

Service for the Public Worship of God

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ July 19, 2009
Ten O'clock, A.M.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson
Choir Director/Organist: Beverly Antis
Liturgist: Helen Ferguson

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP BEGINS WITH THE MUSIC OF THE ORGAN

THE PRELUDE

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

*THE RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: No longer strangers, we are called God's friends.

People: We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Leader: No walls between us, but windows and doors.

People: We are a part of the family of God, every one of us.
We belong to the household of faith.

Leader: Let us then worship our God of grace and love.

People: We will offer our sacrifice of adoration and praise!

*THE HYMN 210 *Our God, Our Help In Ages Past* ST. ANNE

THE PSALM OF THE DAY No. 4 (*Pew Bible p. 474*)

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

THE PUBLIC PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we can scarcely comprehend the scope of Your forgiveness, the wonder of Your unconditional love for us. We confess that too often we have closed ourselves off from You; we have misplaced our priorities; we have neglected Your charge to be peacemakers, healers and prophets in our own day.

How often, dear Lord, we have lost our bearings, drifted apart from Your divine will, and then come running back to You for forgiveness; and yet You never tire of loving us! Through the power of Your grace, reconcile us to You; grant us peace for our souls, and strength for tomorrow. Set us free to be truly Your children. In the name of Jesus, the Lord of our lives, we lift our prayer.

A TIME FOR PRIVATE CONFESSION (in silence)

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: ... Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*THE GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

--from The United Church of Canada

We believe in God – who has created and is creating, who has come in the true human, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works with us and others by the Holy Spirit. We trust in God, who calls us to be the church, to celebrate the Spirit's presence, 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. Amen.

*THE GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

THE SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING 2 Samuel 7: 1-13 (Pew Bible p. 274)

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE EPISTLE READING Ephesians 2: 11-22 (Pew Bible p. 181)

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

All: Praise be to you, O Lord.

SPECIAL MUSIC -- "The World of Children" Signing Choir

1. They Don't Understand
2. Don't Laugh at Me
3. Give a Little Love

*THE GOSPEL READING Mark 6: 30-52 (Pew Bible p. 39)

Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE - Hymn 321, vs. 1 SONG 13

Holy Spirit, truth divine, Dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God and inward light, Wake my spirit, clear my sight.

THE SERMON "BALANCING THE LIFE OF BUSYNESS" Dr. Swanson

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

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

SPECIAL MUSIC Heirlooms -- performed by Meghan and Lauren Wagner
 God Bless America -- performed by The World of Children

*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. Amen.

*THE UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

The light and truth you send upon us are the greatest gifts we can know, O God. How can we do less than rejoice, give thanks, and dedicate these tithes and offerings to you? Give us grace to reflect your glory, and a desire to use all gifts for the building of your kingdom here and now. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN 281 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, children all are we;
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now;
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace, eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!

*A TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor: Now may the blessing of God rest on our heads,
 And the Truth of God set us free from all dangers,
 real and perceived;

People: So 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!

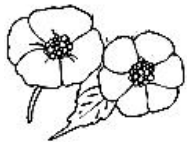
*THE POSTLUDE

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

Edward Broughton

* Those who are able, please stand.

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY by Jeanne Schlicht.

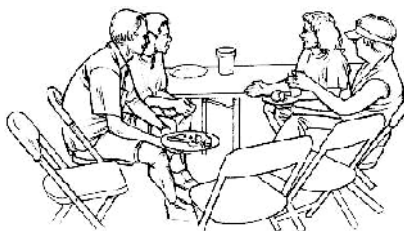


THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
are placed this morning by Betty Butler & Family
In Loving Memory of Carl G. Butler

Fellowship Hour immediately follows this morning's worship service downstairs in the Assembly Room. Hosting today's Fellowship Hour is Jane Hall.

Welcome! Grace and Peace to All!

We are delighted to have you with us if you are visiting today! Please indicate your attendance by signing one of the cards in the pew rack, and kindly place it in the offering plate when passed.



Then following worship, linger a bit longer and join us for Fellowship Time in the Assembly Room downstairs.

Exit at the rear of the Sanctuary to take the stairways or at the front to take the elevator to the lower level.

Welcome To Our Musical Guests & Their Families !



We thank our special guests, The World of Children Sign Language Choir, for their captivating performance in our worship service this morning. The World of Children are making their first appearance at Covenant Presbyterian Church courtesy of Cathy Wagner and her twin daughters Meghan and Lauren, founders of the Butler Chapter.

FYI: Meghan Wagner and her fiancé Rob Covert are scheduled to be married at Covenant Church by Pastor Jim on Saturday, August 1, 2009.

ATTENTION ELDERS: Special Session Meeting

TODAY following worship at 11:15 a.m. (Connell Room)



Administration and Stewardship Committee Meeting:

Tomorrow, Monday, July 20 at 7 pm (Connell Room)

REMINDER: Next Sunday, July 26

The "Noisy Offering" of Loose Change (last Sunday of each month) will be received next Sunday, July 26th during the 10 a.m. worship service. Remember to save your change and bring it to church with you next Sunday.



Covenant Church presents...

