
@ 11am in the Assembly Room

Convening the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of Each Month

THE NEW BOOK FOR STUDY:

***"To Do Justice:
A Guide for Progressive Christians"***

Edited by

Rebecca Todd Peters and Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty

BOOKS AVAILABLE NOW! Cost is \$15.00 ea.

Encouraging Christians to call for public policies that benefit those most vulnerable in our nation, *To Do Justice* offers tools for studying complex domestic social problems (e.g., Social Security, immigration, the environment, and public education) and serves as a guidebook to becoming involved in social action. Rooted in Christian tradition, each essay analyzes a contemporary problem from social, biblical, and theological perspectives before providing directions for public policy. These engaged ethicists provide concrete examples of how Christians can work for justice in response to these moral dilemmas.

For more information, please contact:

Nancy Rice, class leader, at 724-256-5366.

Don't forget to bring your Lunch!