

# Covenant United Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

724-287-7731 [covenantoffice@zoominternet.net](mailto:covenantoffice@zoominternet.net)

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



*"Nicodemus Visiting Jesus," by Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1899*  
Oil on canvas, Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts ☩

## Lent II

**March 1, 2026, 11:00 AM**

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Ann Morrison

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

Guest Musician: Kathy Kemerer

## ~ Order of Worship ~

\*\* = Please stand, as able

### The Gathering

PRELUDE & TIME OF CENTERING     *Prelude on Tidings ~ Kemerer*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT                     *Create in Me a Clean Heart*     CREATE IN ME (Capers)

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor:             When I think of God's presence in the world, I am grateful:  
People:             **Grateful for the presence of hope; grateful for the gift of life.**  
Pastor:             And when I think of God's presence in my life, I am humbled:  
People:             **Humbled by the gift of grace; humbled by the invitation to begin again.**  
Pastor:             And when I think of God's presence in this community, I am glad:  
People:             **Glad to be surrounded by holy people worshipping our Holy God.**  
Pastor:             Thank you all; thank you, God!  
All:                 **Let us come and worship the Lord!**

\*\* OPENING PRAYER

\*\*OPENING HYMN 518                     *Your Only Son*     LAMB OF GOD

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER CONFESSION

**Almighty and merciful Father, we confess that we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep, failing to live up to the grace you have shown us. As we sing of Jesus, the Lamb of God, we recognize that our sin is great. Forgive us for our selfish thoughts, words, and actions. Wash us, cleanse us, and heal our brokenness through the precious blood of your only Son. By your Holy Spirit, enable us to follow you more closely. In Jesus' name, we pray . . .**

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor:             The holy Lamb of God has washed us in his precious blood, and by his grace we are called lambs of God – this is the good news of the gospel!  
People:             **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven -- Thanks be to God!**

\*\*CONFESSION RESPONSE 581 *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: Bear with one another, and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

## The Word

\*\*ILLUMINATION 224 v.2

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

ROCKINGHAM

***Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most. I sacrifice them to his blood.***

HT LESSON

Genesis 12: 1 – 4a

*Pew Bible P.8*

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

PSALM 121

Hymn 45

*I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes*

DUNDEE

NT LESSON

Romans 4: 1 – 5, 13 – 17

*Pew Bible P.916*

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

\*\*GOSPEL LESSON

John 3: 1 – 17

*Pew Bible P.862*

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

\*\*CANTICLE

*My Spirit Longs for Thee*

FINGAL

***My spirit longs for Thee with in my troubled breast,  
Though I unworthy be of so divine a Guest.***

***Of so divine a Guest unworthy though I be,  
Yet has my heart no rest, unless it come from Thee.***

***Unless it come from Thee, in vain I look around;***

***In all that I can see no rest is to be found.***

***No rest is to be found but in Thy blessed love;***

***O let my wish be crowned, and send it from above! A-men.***

THE MESSAGE

*Bombogenesis and the Holy Spirit*

PASTOR JOHN

\*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN SONG Hymn 533

*In the Singing*

BREAD OF PEACE

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 OFFERINGS & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

**\*\*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

**God of grace, you have gifted us with life in Christ. Today we bring the gifts of our work and the gifts of our hearts. May all that we bring and all that we are be your means of grace in the world, that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.**

## **The Sending**

**\*\*HYMN 539**                      *We Will Go Out with Joy*                      WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY

**\*\*THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

FINAL RESPONSE                      Abide with Me ~ Lyte/Monk  
***Abide with me: fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens: Lord, with me abide!  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.***

POSTLUDE                      *Postlude* ~ Boellmann

✠        About the bulletin cover: Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859 – 1937), was born in Pittsburgh, PA, the oldest child of Benjamin Tucker Tanner, a Bishop in the AME Church, and Sarah Elizabeth Tanner, a former runaway slave from Virginia. Their son was the first African-American painter to gain International acclaim which led him to move to Paris in 1891 for further study. At the beginning of his career, he studied with Thomas Eakins at the Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts. Because of his Father's influence, he painted many scenes on religious subjects.

## **Church Announcements**

Wait! Don't Go Yet! Join us for food and conversation in Fellowship Hall right after the service. Thanks to “*Mother Hubbard's Cupboard*” for hosting today!

