

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)



“Lenten Labyrinth,” by Mike Moyers (2012), Oil on canvas

<https://illuminationsbymike.blogspot.com/2012/04/lenten-labyrinth.html> †

Lent I

February 22, 2026, 11:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: David Loebell

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

Musician: Ione Mathias

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE & TIME OF CENTERING

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: We are the body of Christ, and we depend on God's grace.
People: **We pray to God in times of distress, knowing that we are freed from sin and preserved from trouble.**
Pastor: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
People: **We will be glad in the Lord and shout for joy!**

** OPENING PRAYER

**OPENING HYMN 618 *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* DEO GRACIAS

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER CONFESSION

Merciful One, we are so easily tempted. We turn away from your word so quickly. We seek anything that claims to save us from discomfort, inconvenience, pain, fear, and emptiness. But these are false idols, dissolving in the wind. You are our true hope and salvation, our hiding place, our guide, our guardian. We confess our transgressions to you: forgive our sins.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice! God does not count our sins against us, but offers us a free gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ our Lord!
People: **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: Be kind to one another, and tenderhearted, forgiving one another. just as God in Christ has forgiven you. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

The Word

****ILLUMINATION 224 v.1** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* ROCKINGHAM

***When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.***

HT LESSON Genesis 2: 15 – 17; 3: 1 – 7 *Pew Bible P.2*

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

RESPONSIVE PSALM 32 *The Joy of Forgiveness*

Pastor: *1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*

Leader: *2 Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

Men: ***3 While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.***

Women: ***4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.***

Choir: *5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.*

Pastor: *6 Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.*

Leader: *7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.*

Men: ***8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.***

Women: ***9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.***

Choir: 10 Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

All God's People: **11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

NT LESSON Romans 5: 12 – 19 *Pew Bible P.917*

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

**GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 4: 1 – 11 *Pew Bible P.785*

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 *The Lenten Odyssey of Discipleship* PASTOR JOHN

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Philippians 2:5-11*

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is 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 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

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 415

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

RESTORATION

**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

✠ Mike Moyers is an artist from middle Tennessee. He calls himself a “theological impressionist” – a visual communicator that believes all of his work – in his words: “*have a spiritual core that celebrate, explore and wrestle with the mysteries of God.*”

In his bulletin cover artwork, *Lenten Labyrinth*, Mike follows the ancient belief that labyrinths serve as tools for meditation. He says, “*Unlike mazes, labyrinths are not puzzles to solve. They have the same entrance and exit point. The traveler merely wanders to the center and then journeys back out. The purpose is to journey into prayer and meditation while traveling through the Labyrinth’s many twists and turns. . . I decided to paint my thoughts and meditations into the twists and turns . . . in the hopes of rekindling its contemplative character. . . Because this labyrinth is meant to trigger your own contemplation, I won’t go into great detail explaining its meaning. I will, however, get you started. The labyrinth begins and ends with the black path at the bottom. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Good Friday. Both are services about darkness, and death. Likewise, this Lenten Labyrinth begins and ends with the darkness of the cross. . . For many Christians, the season of Lent is a time of deep reflection on the sacrificial life and death of Christ. Going through Lent prepares the heart for a more meaningful Easter.*” Let this labyrinthine path serve as a metaphor for your own Lenten journey in this penitential season of prayer and meditation.

Church Announcements

Wait! Don't Go Yet! Join us for food and conversation in Fellowship Hall right after the service. Thanks to *Elaine Nucci* for hosting today!

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

March 1: Trinity's Girl Scout Troop will sell cookies in the lobby beginning at 10:45 AM. If interested, please purchase on your way into our service.

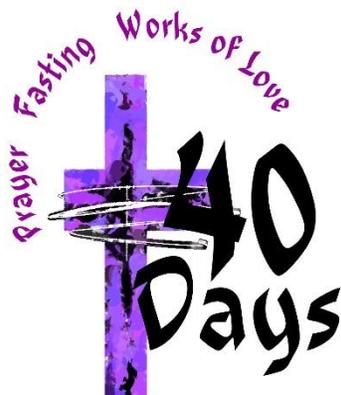
Celebration: February 28 Janie Wetzell's Birthday (90!)



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.

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

Please Pray for:

All who are going through medical testing and diagnosis.

Virginia Lokovich, in AGH with serious illnesses.

Jan Thompson & Family, Gina Loebell's former co-worker, as daughter Donna had a major stroke, she is currently in AGH.

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.

Romans 5: 15

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

Word List

TRESPASS ABOUNDED THROUGH SURELY ROMANS CHRIST JESUS GRACE NRSV
MUCH MORE MANY LIKE HAVE GIFT FREE DIED THE ONE NOT GOD FOR BUT
AND IN