

*Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Butler, Pennsylvania*



**January 28, 2018**

“Authority exercised with humility, and obedience accepted with delight are the very lines along which our spirits live.”

~C. S. Lewis

---

Rev. John C. R. Silbert: 412-779-6148  
Church Office Phone: 724-287-7731  
Website: <http://covenantbutler.org>  
Social Media: [facebook.com/covenant230](https://www.facebook.com/covenant230)

**Order of Service for Worship**

**January 28, 2018**

Eleven O'clock, A.M.



Sacrament of Holy Baptism

---

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert  
Liturgist of the Month: Nancy Blewett  
Guest Musician: Alison Carey

**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 there should be no such division.

Our congregation is strengthened through difference and diversity, and in the name of our Lord, we welcome all who come seeking refuge and healing from condemnation, prejudice and discrimination.

PRELUDE

*Praeludium IX*

J.S.Bach

CHORAL INTROIT      *Surely the Lord Is In This Place*      Robert Lau

*Surely the Lord is in this place.  
This is none other than the house of God,  
and this is the gate, the gate of heaven.*

—Genesis 28:16, 17

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 476

*O Worship the King, All Glorious Above*

LYONS

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

PSALM OF THE DAY      Psalm 111      (*Pew Bible OT p. 490*)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and righteous God, we confess that we are a people of unclean lips, unclean hands, and unclean hearts. We have broken your law times without number, and are guilty of pride, unbelief, self-centeredness and idolatry.**

**Faced with the severity of our sin and the glory of your righteousness, we acknowledge our transgressions, and plead for your forgiveness.**

**Remold and remake us, O God, into servants who desire more earnestly to do your will. Help us not to be conformed to the evils of our day, but to be transformed by your grace for ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

A TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: God so loved the world that he sent his only Son – not to condemn the world, but so the world through him might be saved! Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

\*GLORIA PATRI 579

GLORIA PATRI

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - From the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

**We believe in God above us: Maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon of water and earth, of all creatures, great and small.**

**We believe in God beside us: Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present, and his kingdom will come on earth. We wait for his return.**

**We believe in God within us: the Holy Spirit of new life and deep love, life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Please follow insert*

Bellamy Ann Cranmer ~ *Born December 16, 2017*

\*GREETINGS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

SHARING OF JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

John Rutter

*God be in my head and in my understanding.  
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.  
God be in my mouth and in my speaking.  
God be in mine heart and in my thinking.  
God be at my end and in my departing.*

— Words from the Sarum Primer

FIRST LESSON Deuteronomy 18: 15 - 20 (*Pew Bible OT p. 153*)

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 8: 1 - 13 (*Pew Bible NT p. 930*)

Liturgist: Here ends the second reading.

All: **Praise be to You, O God.**

\*GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1: 21 - 28 (*Pew Bible NT p. 812*)

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

**Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.**

SERMON

*“GOD’S GRACIOUS PROVISION  
for OUR LIFE’S CONFESSION”*

Pastor John

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*

Danish

PULPIT HYMN # 326

*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

MORECAMBE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*God so Loved the World*

John Stainer

*God so love the world  
that He gave His only begotten Son,  
that who so believeth in Him,  
should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*For God sent not His Son into the world  
to condemn the world,  
but that the world through Him might be saved.*

—John 3: 16-17

\*THE DOXOLOGY #592

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.**

\*THE UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Bless these offerings, O God, returned to you. Multiply and use them to bring the word and the touch of Jesus to this place and throughout the world. May our gifts be a means of serving you in the missions to which you have called us; in Christ we pray. Amen.**

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN #229

*From All That Dwell Below the Skies*      LASST UNS ERFREUEN

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE      *A Clare Benediction*      John Rutter

*May the Lord show his mercy upon you;  
may the light of his presence be your guide:  
May he guard you and uphold you:  
may his spirit be ever by your side.  
When you sleep, may his angels watch over you;  
when you wake, may he fill you with his grace:  
May you love him and serve him all your days,  
Then in heaven may you see his face.*

\*A TIME OF SILENCE

\*THE CHARGE AND DISMISSAL

Pastor: May our risen Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and graciously gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, now encourage our hearts and strengthen us in every good deed and word. Go in Peace! Serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

