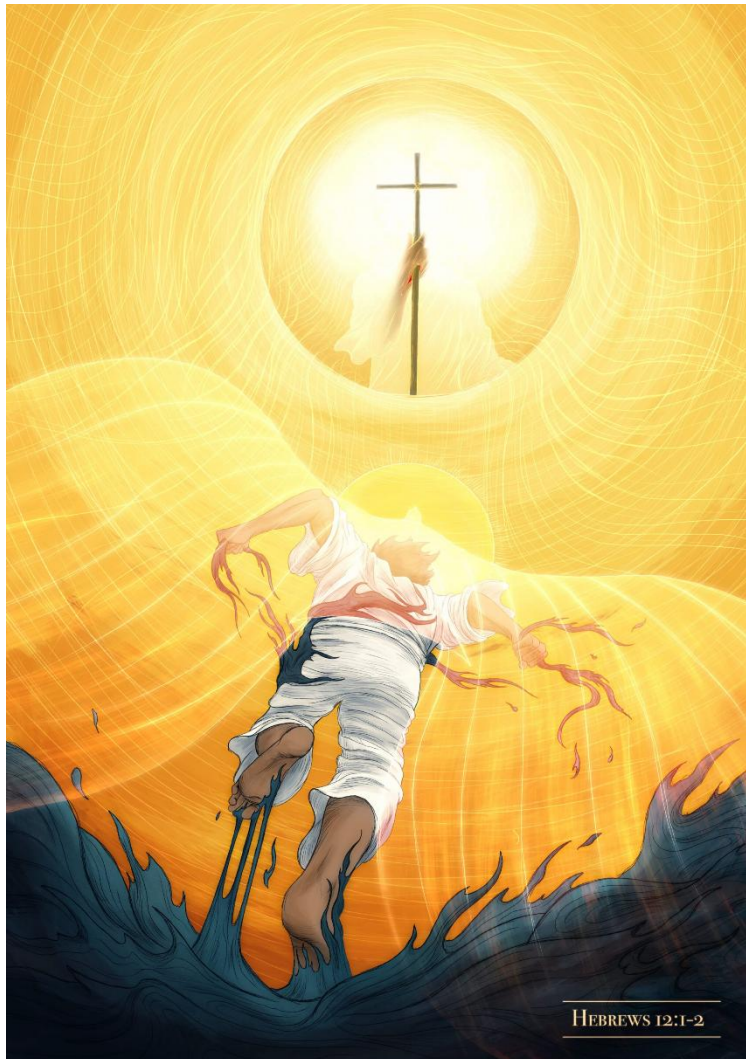


Covenant United Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

724-287-7731 covenantoffice@zoominternet.net

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



"Hebrews 12:1-2," Digital Artwork, by Christopher Powers,
A Production of the Full of Eyes Ministry, Minneapolis, Minnesota ☩

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 17, 2025, 11:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

Worship Leader: Ione Mathias

Music Director: Dominico Reyes

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

INTROIT

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship ~ Holy Manna

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE & TIME OF CENTERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: As we enter into this time of worship, let us pray to the Lord:
People: **Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!**
Pastor: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim
and Benjamin and Manasseh.
People: **Stir up your might, and come to save us!**
Pastor: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
People: **let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

** OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 29

O God, You Search Me

O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Creator, with a gardener's tender touch, you planted your people to bear good fruit, but we bear wild grapes. With a welder's fierce fire, you fashioned your people to glorify you, but we are riddled with impurities. In your generous mercy, O God, regard the vine you planted: save and restore us. Reform the vessel you crafted: cleanse and refine us. Give us life, O God, that with our whole being, we may worship you rightly.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Jesus endured the cross and disregarded its shame for the sake of the joy that was set before him.
People: **That joy is our salvation. His joy is our freedom.**
Pastor: This is the good news of the gospel:
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven – Thanks be to God!**

**RESPONSE K9

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (Meineke)

***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: May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

NOISY OFFERING OF LOOSE CHANGE

The Word

****ILLUMINATION**

Lord, Let Thy Word Illumine Us

ST. AGNES

***Lord, let thy Word illumine us with truth and love divine;
and make us faithful to the Christ, 'Til we are wholly thine.***

HT LESSON

Isaiah 5: 1 – 7

Pew Bible P.552

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 80

HYMN 355

O Hear Our Cry, O Lord

VINEYARD HAVEN

NT LESSON

Hebrews 11: 29 – 12: 2

Pew Bible P.978

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

People: **Praise be to You, O Lord!**

****GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 12: 49 – 56

Pew Bible P.848

Pastor: The Gospel of Our Lord.

