

*Covenant Presbyterian Church
Butler, Pennsylvania*



October 8, 2017

“The kingdom is not an exclusive, well-trimmed suburb with snobbish rules about who can live there. No, it is for a larger, homelier, less self-conscious caste of people who understand they are sinners because they have experienced the yaw and pitch of moral struggle.”

– Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out*

The Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson, Pastor
Pastor’s Phone: 724-752-8383 / 724-712-1407
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Order of Service for Worship

October 8, 2017
Eleven O’clock, A.M.

Elder Brian Graff, Preaching Today
Liturgist Today: Lars Morrison
Organist/Music Director: Beverly Antis

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

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come—this church opens wide her doors and offers warmest welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace and the Light of the world.

PRELUDE *Pastorale on “St. Anthony’s Chorale”* Tom Birchwood

CHORAL INTROIT

I Will Worship the Lord John Rutter

*I will worship the Lord all the days of my life;
I will tell of his glory and will show forth his praise;
I will sing and rejoice, for the Lord is my stronghold.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

—John Rutter

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 459

Father, We Praise Thee CHRISTE SANCTORUM

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 19: 1-14 (*Pew Bible OT p. 433*)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

CORPORATE 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 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 FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives new life and freedom from the power of sin.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from A Brief Statement of Faith PC(USA)*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

*GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

A FEW MOMENTS FOR MISSION ~ Audrey Carlson

--*"Update on the Chang-Lopez Family -
Missionaries to the Philippines"*

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Bless the Lord, O My Soul Robert Lau

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul. —Psalm103:1*

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 (*Pew Bible OT p. 58*)

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON Philippians 3: 4b-14 (*Pew Bible NT p. 954*)

Liturgist: Here ends the second lesson.

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

*GOSPEL READING Matthew 21: 33-46 (*Pew Bible NT p. 803*)

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

*CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE ~ Hymn #333

Seek Ye First LAFFERTY

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

SERMON "THE WORLD IN HIS GARDEN" Elder Brian Graff

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL AMEN *Three-fold Amen* Beverly Antis

HYMN # 76 *My Song Is Love Unknown* LOVE UNKNOWN

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC "Chanson" from *Suite Antique* John Rutter
Lars Morrison, flute Beverly Antis, piano

*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

O God, accept our offerings, and use us to bring life and health and hope to your world. Make us generous and faithful stewards of your mysteries, doing your will and proclaiming your word; through Christ we pray. Amen.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #417

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation REGENT SQUARE

*THE BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

May God Bless and Keep You Robert Wetzler

*May God bless and keep you
till we meet again; meet again.*

*A TIME OF SILENCE

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Leader: May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again, may God
hold you in the palm of His hand.
Now, Let us go in peace and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*POSTLUDE

Cornet Voluntary

Henry Heron

* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

YOU WERE GREETED TODAY BY *Betty Butler.*

JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP !



...immediately following worship each Sunday.
Please join us for conversation (and food!)
downstairs in the Assembly Room.

Hosting today: *Connie Brown*

***Pastor Jim is on Vacation
through October 13th***

*The pastor will be back in the pulpit for
the special Social Justice Sunday service*

Next Sunday, October 15th. (See flier in today's bulletin)



In case of an urgent need or emergency:

Contact Nancy Blewett, Clerk of Session, @ 724-287-0169.

REMINDER: Peace & Global Witness Offering

If you were unable to be at worship last Sunday, October 1st (World Communion Sunday) when the Peace & Global Witness Offering was received, extra brochures and envelopes are available in the narthex. Please make checks payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church with the memo marked "Peacemaking." *25% of the total collected will remain with our congregation for local peacemaking efforts (to be determined by Session).*



Celebrating Our Heritage

in this morning's bulletin. Future installments will be forthcoming.

(Back issues available in the narthex.)

You will find installment #23 of the book "*Through Succeeding Years*" - an historical account of the history of First Presbyterian Church from 1813-1938 -

Seekers Class

Next Sunday, Oct. 15th

Sundays @ 9:45 am in the Assembly Room

Special Guest Program:

Ananias Mission

Cranberry Township, PA



This mission project responds to the Syrian refugee crisis by helping refugees as they go through the resettlement process. They work to educate others about the crisis and work to inspire compassionate action, building direct networks between Americans and the Canadians who are sponsoring refugees. Their goal is achieved through personal contact with Syrian refugee families who are helped to move to safe countries where they can live and worship freely.

~ All are welcome! ~ Refreshments at 9:30 am ~

Math Mondays

For Students in grades 5 and 6

3:40 pm - 5:00 pm

Classes held in the Shaffer Memorial

Room - 2nd floor

Use Entrance on E. New Castle St.



Call Peggy Cartwright, Director @ 724-421-9141

Save this important date!