\*POSTLUDE      *Bouree II from French Overture*      J.S.Bach

---

\* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

**YOU WERE GREETED TODAY BY** *Connie Brown.*

---



***JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP !***

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

Hosting today: *Session/Transition Team*

---

***We Welcome Rev. John C. R. Silbert—***

**Our new pastor!** To learn more about Rev. Silbert, a biographical sketch is included in this bulletin. Be sure to stay for Fellowship Hour after worship today so that you can greet Rev. Silbert.





for  
**BEVERLY A. ANTIS**  
(1948-2018)

**TODAY Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**@ 2:00 PM ~ Sanctuary**

*Co-officiants:* Rev. Kimberly van Driel &  
Rev. Dr. James E. Swanson

*Combined Choir:* Conducted by Dr. Stephen Barr, SRU  
*Vocal Solo:* Dr. Christopher Scott, SRU

*Reception follows the service ~ Assembly Room*



**PUBLIC NOTICE ~ CORPORATION MTG.**

The Annual Corporation Meeting of Covenant Presbyterian Church will be held **Next Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018** immediately following our morning worship to review financial reports for 2017 and receive the Budget for 2018. The meeting will be held **in the Assembly Room** during Fellowship Hour.

**Meeting held in conjunction with—**

**“Souper” Bowl**  
**Sunday ~ Feb. 4th**



***A Souper Bowl Soup Luncheon***

with a delicious selection of soups will be held in the Assembly Room during the Fellowship Hour on Feb. 4th. The special Souper Bowl of Caring Offering will be received at the luncheon. Envelopes will be available in the Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> bulletin. Proceeds from the Souper Bowl of Caring benefits Covenant Community Dinners.

---

**Volunteers are needed to make soup. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Assembly Room bulletin board.**

---

**\$\$ Financial Snapshot ~ DECEMBER 2017 \$\$**

Total Budgeted Expenses	\$ 22,995
Budgeted Income from All Sources	\$ 13,122
Taken from Reserve Funds to meet expenses	\$ 9,873

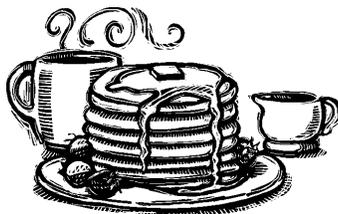
***Seekers Topical Discussion Class***

***Sundays @ 9:45 am in the Assembly Room***

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

**Topic:**

**“NOOMA” - DVD series & Discussion  
Nancy Rice is leading the Seekers**



**SHROVE TUESDAY**

***Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper  
& Auction***

***Tuesday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>!  
5:30 p.m. ~ 7 p.m.***

***in The Assembly Room!***

***Main Floor—Handicap Accessible***

**Dinner: \$6 – Adults      \$4 – Children under 12**

**Raffle: \$1/3 tickets    \$5/arm length of tickets**

***INVITE YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY TO COME ALONG***

***Enjoy pancakes (buckwheat, too!), sausage,  
applesauce, and beverages.***

**Calling all Donors!**  
**Now Accepting Items for the**  
**Shrove Tuesday Auction**



**Suggestions:**

*Store/restaurant gift cards,  
homemade crafts & various gift baskets.*

***Items can be dropped off at Covenant between  
9am-3pm Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri or 10am-1pm Sun***

Questions: Contact co-hosts Brian Graff 724-991-1089  
or Connie Brown 724-285-3872.

*“Begin your Lenten Journey in Unity with  
our Brothers and Sisters in Christ”*

***Joint Presbyterian Ash Wednesday Service  
with Sacrament of Holy Communion  
& Special Music by Combined Choir***

*Covenant, Hill, Trinity, Saint Andrews, North & East Butler  
Presbyterian Churches gathered together for worship*

***Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>  
@ 7:30 pm***

Hosted by:  
Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church  
201 E. Jefferson St., Butler, PA

**Guest Preacher:**  
*Rev. Alan Adams, Executive Presbyter  
Beaver-Butler Presbytery*

*LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.*





## IN MEMORIAM

### Helen R. Ferguson

*Born ~ December 15, 1926*

*Joined the Church Triumphant ~ January 25, 2018*

---

We are sad to report on the passing of Helen R. Ferguson, age 91, who died last Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 10:45 pm in Good Samaritan Hospice at Concordia. Helen, a longtime Covenant member, was faithful, loyal and beloved, and will be remembered for her courage, strength, tenacity and unshakeable determination. She will be greatly missed.

