

Covenant United Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001
724-287-7731 covenantoffice@zoominternet.net
Worship with us on YouTube: CovenantTV1813



*“(The Praying) Hands,” 1508, Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528),
The Albertina Museum, Vienna, Austria*

26th Ordinary Sunday September 29, 2024, 11:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert TV Director: Rev. Bob Mathias
Worship Leader: Gina Loebell TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.
Music Director: Dominico Reyes

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *I Will Worship the Lord* ~ Rutter
*I will worship the Lord all the days of my life;
I will tell of his glory and will show forth his praise;
I will sing and rejoice, for the Lord is my strong hold.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

CALL TO WORSHIP ☩

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!
People: **Praise be to God, the Giver of many gifts!**
Pastor: Our help is in God’s name, the One who calls us here.
People: **We come with songs of praise,
with prayers too deep for words.**
Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!
People: **Blessed be the Lord! Let us worship God!**

**OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 468 *In My Life* LORD, BE GLORIFIED

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION ☩

Pastor: Lord, we confess that we have put stumbling blocks in front of
others.

All: **We confuse people about what it means to be your disciple when we say that we are Christians but then we treat others poorly, use our words as weapons, and deny love to others who are different from us.**

Pastor: Lord, we confess that our hands have caused us to stumble.

All: **We have clenched our fists in anger, closed our hands in greed, and shoved our hands into our pockets instead of reaching out to others.**

Pastor: Lord, we confess that our feet have caused us to stumble.

All: **We have walked away from those who are in need, stood still when we should have acted, and dug our heels into the ground out of stubbornness and spite.**

Pastor: Lord, we confess that our eyes have caused us to stumble.

All: **We have been too focused on ourselves, pretended not to see those around us who are hurting, and overlooked opportunities to serve you.**

Pastor: Gracious God, please walk beside us, guide us, catch us when we stumble.

All: **Strengthen us by your Spirit that we may live lives that are true reflections of your love, grace, and mercy. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ! And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Jesus Christ prays for us. Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: **This is great news! Thanks be to God!**

**RESPONSE 581 *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)
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: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you!**

The Word

**ILLUMINATION 175 v.3 *Seek Ye First* LAFFERTY
You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia!

HT LESSON Esther 7: 1 – 6, 9 – 10; 9: 20 - 22 *Pew Bible P390-391*

Leader: This, is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 124 HYMN 330 *Our Help Is in the Name of God* OLD 124TH

NT LESSON James 5: 13 – 20 *Pew Bible P.983*

Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle.

People: **Praise be to You, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL LESSON Mark 9: 38 – 50 *Pew Bible P.821-822*

Pastor: The Gospel of the 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 *PFM, PFY: The Story of Praying Hands* PASTOR JOHN

SERMON RESPONSE 564 *Amen* AMEN(Schubert)
Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *From the Iona Community, Scotland*
**We believe in God
whose love is the source of all life
and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face
in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil
that awaits to enslave us all
and whose love, defeating death,
holds a promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful
and full of doubt, in God we trust;
and in the name of Jesus Christ,
we commit ourselves, in the service of others,
to seek justice and to live in peace,
to care for the Earth and to share the commonwealth
of God's goodness,
to live in the freedom of forgiveness
and the power of the spirit of love,
and in the company of the faithful,
wherever found. 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 *Be Thou My Vision* ~ Rutter

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower;
O raise thou me heaven-ward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Be thou mine inheritance now and always;
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sov'reign of heaven, my treasure thou art.
High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun.
O grant me its joys after victory is won;*

*Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.*

**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 ☩

We thank you, God for this opportunity to express our love to you through the gifts we bring to support and encourage your work in near and distant places. Make our hearts glad that we can share in extending the gospel and helping to heal humanity's pain, for we bring them to you with grateful hearts. Amen.

The Sending

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Peace & Global Witness Offering*

**HYMN 465 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* CONVERSE

**THE CHARGE & BENECTION

**FINAL RESPONSE *May the Road Rise Up to Meet You ~ Lau*
*May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall softly on your fields.
And until we meet again, may God hold you, hold you in the palm of His hand.
And until we meet again, may God hold you, hold you in His hand.
Amen, amen.*

**POSTLUDE

☩ -- About the cover art: Albrecht Dürer, extraordinary artist of the Northern European Renaissance and early Protestant Reformation, referred to this 1508 pen and ink drawing as "Hands," though many have referred to it since then as "The Praying Hands." The story behind this work is poignant and compelling, see - <https://angiesdiary.com/featured/durers-the-praying-hands-the-story/> .