People: **Glory to You, O Christ!**

****CANTICLE 707 v.3**

Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord

HALL

***Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;
have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;
guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.***

THE MESSAGE

Seeing, Savoring, and Singing the Excellence of God

PASTOR JOHN

****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967 (9.32-33)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being.

His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice.

In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong.

The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as 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

****DOXOLOGY 717**

For the Life That You Have Given

PLEADING SAVIOR

***For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.***

CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for you have chosen the poverty of the world to make your people rich in faith. Help us to put our faith into practice through the offering of our lives—giving food to the hungry, clothes to the naked, and shelter to the poor; all for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, your Word made flesh. Amen.

The Sending

****HYMN 730**

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

GRAND ISLE

****THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

****POSTLUDE**

☩ -- About the Bulletin Cover and Artist: Christopher Powers is a digital artist who began drawing in 2009 as a form of prayer in meditating on Holy Scripture. In 2014, he created *Full of Eyes Ministry* – after the living creatures “full of eyes” around the throne of God in Revelation 4:6-8 who are always perceiving the glory of God -- as a way of using his talent for digital artwork to provide a “visual exegesis” of passages of Scripture from the Bible. He describes the term ‘visual exegesis’ as unfolding the meaning of Biblical scripture through visual images and animations. The image is a visual depiction of the concluding exhortation in Hebrews 12:1-2.

Wait! Don't Go Yet! : Join us for food and conversation during Fellowship Hour right in the Sanctuary. Today's host is "Father Goose's Pantry". (Bring a dish to share)

Donations: "Tithely" at covenantbutler.org or "Tithley" Smartphone App

Covenant TV: The "Your Worship Sunday" broadcast to YouTube will be off air for a couple weeks. We have several pieces of equipment to replace after failures. Once all is in place, we will resume coming to you live & on replay. Our apologies for any inconvenience. We will provide a "live capture" of our service to be released to You Tube for viewing during the week.

Celebrations:

Aug 23 Dr John & Mary Reefer's Anniversary

Aug 27 Nancy Rice's Birthday

Aug 29 David & Gina Lobell's Anniversary

ABBE – Adult Education: Wednesdays at 11:00 AM – Bring your lunch and enjoy discussion on the new book starting Aug 20 *The Gift of Asher Lev*.

August 31: During worship we will hear from special guest *Isaiah 117 House*. They also will have a table set up in the Trinity Narthex for folks to get to know them.

From the Treasurer: **June Financial Snapshot**

Expenses	\$12, 556
Income	\$6,843
Taken from Reserves	\$5,713

Worship Without Walls:

Sunday, August 24

10:30 AM

Alameda Park

Masonic Shelter

Several Butler Area Presbyterian churches will participate in outdoor worship. There will not be a service at Covenant on the 24th.





Prayer List: If you have a prayer request, please contact the Prayer Cordon:
Virginia Lokovich 724-287-3920, Jane Hall 724-287-5410, Pastor John 412-779-6148, or
covenantoffice@zoominternet.net

Please Pray for:

Brother Richard Mazza, a Xaverian Brother and cousin of Elaine Nucci in Cape Ann, MA, who begins a month-long chemotherapy treatment for bladder cancer this week.

Traci, neighbor of Pastor John's sister, D.A. in Lincoln, RI, has reduced liver function.

Peter Guthrie Silbert Cialdella, turned one year old this week!

Alene Campbell, lone's mother, home from hospital, feeling better every day

Sharon Anderson, friend of Nancy Rice, awaiting her MRI results after chemo treatments. Also, pray for her 92-year-old sister, **Chris**, home from the hospital but dealing with several health issues. The sisters appreciate our prayers.

Bambi, family member of Linda Peters, placed in hospice.

Pam Patterson, residing at Concordia Cabot.

Jane Faulkner, Ann Morrison's sister in CA, prayers for life situations.

Scotty McAliley, Ann Morison's cousin in NC, suffering from breast cancer.

For all faculty, students, and administrators, returning to their schools in these weeks ahead and as they prepare for a new academic year.