

Covenant United Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

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"You Shall Live," Tinted Woodcut Illustrating Ezekiel 37 in the Luther Bible of 1534
By the Workshop of Lucas Cranach the Elder (German, 1473-1552) †

Lent V

March 22, 2026, 11:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Nancy Rice

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

Guest Musicians: Melanie Rodgers

~ 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: As children of God, we dwell in the Spirit, and the Spirit dwells in us.
People: **We are alive in the Spirit through the righteousness of God.**
Pastor: In humility and faith, we come to worship the One who gives us life,
hope, and healing.
People: **God has brought us to this moment and will guide us still.**
Pastor: Let us worship God!
People: **Praise the Lord!**

** OPENING PRAYER

**OPENING HYMN 291 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* SPIRIT

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER CONFESSION

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Do not cast us away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: God's love has been poured into your hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
People: **This is the good news of the Gospel -- 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: Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 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

Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14

Pew Bible P.704

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

PSALM 130

Hymn 791

For You, My God, I Wait

SPRINGTIME

NT LESSON

Romans 8: 6 – 11

Pew Bible P.919

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

**GOSPEL LESSON

John 11: 1 – 45

Pew Bible P.873

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

Dawn of the Living Dead – Far From a Horror Flick

PASTOR JOHN

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN SONG

HYMN 292 *As the Wind Song*

WAIKUA TAPU

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 ANTHEM *Jesus, Teach Us to Be Neighbors* ~ Smith/Gambrell

**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 compassion, we praise you that you look upon our frail lives with love and understanding, and that you desire for us all new life in Jesus Christ. We are overwhelmed by your love, which goes to the cross for us, endures the grave, and leads us to new life.

By your Spirit, strengthen our souls to be brave and bold in Christ's service. Take our offerings, and use them and us for your purposes, in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.

The Sending

**HYMN 692 *Spirit, Open My Heart* WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

**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

☩ About the bulletin cover: The 1534 Luther Bible, published in Wittenberg, (in Saxony-Anhalt) Germany, where Martin Luther taught and preached, contains a series of 117 highly significant, often hand-colored, woodcut illustrations. These were created in the workshop of Lucas Cranach the Elder, the court painter of Wittenberg, and a long associate of Luther. This tinted woodcut is an illustration of the prophet Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37). This work, along with other works from the workshop in that year, are key examples of early Reformation art.

Church Announcements

Wait! Don't Go Yet! Join us for food and conversation in Fellowship Hall right after the service. Thanks to *all the Soup Makers* for hosting today! Donate \$\$ to the Lighthouse Food Bank and enjoy a variety of homemade soups.

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

ABBE: Adult Brown-Bag Education: The group will meet on Thursday, March 27, 2026, at 11:30 AM, to continue conversation and reflection on *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi.

Lighthouse Item of the Month: MARCH – Cereal

Celebrations

March 23 Pastor John's Birthday



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.

**Music Accompanists Needed for April 12, 19, 26 Worship
Piano, Organ, or Instrument**

See the Church Administrator ASAP

March 29 Worship:

**We're asking everyone who can play an instrument to select one
hymn or service music piece to play during the service.**

See Church Administrator for list of music to choose from.



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 active in and affected by the military actions in Iran, Israel, and other portions of the Middle East – for relief from suffering, for discerning diplomacy, and a lasting peace for all;

Leo Deblack, new-born great grandson of Nancy Rice’s brother, has a rare, but treatable genetic disorder called MSUD, prayers for the family as they make the adjustments to actively monitor and care for him going forward.

The Thompson Family, known to Gina Loebell, as they mourn the loss of Gina’s friend, Donna, from a recent stroke;

Virginia Lokovich, is in Concordia Cabot;

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

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 Morrison’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.