A Memorial Service for Ferg is tentatively scheduled for this Saturday, February 3, 2018, sometime in the early afternoon in the Sanctuary of Covenant Presbyterian Church. Please check the Butler Eagle or the Young's Funeral Home website: [www.youngfuneralhomes.com](http://www.youngfuneralhomes.com) for more details and for Helen's full obituary.

**Keep in Prayer** all those in our church family who are home-bound, dealing with grief, chronic or serious illness

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

### *Celebrating Birthdays:*

**Ashlynd Grace Warba** (*Turning 3 yrs. old, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>*)

- Daughter of Amber (Hobaugh) and Cam Warba
- Great-grandchild of Donna Hobaugh

**Lowell Wetzel** (*February 2*)



*An order for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism*

*Bellamy Ann Cranmer*

*Born: December 16, 2017*

Parents: *April Ann (Vogel) Cranmer*  
& *Michael Lloyd Cranmer*

Assisting Elder: *Betty Butler, Great-great Aunt*

Officiating Pastor: *Rev. John C. R. Silbert*

---

**Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
**Butler, Pennsylvania**

**January 28, 2018**

---

#### THE INVITATION

Friends, baptism is a special occasion in Christian life when we recognize the grace of God living in each newborn creation. 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 April and Michael now bring their infant daughter into this community of faith to be baptized today. We welcome them with the peace of Christ.

Hear these words of our Lord Jesus:

*“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.”*  
(Matthew 28:18-20)

Obedying the word of our Lord, and sure of his presence with us, we baptize those whom God 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. In this family we are received as brothers and sisters of Christ.

Dear friends: 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.

#### THE PRESENTATION

*Elder:* On behalf of the Session and with great joy,  
I present Bellamy Ann Cranmer, born December 16, 2017  
to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

#### THE QUESTIONS TO THE PARENTS

*Pastor:* Dear friends, we are pleased that you have chosen this time and place to present your child for baptism. Within this sacrament we re-affirm our faith and give thanks to God, who guards us from evil and nurtures us in love. Having received Bellamy as a precious gift from God, and entrusted with her nurture and care, I ask you now to re-affirm your own faith in Jesus Christ and your willingness to follow 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 this child 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 might grow in knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ, become his disciple, and come to serve him and to follow where he leads?  
*(It is.)*
4. Will you try, to the best of your ability, to live a Christian life and teach Bellamy the essentials of the faith, leading by example in word and deed; and will you seek the fellowship and nurture of the church as often as you can and wherever you may be?  
*(I 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 child 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.**

#### THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

*The water is poured 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, who rose victorious from the grave.

Now put your seal upon this precious child, we pray, and bind her to your household of faith; guard her from all evil; instruct her in your Truth; and guide her to serve you with joy until that day when you make all things new.

O God, as she is baptized with water, baptize Bellamy with your 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, blessing and glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE BAPTISM -- *Bellamy Ann*

*"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"*

*1 John 3:1 (NIV)*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 492

*Baptized In Water*

BUNESSAN

PASTORAL PRAYER OF BLESSING

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

**Holy God, we thank you for your great love and for the special gift of this young life. Give unto Bellamy 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 for all her days until life's end.**

**Ever-living God, in your mercy you promised to be not only our God, but also the God of our children. Keep this family always in your love. Guide Michael and April as they walk with you. Protect them through the dangers and temptations of life; and grant them a full measure of health and strength.**

**Not least, we pray, bring Bellamy one day to confirm her own faith and to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In his name we pray. Amen.**

\*THE WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Come forward to greet the Cranmer family*

## ***Will the groundhog see his shadow this year?***

(Friday, February 2, 2018)



Groundhog Day always falls on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This traditionally marks the midpoint between the winter solstice in December and the spring equinox in March. According to legend, if a groundhog sees its shadow on this day, there will be six more weeks of winter; if it doesn't, then spring is right around the corner. Of course, this refers to wintry weather conditions. We like to joke, "If he sees his shadow, we'll have six more weeks of winter; if he doesn't, it'll be six weeks till spring" because, of course, the dates of the equinox do not change.

