

Covenant United Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

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Worship with us on [YouTube.com/@CovenantTV1813](https://www.youtube.com/@CovenantTV1813)



In Memoriam: Ground Zero, Shanksville, The Pentagon;
25 years later -- lest we forget. ✝

Sunday, September 13, 2026 – Welcoming Sunday 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Elaine Nucci

Musician: Ione Mathias

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

People: **With all our hearts, we will praise God's holy name!**

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

People: **Let us never forget the good things God has done for us.**

Pastor: Praise the Lord, all the earth—everyone, everywhere!

People: **Let us worship God!**

**OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others.

Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: People of God, hear and believe: God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to God’s own steadfast love sealed for us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: **As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us. Thanks be to God!**

**RESPONSE 581 *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI (Greatest)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

**THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

The Word

**ILLUMINATION 175 v.1 *Seek Ye First* LAFFERTY

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

HT LESSON Exodus 14: 19 – 31 *Pew Bible P.53*

Leader: This, is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 114 HYMN 58 *When Israel Was Going Forth* PISGAH

NT LESSON Romans 14: 1 – 12 *Pew Bible P.923*

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle. People: **Praise be to You, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 18: 21 – 35 *Pew Bible P.800*

Pastor: The Gospel of Our Lord. People: **Glory to You, O Christ!**

CANTICLE 775 v. 1 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* WALK WITH ME

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me; all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

MESSAGE *Choosing to Live Beyond the Cage* PASTOR JOHN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *From the Book of Romans*

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER with 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.

The Eucharist

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Make This Church a Welcome Place* ~ Williams & Raney

****DOXOLOGY 606 *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.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Merciful and gracious God, you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you. Bless these gifts and bless our lives that together we may share your mercy and grace for the world you dearly love. Amen.

The Sending

****HYMN 444 *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive* DETROIT**

****THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

****POSTLUDE**

⌕-- About the cover montage: The memorials erected in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, at the Twin Towers (Ground Zero) in NYC; at the Flight 93 Memorial ‘Tower of Voices’ Chimes in Shanksville, PA, and the Memorial Benches (at night) outside of the Pentagon in Washington, D. C.



Church Notices:

Wait! Don’t Go Yet! Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to *The Congregation Pot-Luck Participants* for hosting today!

Welcome Back Choir!

Take a moment today and greet the choir. We are blessed to have our group together again. Thanks to our members, dear friends, and SRU students who make up the Chancel Choir.

Worship Accompanists Needed!

Sept 27; Oct 4; Nov 15 Piano, Organ, Any Instrument OK! See Church Administrator ASAP.

Mission Light house Item of the Month for September is Canned Chicken & Tuna; Boxed Beef/Chicken Broth

September 26 Butler Fall Festival

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM - Main Street Downtown Butler

Come work the campus booth in front of the old Dollar General. The campus will provide 4 nice gift baskets to raffle & cookies to sale. Set-up & Tear-down help will be needed!

September 18 “Young Washington”

7:00 PM Bring a snack to share or enjoy your own snack
Part of our **America 250 Film Series** from Angel Studios



Prayer List

For all those still struggling with the events of 9/11/2001;

John Pritchard, in a rehab center in Lutz, Florida;

John & Pat, friends of Bill & Nancy Rice, John diagnosed with pancreatic cancer;

Pam White, a church neighbor, is in the hospital suffering from a broken wrist and poor health in general;

Jane Faulkner, Ann Morrison's sister in CA, fights recalcitrance in FEMA processing her housing needs & requests -- pray for cooperation from FEMA Sr. staff. . . Jane's persistent lung-related illness (MAC) may be triggered by her current living situation in Sebastopol, CA; **Scotty McAliley**, Ann's cousin in Marietta, Georgia, continues bi-weekly chemo-therapy for the remainder of her life.