

Covenant United Presbyterian Church

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

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Here we can come together, people searching for healing and hope:

People: **here we are met by the One who would bless us with abundant life.**

Leader: Here we are called to gather as the family of God:

People: **we may find those who are strangers, yet are beloved siblings of ours.**

Leader: Here we discover the truth that God makes no distinctions among us:

People: **here we are welcomed and embraced by the One whose arms are open to all.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY 133

**HYMN 397

O Look and Wonder

MIREN QUE BUENO

✦INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We admit, Providing God, that we have difficulties living as your children. We could live in unity, but our words fracture relationships with family and friends. We have been shown the way to your kingdom, but turn into blind guides when asked for the directions by others. When we could offer others the precious oil of peace, we hand them the vinegar of despair and rejection.



Matthew 15: 21 - 28

Sunday, August 16, 2026

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Guest Pastor: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Dorothy Wallace

Guest TV Producer: David K Loebell

Guest Musician: Melanie Rodgers

Have mercy on us, Healing Heart, have mercy on us. When you call to us, may we listen with open ears, understand with embracing hearts, and share your grace with others, even as we have been graced by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news for you: God has provided hope for you, filling you with joy, with mercy, with peace.

People: **As mercy leads to mercy, we will take these gifts to share with the world. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

****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: 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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *from the United Methodist Hymnal, 1989*

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

NT LESSON Romans 11: 1 – 2a, 29 - 32 *Pew Bible P.921*

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

****GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 15: 21 – 28 *Pew Bible P.797*

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

SCRIPTURE HYMN 826 *Lift High the Cross* CRUCIFER

MESSAGE PASTOR BRIAN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Contemporary Profession of Belief ~ Auburn University

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as God’s divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth.

Glory be to the immortal and all-wise God, in whom we have had our birth, in whose care we are constantly kept, and unto whom we shall return when our days on earth are ended.

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 HYMN 754 *Help Us Accept Each Other* BARONITA

**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
O God, accept our offerings, and use us to bring life and health and hope to your world. Make us generous and faithful stewards of your mysteries, doing your will and proclaiming your word; through Christ we pray. Amen.

The Sending

**HYMN 408 *There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit* SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

**THE CHARGE, BENEDICTION, & POSTLUDE

✠ *The Call to Worship and Confession Liturgy is from Thomas Shuman at LectionaryLiturgies.Blogspot.com.*

Church Notices:

Wait! Don’t Go Yet! Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Gina Loebell for hosting today!

Worship Accompanists Needed! Fall Semester - September 13 – December 27. Piano, Organ, Any Instrument OK! See Church Administrator ASAP.

August 22 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Car Cruise - Trinity Parking Lot
Rodfather’s Cars, Food Trucks, Vendor Booths. Come work the Covenant Booth!

August 23 10:30 AM

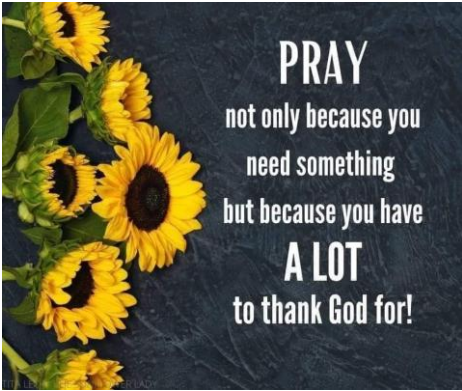
Worship Without Walls - Masonic Shelter @ Alameda Park
Led By Hill Church with BAP Participants. No service at Covenant this day. Bring a dish to share. Meats provided by Hill.

September 13 9:15 AM

Fall Choir Semester Starts
Come join us in praising the Lord!

September 26 11:0 AM – 6:00 PM

Butler Fall Festival - 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.



Prayer List

John Pritchard, in a rehab center in Lutz, Florida;
Trinity Church Family, on the passing of dear member Violet Dolmayer on Aug. 3;
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;
Sammy, Stepson of Linda Peters, had a kidney removal recently; **Barb**, Linda’s friend, is in the hospital with heart problems and other health issues, and **Scott**, Linda’s neighbor, is battling cancer;
Ed and Tom Butler, sons of Betty Butler, are doing better;
Jane Faulkner, Ann Morrison’s sister in CA, still is battling recalcitrance in FEMA processing her housing needs and requests -- pray for a crack in the stonewall of FEMA Senior staff. . . Jane may need to relocate from her current living situation because her 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.

Psalm 133

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

Word List

FOREVERMORE MOUNTAINS TOGETHER PRECIOUS PLEASANT ORDAINED
BLESSING RUNNING KINDRED PSALMS HERMON COLLAR WHICH UNITY
THERE ROBES FALLS BEARD AARON ZION WHEN VERY UPON OVER
NRSV LORD LIVE LIKE LIFE HEAD GOOD DOWN OIL HOW HIS DEW
AND

(Psalms 133 NRSV) How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! (2) It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. (3) It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.