☩ -- The Prayer of Confession is adapted from Katelyn Gordon, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life, Providence Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC.; the Prayer of Dedication is from Life in Liturgy a resource of the WV Disciples of Christ.

Wait, Don't Go Yet! Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Connie Swartzfeger & Friends for hosting today. There are a few dates left for hosts to sign-up!

Donations: Other than the offering plate...

Web: www.covenantbutler.org click green donate button at top of page

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Lighthouse Item of the Month: September – Condiments

Covenant Calendar:

Oct 6 World Communion *plus* Peace & Global Witness Offering collected

Oct 11 6:00 PM Dinner & a Movie "Coco" – bring a side dish to share

Oct 13 Pastor Appreciation Day

Oct 16 Session Meeting

Oct 20 Mostly Music Worship Service

Seeker's Class: Sundays 9:55 AM – 10:45 AM

Join Elder Nancy Rice for a discussion of the Scripture of the Week as found in the Revised Common Lectionary. A wonderful companion piece to Pastor John's weekly Message!

Celebration: Oct 2 David Blewett's Birthday!



Prayer Concerns: 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 those who have begun new jobs and careers, that they may find balance in their work and in their lives.

Nancy Rettig & Family, former member, upon husband Roger's passing this week.

Pam Patterson, at Concordia Cabot.

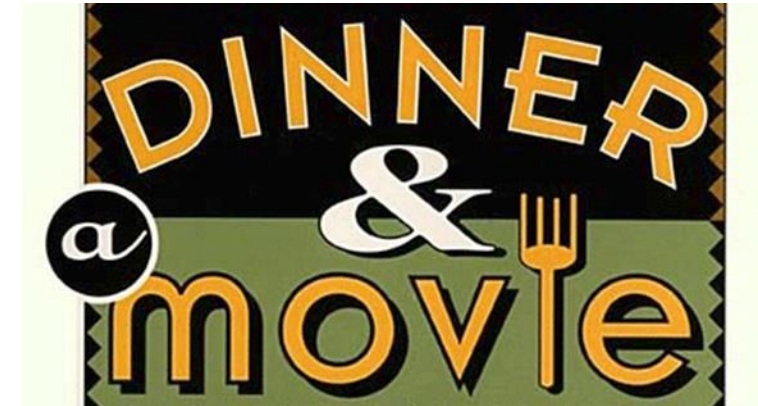
Dee Hall, known to the Mathias', is battling cancer.

The Concord Church Congregation, as they begin the process of rebuilding.

Nicholas Iman, neighbor of the Rice's, recovering from cancer surgery.

Mason Martin, Karns City high football player, continuing with various therapies.

We also prayer for the church in every place; for leaders and people in every land, but especially in our country and for all who are called to lead us; for peace & justice throughout the world; for all those who hunger & thirst; for all those who are ailing & in need of healing; for those we have in our hearts today ... **God of grace, hear our prayers.**



Join us for Food, Film, & Fun!

Friday, October 11 6:00 PM

Covenant Sanctuary's Big Screen

Pixar's Coco (PG) 1hr 45 min

A charming adventure for adults & children.



We provide the entrée and drinks; you bring a side dish to share!

Food at 6:00 PM, Movie at 6:30 PM

Sponsored by the Butler Presbyterian Campus Task Force

Sunday, October 13



Feel free to honor those in ministry with a note, card, or small gift. We will have a special lunch during fellowship hour.

Sunday, October 20 11:00 AM

An hour of musical meditation to center yourself in Christ.



Psalm 124: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side --let Israel now say-- (2) if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, (3) then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; (4) then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; (5) then over us would have gone the raging waters. (6) Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. (7) We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. (8) Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth. (NRSV)

Psalm 124

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

Word List

SWALLOWED ATTACKED TORRENT KINDLED FOWLERS ESCAPED ENEMIES
BLESSED AGAINST WATERS RAGING PSALMS ISRAEL HEAVEN BROKEN
WOULD THEIR TEETH SWEPT SNARE GIVEN FLOOD EARTH ANGER ALIVE
WHEN THEY THEN SIDE PREY OVER NRSV NAME MADE LORD LIKE HELP
HAVE GONE FROM BIRD BEEN AWAY WHO WAS SAY OUR NOW NOT
LET HAS HAD AND US UP IT IF