☆ **Saturday, October 21st** ☆
@ 6 pm



“A Celebration of Pastor Jim & Karen’s Ministry”

(Pastor Jim’s Pre-Retirement Dinner)

Dr. Swanson’s official retirement as Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church begins January 1, 2018 ...but due to the busy Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays this year, the Transition Team wisely selected October 21st to honor and celebrate the Swansons’ 14 years of service to the members & friends of Covenant Presbyterian Church and to the Butler community.

A special catered (buffet-style) dinner has been arranged with Patty Kate Caterers of Prospect, PA. **You may make your reservation by using the card that you received in the mail or you may use the multi-colored half sheet insert in today’s bulletin.** If you know of others who are not members or relatives but who have a special connection to Pastor Jim and would like to attend his retirement celebration, please contact the church office at 724-287-7731.



On Sunday, October 22 during the Fellowship Hour, you will have the opportunity to **express your appreciation to Pastor Jim** (and his family!) for all the blessings and benefits of their ministry, love and friendship!

Please bring a thank you card...extend a hand in friendship... write a personal note... and/or bring a gift card to present to the Swansons as a token of your appreciation.

NOTE: *This is a separate celebration from the Retirement Dinner and we hope you can be present for both occasions!*



Operation
**Christmas
Child**
A PROJECT OF SAMARITAN PALS®

*Collection Week ~ November
13-20, 2017*

For anyone interested in participating in this wonderful project again this year, colorful "shoeboxes" are available in the Assembly Room.

Fill the shoebox with fun toys; hygiene items, such as comb, soap, washcloth, hand towel, hair brush; and school supplies.

Important to Note: Do NOT include: candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items, such as toy guns, knives or military figures; seeds; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items, such as snow globes or glass containers; or aerosol cans.

This year a donation of \$9 is requested to cover shipping and project costs.

Prayer Concerns

PRAYER CORDON: Tuesdays at 12 noon in the Church Library. To request prayer, contact Virginia at 724-287-3920.

Bill Jamieson – knee replacement surgery scheduled for this Friday, October 13 at Butler Memorial Hospital

Birthdays:

Leah Swanson (Oct. 8) **Karen Swanson (Oct. 14)**

Anniversaries:

Larry & Ann Morrison ~ Oct. 14
Bob & Mary Lee Marten ~ Oct. 15

The People for Peace

Study Book:

"The Evolution of Faith:
How God is Creating
a Better Christianity"

~ by Philip Gulley



**This Thursday, October 12th
@ 11AM ~ Assembly Room**

Discussion of Chapters 5 & 6

*(Class is held 2nd & 4th Thursdays each month.
Remaining classes: Oct. 26; Nov. 9,
no class Nov. 23; Dec. 14)*

Phillip Gulley, famous for his own controversial theology that affirms universality, urges us in *The Evolution of Faith* to let go of our tightly held beliefs and start the journey toward a dynamic faith. Faith should always be seen as a work in progress, and this accessible guide will be a must-have tool for those interested in where the Christian faith is going today.

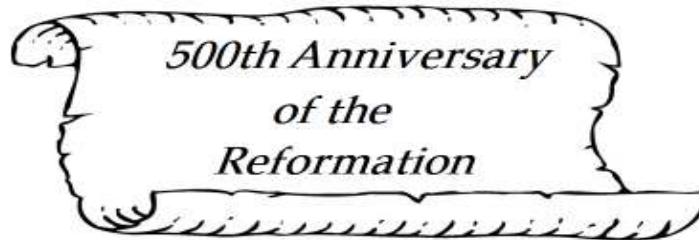
This Class is open to everyone!

Nancy Rice, *Class Convener*

Questions? . . . See or contact Nancy @ 724-256-5366

~ Lesson materials will be made available each class period
for those who do not wish to purchase the book. ~

Don't Forget to Bring Your Lunch !



One in Christ: God's Grace Unites

*An Historic Encounter for all
Honoring the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation*

**OLD ECONOMY VILLAGE ~ Ambridge, PA
This SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017 – 3:00PM – 7:00PM**

Local churches are uniting and gathering at Old Economy Village in Ambridge, PA to pray together for our community, our country and the world. People from **all Christian denominations** will be coming together to honor the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

The day begins at 3:00PM with a celebration service including joyous singing by a community **choir led by Lee Pfeifer of the Beaver Valley Choral Society accompanied by the sound of the pipe organ at the beautiful, historic St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church** located at 1320 Church Street in Old Economy Village.

At 4:30PM, visitors will exit the church and make their way to Old Economy Village. There, they can wander throughout the Village and listen to live music, view art exhibits, **listen to the teachings of the Reformation by featured speaker, Dr. Byron Curtis**, enjoy refreshments, and participate in the Prayer Walk. Children's activities will also be available.

The day will **close at 6:45PM with a time of prayer** in Old Economy Village's magnificent Feast Hall.

Free admission - all welcome!

For more information

**Call: 724-869-7635 OR
E-mail: 2017oneinchrist@gmail.com**

(See back of the Social Justice flier)