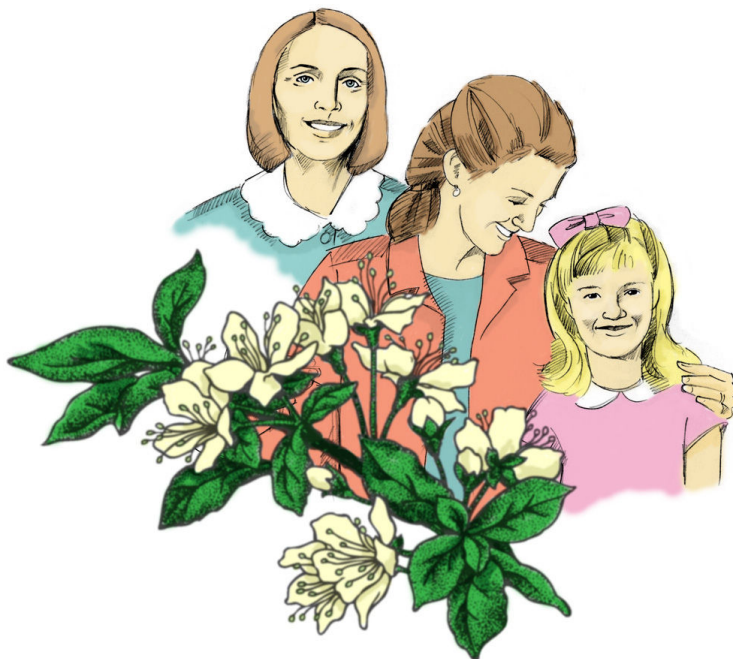


May 10, 2009

**Young Adult Service &
Mother's Day Tribute**



Her Children rise up and call her Blessed;
Her husband also, and he praises her: "Many
daughters have done well, but you excel them
all."

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a
woman who fears the Lord shall be praised.

Proverbs 31: 28-30

The Reverend Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor

Home: 724-252-8383

Church Office: (724) 287-7731

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Service for the Public Worship of God

Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ May 10, 2009

Eleven O'clock, A.M.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson

Guest Organist: Mr. Daryl Kemerer

Worship Leaders Today: Our Young Men and Women

THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP BEGINS WITH THE MUSIC OF THE ORGAN

THE PRELUDE *Toccata* D. Buxtehude

THE CHORAL INTROIT *Hail Thee, Festival Day!* R. Vaughan Williams

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Shayne Hoehn

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Deep inside each of us – old and young alike,

People: **There is a place of faith;**

Leader: A place of trust and hope and love,

People: **Without which there can be no health or peace.**

Leader: God longs to shelter and protect us, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and as a mother cradles her child.

People: **With a childlike trust and deep affection we come to worship now and lift our hearts in prayer and praise. Thanks be to God!**

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 274 *O God of Earth and Space* LEONI

*THE PRAYER OF ADORATION Shayne Hoehn

THE INVITATION TO CONFESSION Amanda Gilliland

Friends, if we say we can't remember sinning, or that our sins are just "bad choices" or "mistakes," then we are fooling ourselves. God knows us through and through. God knows that we continually fall short and fall away... despite our best intentions. So let us be honest in worship this day. Let us come before God with repentant hearts and spirits longing to be forgiven. Let us pray together:

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Source and Protector of all, you promise to care for us fully, and invite us to cast all our care upon you. Yet we continue to worry, betraying our lack of faith in your good and sure promises.

Forgive us for our worries and our doubts. Release us from the fear and guilt that imprison us.

Hear us now as we confess our sins to you; help us to trust in the power of your holy love and amazing grace, in life and in death, and in the life to come. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

THE DECLARATION OF PARDON

Jade Bowers

Leader: Even though we are often lost in sin, God never abandons us or gives up on us. In fact, God so loved the world that he sent his only Son... not to condemn the world, but to save it!

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen & Amen.**

*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

Jade Bowers

We are not alone; we live in God's world and we trust in God.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating; who has come in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new; who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.

We are called to be the Church; to celebrate God's presence; to live with respect for Creation; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil; to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our Judge and our Hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

– from “*The New Creed*,” The United Church of Canada

THE SERMON FOR ADULTS “*Why Go To Church?*” Mark Hitchcock

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

THE SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Jim

Kindly pass your Prayer Requests to the center aisle so they may be collected and forwarded to the Prayer Cordon for special attention.