Groundhog Day has deeper meaning because it speaks to the triumph of spring over winter—and birth over death. Originally, this was a Celtic festival marking the cross-quarter day, or midpoint of the season.

The day was called *Imbolc* (lambs' milk) because the lambing season had just begun. It was also called *Brigantia* for the Celtic female deity of light, calling attention to the Sun being halfway on its advance from the winter solstice to the spring equinox.

The Christian church later called this festival of light, "Candlemas." The English name refers to the candles lit that day in churches to celebrate the presentation of the Christ Child in the temple of Jerusalem. Since the traditional celebration anticipated the planting of crops, a central focus of the festivities was the forecasting of either an early spring or a lingering winter. Sunshine on Candlemas was said to indicate the return of winter. Though we recognize animal behavior isn't the only way to judge planting dates, the tradition continues, often with a wink and a smile.

How often has the groundhog really predicted the coming of spring? According to researchers, the groundhog has accurately predicted the coming of spring only 39 percent of the time (at the time of this writing). No matter what the percentage, it's a fun time had by all!



**Rev. John C. R. Silbert**  
*A Biographical Sketch*

The Rev. John Charles Reutlinger Silbert was born March 23, 1956 at Phoenixville, PA (Chester County), where John's father, the Rev. William G. Silbert, Jr. served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Three months later on May 27, 1956, Bill and Elizabeth Silbert asked a dear seminary friend, the Rev. Vincent T. Ross, to baptize their youngest son. At the time, Rev. Ross ("Uncle Vince") was pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Butler.

Pastor John was educated at Gordon College in Wenham, MA (BA in Biblical and Theological Studies, 1978); Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ (M. Div. in Practical Theology in 1982); and was admitted to candidacy in the PhD Program in Rhetoric and Communication at the University of Pittsburgh in 1985 (ABD).

Ordained in September 1986, Pastor John has served many congregations in Southwestern Pennsylvania at Covenant PC, Boswell; Pine Run PC, Apollo; Fort Burd PC, Brownsville; Union PC and First PC, Murraysville; the PC of Latrobe; Derry PC; and Westminster PC, Greensburg. From 2003-2016, he was a member of Pittsburgh Presbytery having served Forest Avenue PC, Bellevue, and the Moon Run PC in Robinson Township. In May 2016, John became a member of the Beaver-Butler Presbytery in service as the stated supply pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Butler. Alongside his pastoral service, Pastor John worked for the Presbyterian Media Mission of Pittsburgh, serving as a Consultant and as its Associate Director (1998-2002).

Pastor John has taught at both the collegiate and graduate level at the University of Pittsburgh and the Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA. Since 2003, he has been a continuing member of the adjunct faculty in the School of Communication and Information Systems at Robert Morris University in Moon Township, PA. In his time there, Pastor John has served as a chaplain in the Campus Ministry Association in the Office of Student Life, and as an occasional actor in the RMU Colonial Theatre where he became an honorary member of Alpha Psi Omega, the National Theatre Honorary Society.

Outside of his church and school duties, Pastor John serves on the Baden Academy Charter School Board of Trustees and is a Member of the Board of the Zelienople Historical Society where he serves as secretary. He is a lifelong fly fisherman (50+ years), is an actor in university and community theatre, loves ice hockey, is a Civil War history buff, enjoys choral singing, and plays a really inconsistent game of golf!

Pastor John lives in Zelienople Borough with his beloved wife of six years, Elaine Ann Nucci. Elaine was born and raised in Hudson, NY; educated at Slippery Rock University (BA in Business and Communication, 1984) and Point Park University (MBA in 2009 and MA in Organizational Leadership in 2018); and is advertising sales manager for the Pittsburgh Cultural District. Elaine loves to cook and play tennis (but not at the same time), is a devoted fan of Turner Classic Movies, loves the arts, plays the flute, enjoys singing swing, and joins her husband at RMU hockey games whenever she can.

Between them, Pastor John and Elaine have four adult children: Kate Silbert (Ann Arbor, MI), Hannah Silbert (Salem, Mass.), and Christine and Andrew Weir (Cranberry Twp.)