Donations: “Tithely” at [covenantbutler.org](http://covenantbutler.org) or “Tithely” Smartphone App

Easter Memorial Flowers: Due date for flower orders is Sunday, March 8. Please bring your order form with full payment to the church office. Do not place in offering plate.

ABBE: Adult Brown-Bag Education: The group will meet on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 11:30 AM, as we begin conversation and reflection on our newest book *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Books are available in the church office.

Lighthouse Item of the Month: MARCH – Cereal

### **Membership at Covenant United Presbyterian Church**

If you are reading this information in our Worship Bulletin, you already belong here at Covenant United Presbyterian Church. Here, all are welcome, and membership in the congregation is not required to participate in any of our activities and ministries. By becoming a member, you will have voice and vote in congregational meetings and can better express your commitment to Jesus Christ through this church. Welcoming people as members helps us to get to know them better and to support you more fully – letting all of us stay engaged and grow in faith together. Individuals may join the church by Profession of Faith and Baptism (for those who have never been baptized), by Reaffirmation of Faith (for those who are not currently active members of another Christian church), or by Transfer of Church Letter (for those on the active roll of another church.) Contact Pastor John to find out more.



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](mailto:covenantoffice@zoominternet.net)

**Virginia Lokovich**, is in Concordia Cabot;

**Audrey Carlson**, doing physical therapy after hip replacement at Concordia Cabot;

**Donna**, known to Gina Loebell, recovering from stroke, now at home;

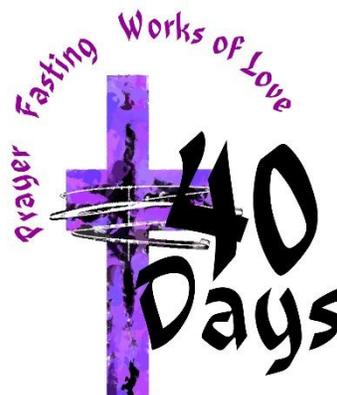
**Richard Mazza C.F.X.**, cousin of Elaine Nucci, being treated for recurring cancer;

**Pam Patterson**, residing at Concordia Cabot;

**Jane Faulkner**, Ann Morrison's sister in CA, that an appeal made to Whitehouse.gov will break the impasse with FEMA concerning her ongoing housing situation;

**Scotty McAliley**, Ann Morison's cousin in Marietta, Georgia, continues with chemo-therapy treatments every two weeks for the remainder of her life. She treasures each day and week she can visit with her parents in North Carolina on off-weeks;

**All affected by the massive winter blizzard along the East Coast this past week.**



## Romans 4: 13 – 17

K T V S M D D L R O W V S R N E R  
G H O S A W E C K G N I Y E U V R  
H O I E H H B E S S R A N H L A E  
T S D N A E U D T T M A T T L H H  
I E S S R R T C N N N M C I O D T  
A P G U B E H A E A A O A E O I A  
F R N O A N E L R D E R S N Q N F  
T O I E W V R L E N X W A A Y H S  
O M R T R I E S H E I H D U E E W  
N I B H A O R O D C S O E R G R O  
E S S G T L A S A S T M P O G I U  
T E R I H A H L W E E O E M I T L  
T S I R T T S A I D N N N A V H D  
I D E V E I L E B F C L D N E A I  
R G H R Y O R D E R E Y S S S T D  
W C O M E N Y O U P R E S E N C E  
F S G N I H T S I H T H R O U G H

### Word List

RIGHTEOUSNESS DESCENDANTS GUARANTEED VIOLATION EXISTENCE ADHERENTS  
PRESENCE BELIEVED WRITTEN THROUGH PROMISE NEITHER NATIONS INHERIT  
DEPENDS ABRAHAM THINGS ROMANS REASON FATHER BRINGS WRATH WOULD  
WORLD WHERE THOSE THERE SHARE ORDER HEIRS GRACE GIVES FAITH CALLS  
WHOM VOID THIS THAT REST ONLY NULL NRSV MANY MADE LIFE INTO HAVE

*(Romans 4:13-17) For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. (14) If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. (15) For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. (16) For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, (17) as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")--in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.*

*(NRSV)*