A CHORAL READING

Jade Bowers, Amanda Gilliland
Mark Hitchcock, Shayne Hoehn

“*Seasons of Our Life*”

A Poem by Loretta Coley Lipsey
and Laura Lipsey Hayes

THE PRESENTATION OF CARNATIONS

SPECIAL MUSIC – Jade Bowers, Flute *Spring* Antonio Vivaldi

THE CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks Donald Fishel

THE EPISTLE READING (*Pew Bible p. 223*) 1 John 4: 7-19 Shayne Hoehn

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

All: **Praise be to you, O Lord.**

THE ANTHEM *Celebrate with Joy and Singing* R. Bedford Watkins

*THE GOSPEL READING (*Pew Bible p.104*) John 15: 1-8 Mark Hitchcock

Liturgist: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: **Glory to You, O Christ.**

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE 111 (*vs. 3, 4 only*)

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing! GELOBT SEI GOTT

**Praise we in songs of victory
That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PASTORAL MEDITATION “*VINES AND FRUIT*” Dr. Swanson

SPECIAL MUSIC – Amanda Gilliland, Violin
Amazing Grace John Newton

*THE RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Shayne Hoehn

Leader: To become a Christian means to be drawn into community, to be united with others in prayer and praise and service. As God’s people, let us pray:

People: **On this day of celebrating your love, we offer our thanks for those who have given us life, our mothers; and for others who have mothered us along the way.**

May your blessing pour out upon each of the beautiful, strong women of faith who have loved us and taught us the important lessons of life.

Leader: We call forth your compassion upon every mother who has unknowingly caused pain or suffering, upon all who have struggled to do the best they could, even when it was less than we desired.

And, so, we lift to you these prayers for our mothers, flawed and imperfect, but like each of us, also wounded by this world. Help us to forgive them and to release them from our blame.

People: **Where we have failed because we did not know better, help us to forgive ourselves. We stand together with all mothers in solidarity, for we are all in need of your grace.**

Leader: O God, who will never forsake us or leave us – bless the sick, the addicted, the abused, the lost, the wanderer, the prisoner, those who are dying and those who are discouraged and abandoned.

People: **Grant unto them the comforting reassurance of your unconditional love and your gentle care.**

Leader: We lift to you our Mother Earth. We lift to you our Mother Church. We lift to you, O God, your “Mother's Heart,” and we give you thanks and praise. Help us to be messengers of the love of Christ in a world which is longing for peace and wholeness.

All: Receive these, our heartfelt prayers, O God. Teach us at all times and in all places to abandon ourselves to your care and keeping.

In and through your Holy Spirit, grant us fellowship with you and with our loved ones who have departed this life and now live eternally with you: one God, world without end. We ask these things in the name of Jesus, our Lord, who taught us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using “debts” and “debtors”)

THE CHORAL RESPONSE *Six Fold Amen* Robert Lau

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY *Allegretto* W. Zelenski

*THE DOXOLOGY

**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.**

*THE UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION Jade Bowers

Almighty God, who in the resurrection of Jesus Christ has given us victory, we yield our lives and our substance to you. Consecrate these tithes and offerings and empower us through the ministries you have given, to work so that your Kingdom is established and Christ's triumph is proclaimed. Amen.

*THE RECESSIONAL HYMN 538

Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS

*THE BENEDICTION (based on Romans 15:13)

Leaders: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
So that you may abound in hope
And grow in grace,
By the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now may the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

*THE CHORAL RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter C. Lutkin

*THE TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor Jim

Leader: Now go out in a spirit of celebration and joy.
Take time to enjoy life's rich beauty and color.
Claim God's time for your own,
a time not measured in hours and minutes and seconds alone,
but by the ebb and flow of seasons,
and by the hunger of the soul.

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.**

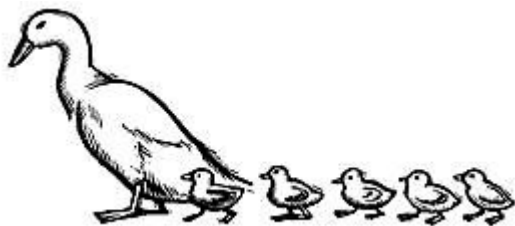
Leader: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE POSTLUDE

Fugue

D. Buxtehude



* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE,
PLEASE STAND*

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Nancy and David Blewett

WELCOME! GRACE AND PEACE TO ALL!

We are pleased to have you with us if you are visiting today! Kindly indicate your attendance by signing one of the cards in the pew rack, and introduce yourself to others sitting nearby.

Do join us for Fellowship Time immediately following worship each Sunday in the Assembly Room downstairs. Exit at the rear of the Sanctuary to take the stairs, or at the front to take the elevator to the lower level. The Assembly Room is near the small kitchen.

THANKS TO OUR GUEST ORGANIST - We thank Dr. Daryl Kemerer, our guest organist for this morning's worship service. Dr. Kemerer is a retired Music Teacher from the Butler Junior High School. An antique car enthusiast, Dr. Kemerer and his car club are busy restoring vintage cars in preparation for the 100th anniversary celebration of the Butler-built 1909 Huselton. The car show will be held on September 19 from 1-5 p.m. at the Butler Farm Show Grounds with raffles, antique and vintage displays, 50s and 60s music... and more.