Michael Desnoyers, Tenor

Sunday, August 2nd

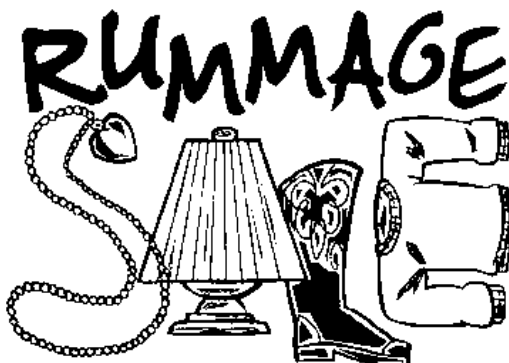
@ 2:00 p.m. ~ in the Sanctuary

Michael has finished his first year of a two-year graduate program at San Francisco Conservatory, and is spending the summer in the Studio Program at Chautauqua Institute in New York. (His wife, Steph, is still on the West Coast because of her job.) He is excited to be able to sing at Covenant again and is looking forward to seeing lots of friends here.

The recital will include art songs from a performance he gave at Chautauqua, an aria or two, and probably a couple of Covenant favorites.

The Public is Invited!

There will be a cookies and punch reception afterwards in the Assembly Room



RUMMAGE SALE!
Don't want it? WE DO!

Start gathering
your treasures
for the **AUGUST 8TH**
SALE

In The Life of Our Church

Prayer Concerns:

Ellie Walchesky Now home, scheduled for knee surgery on August 3rd
Pat and Dick Wright Mary Lee Marten's good friends in Evans City both of whom are in need of prayer;

For Continued Prayer: Minnie Anderson; Rev. Wayne Bell; Julie & Bud Bruno; Marion Campbell; Marian Curran; Joan Moore; Eleanor Ritts; Gladys Strobel; John Towns; Bill and MaryLou Wilson

Birthdays this Week: John Reefer - July 24

Anniversaries this week:

Michael & Stephanie Desnoyers
Married July 21, 2007
Celebrating their 2nd Wedding Anniversary (Tuesday)

In Sympathy:

The love, prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to Lois Reefer upon the death of her sister, Edith B. Simonton who passed away on July 3, 2009.

Only Time Will Tell

"Sometimes we do not realize the value of what we have until it has been taken away. Often, only the passage of time will reveal what is enduring and what is not, what is worth holding and what is best discarded."

With the World's Fair of 1889, Paris planned to mark the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution, and officials hoped to build a tower that would be the tallest in the world. Despite some other suggestions, they unanimously chose the design of Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, who was then best known for constructing the inner frame of the Statue of Liberty. Three hundred steelworkers labored for two years welding fifteen thousand steel pieces with two million rivets and applying forty tons of paint. High above the city the tower rose—elegant, timeless. And yet it was not at first popular with Parisians. Hundreds of artists, including Guy de Maupassant, Émile Zola, and Alexandre Dumas, petitioned for it to be torn down. Those critics were relieved, however, to learn that the Tower was to be a temporary structure, on leased property. Gustave Eiffel would get to operate the Tower and its concessions for twenty years, and then it would belong to the City of Paris, to be sold for scrap. No one foresaw its stupendous success. Even Eiffel himself could not have imagined that millions of people would visit in the decades to come and that countless throngs would cherish it as a very symbol of Paris.



THE WORLD OF CHILDREN



TRANSLATION: "God Loves Me"

In the beginning...

Before starting the group in Butler, twins Meghan and Lauren Wagner were part of a group in Baltimore, Maryland called The Children Around the World. The girls started sign language in 1991 when they were just seven years old. The group started out small, but by 1995 had more than 100 members. While performing with The Children Around the World, Meghan and Lauren got the opportunity to perform several times for President Clinton, and in 1994, the girls were in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade with former Miss America, Heather Whitestone, who was hearing impaired.

In 1995, the group performed for the Pope when he visited Baltimore, and have at various times also performed for the Governor of Maryland. In addition to the major performances, they also performed at many baseball and football games, malls, nursing homes, etc.

After the move...

In 1996, a change in their father's job caused the girls to move to Pennsylvania. After a few months, Meghan and Lauren realized how much they missed sign language and decided to start their own group in Butler, PA. After placing an ad in the Butler Eagle, hoping to recruit kids of all ages to learn and perform sign language to music, the group was well on its way. Although they started out with just 13 students from ages 5-14, it grew to approximately 30-40 students by 2001, ranging from ages 4-19. The group does performances in malls, nursing homes, private shows, festivals, parades, rodeos, schools, etc. in order to promote peace, hope and unity for all children. They have performed at the Pittsburgh International Children's Festival, Walk in the Park in Shady Side, Zainy Brainy, the Veteran's Hospital, YMCA Christmas performances, Mars Apple Fest, Pressley Ridge Ice Cream Sundae social, The Wintergarden (PPG Place), and elsewhere. The group also performed with country recording star DeWayne Spaw at the Butler Rodeo. The World of Children has performed twice in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Their first appearance in the parade was in November 2004 alongside well-known opera singer Andrea Bocelli as they signed along to his song, "When a Child is Born..."! The group's second appearance was in November 2006 with well-known signer and recording star Barry Manilow, as they signed along to his song, "What the World Needs Now."

For more information, visit The World of Children Website
www.wocsignsofpeace.com



July 19, 2009

"Technology is increasing the heartbeat. We are inundated with information. The mind can't handle it all. In fact, the pace is so fast now, I sometimes feel like I am a gunfighter dodging bullets."

-- Manhattan architect James Trunzo,
who designs automated environments

The greeting card business has developed a whole new product line for busy parents and children. More and more children are finding cards in their backpacks or under their pillows that proclaim, "Have a good day at school," or lament, "I wish I were there to tuck you in."

-- Kerby Anderson, author of Time and Busyness

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