

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)



Two Auld Wifies, Dundee, by Ron Stenberg, 1982 ✠
Oil on Canvas, The McManus – Dundee, Scotland, UK

Sunday, September 20, 2026
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Gina Loebell

Musician: Don Wallace

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The Lord our God overflows with loving kindness, and is close to all who call on the Holy One's name!

People: **We praise and bless God's holy name forever.**

Pastor: The Lord our Great God is glorious beyond our imagination, yet God hears our cries for help!

People: **We praise and bless God's holy name forever.**

Pastor: The Lord our God is worthy to be honored by every generation, and by people of every age!

People: **We come in worship to praise God's holy name, Amen!**

**OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 396

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

HOLY MANNA

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of generosity, we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves more deserving than others. We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show.

Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace, and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: The grace of God is boundless, poured out freely for all of us. The proof of this is God’s amazing love through Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: **This is the good news of the gospel! We receive this gift of forgiveness, and trust God to transform our lives! Alleluia!**

****RESPONSE 581** *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI (Greateorex)

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 & THE NOISY OFFERING OF LOOSE CHANGE**

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

The Word

****ILLUMINATION 175 v.1** *Seek Ye First* LAFFERTY

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

HT LESSON Exodus 16: 2 – 15 *Pew Bible P.55*

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

PSALM 105: 1 – 6, 37 – 45 (Responsive) *Pew Bible P 484-485*

Liturgist: odd verses, People: even verses; all join in unison for verse 45.

NT LESSON Philippians 1: 21 – 30 *Pew Bible P.953*

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

****GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 20: 1 – 16 *Pew Bible P.801*

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

CANTICLE 775 v. 1 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* WALK WITH ME

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me; all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

MESSAGE *1st Hour Saints, 11th Hour Converts* PASTOR JOHN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God, the Father the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me* ~ White

****DOXOLOGY 606** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all, creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

****CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O God, from your providing hand even the dissatisfied and grumbling
receive what they need for their lives. Teach us your ways of justice and lead us
to practice your generosity, so that we may live a life worthy of the gospel make
known through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Sending

****HYMN 65** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

****THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

****POSTLUDE**

✦-- About the artist: Ron Stenberg (New Zealand, 1919—2017), artist, teacher and
illustrator was born in Auckland in July 1919. He initially studied painting as a young
teenager in the early 1930's. In the next twenty years, Stenberg worked as an illustrator
and later in advertising, establishing himself as an artist in New Zealand. In 1954 a Carnegie
scholarship enabled him to travel overseas for two years. A few years later he was offered
a teaching position at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee, Scotland; he
remained there for almost thirty years retiring as Professor of Painting in 1984. He returned
to New Zealand in 1990 and lived there until his death at age 98 in 2017.

Church Notices:

Wait! Don't Go Yet! Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to
Dorothy Wallace for hosting today!

Worship Accompanist Needed!

Nov 15 Piano, Organ, Any Instrument OK! See Church Administrator ASAP.

Mission

Light house Item of the Month for September is Canned Chicken & Tuna; Boxed
Beef/Chicken Broth

September 26 Butler Fall Festival

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM - 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.

Set-up & Tear-down help will be needed!

Calendar

Sept 20 Noisy Offering of Loose Change

Oct 4 World Communion Sunday with *Mother Hubbard's World Bazaar*

Oct 11 SRU Fall Break

Oct 18 Pastor & Ministry Appreciation Sunday

Oct 25 Reformation Sunday



John & Pat, friends of Bill & Nancy Rice, upon John’s passing from pancreatic cancer;

John Pritchard, in a rehab center in Lutz, Florida;

Jane Faulkner, Ann Morrison’s sister in CA, fights recalcitrance in FEMA processing her housing needs & requests -- pray for cooperation from FEMA Sr. staff. . . Jane’s 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.

Exodus 16: 13 - 15

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

Word List

WILDERNESS ISRAELITES SUBSTANCE SURFACE MORNING EVENING
COVERED ANOTHER QUAILS LIFTED GROUND EXODUS AROUND THERE
MOSES LAYER GIVEN FROST FLAKY BREAD WHEN WHAT THEY THEM
THAT SAID NRSV LORD KNOW FINE CAMP CAME YOU SAW ONE HAS
FOR EAT DID DEW AND UP

(Exodus 16:13-15 NRSV) In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. (14) When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. (15) When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.