WE THANK OUR YOUNG ADULTS for leading the special worship service this morning: Mark Hitchcock, Shayne Hoehn, Amanda Gilliland and her sister, Jade Bowers. These young people are "veterans" of many past youth programs during their Sunday School days at Covenant. We are so pleased to see that they have grown into such fine young men and women!

**~Mother's Day Fellowship Hour ~
Everyone is cordially invited to attend!**



Hosting today's Fellowship Hour... (drum-roll, please)... are "The 3 NANCYS." In a feeble attempt to disguise their identities, the ladies are dressed in costume! But we know who you are—there's no disguising your warm hearts and good humor!

Thank you Nancy Blewett, Nancy Jo Moorhead, and Nancy Rettig.

FINE ART DISPLAY... by Artist Gregory Stokes

More oil paintings by Gregory Stokes are on display in the Assembly Room during the Fellowship Hour. Many of these paintings are from the *Inspirational Religious Exhibit* shown at the Butler Art Center in April. These particular paintings are not for sale, but if you are interested in commissioning the artist, please relay your interest to Gregory Stokes or Nancy Jo Moorhead.



In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

- John Towns At home (finally!) receiving TLC from Jo and daily care from visiting nurses
- Ellie Walchesky Will require another surgery (scheduled for May 21^s at Allegheny General) to correct a problem with her artificial knee
- Rev. Wayne Bell Home from the hospital and in good spirits; remember him in your prayers as he undergoes more chemo-therapy (Pastor of West Sunbury Presbyterian Ch.)

For Continued Prayer: Julie & Bud Bruno; Marion Campbell; Marian Curran; Joan Moore; Eleanor Ritts; Gladys Strobel; Bill Wilson

Birthdays this week:

Pamela Patterson - May 13 / Mary Lee Marten - May 15

Don't Forget!

SPAGHETTI DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

This Friday, May 15th ~ 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Cost: \$ 6.50 (Adults) \$3.00 (Ages 4-12)

Age 3 and Under are Free ~ Open to the community!

Bid on Gift Baskets (donated by the Elders) !



Dear Covenant Church family,

Three years ago Brian and I could only hope to find a church willing to marry us - and on such short notice! Three weeks after walking in Covenant's door, we exchanged our vows.

This church and everyone who has welcomed us has held a special place in our hearts ever since. The warmth and love in this church is not easy to find. I couldn't imagine a better place, or better people, to help teach Kynzie about our Lord and all of His blessings. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

With love,  Brian, Brianne, & Kynzie Knirnschild



Christopher Foringer, son of Charles “Chad” (who passed away June 11, 2005) and Pat Foringer, graduated with honors on April 26, 2009 from the University of Pittsburgh. He received a Bachelor’s degree in Administration of Justice. Christopher has accepted a position with the Butler County Correctional System.

Mark Hitchcock, son of Roger Hitchcock and Nancy Rettig, graduated from DCI Career Institute on April 16. He completed the program for Computer Network Specialist and is currently doing his externship at Beaver Medical Center. Mark will continue working for them following the externship. Also, he is pursuing the possibility of a teaching position at DCI Career Institute.

Beth Reefer, daughter of Dr. John & Mary Reefer, is graduating May 16, 2009 from Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, PA. Beth has earned her B.A. degree in Psychology. She would like to continue in the medical field.

Kerry Beth Schlicht, daughter of C. Andrew “Andy” and Tracey Jo Schlicht (who passed away July 2, 2008) and granddaughter of Chuck & Jeanne Schlicht, is graduating May 16, 2009 from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA with a Master’s Degree in Literary and Cultural Studies.

Amber Hobaugh, daughter of Dale and Beverly Hobaugh, and granddaughter of Donna Hobaugh, is graduating from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA on May 23rd. Amber will receive her Doctor of Pharmacy degree after seven years of study. She continues to work at Allegheny General Hospital, but is awaiting the results of a recent interview for a prospective job opportunity.

Sarah Jane Morrison, daughter of Ann and Larry Morrison, will be graduating from Butler Senior High School in June of 2009. Sarah has been active in music and the arts in high school, but has also gained a strong background in College Prep and General Studies geared to entry into University. She has elected to take a ‘gap’ year and will spend it working for the United Way under the auspices of *Americorps* as a community liaison and general factotum for that agency. She then plans to matriculate to University to continue her studies.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE!

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

(advice written by Kids!)

COMPATIBILITY

“You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.”
-- Alan , age 10

“No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all the way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.”
-- Kristen , age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

“Twenty-three is the best age because by then you have known the person FOREVER.”
-- Camille , age 10

WHAT DO YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

“Both don't want any more kids.”
-- Lori , age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

“Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.”
-- Lynnette , age 8

“On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date.”
-- Martin , age 10

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON A FIRST DATE IF IT TURNED SOUR?

“I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns.”
-- Craig , age 9

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

“When they're rich.”
-- Pam , age 7

“The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that.”
-- Curt , age 7

“The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do.”
-- Howard , age 8

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

“Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck.”
-- Ricky , age 10