

# Covenant United Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

724-287-7731 [covenantoffice@zoominternet.net](mailto:covenantoffice@zoominternet.net)

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



"Cardboard Cathedral," transitional Christchurch Cathedral,  
Christchurch, New Zealand, Shigeru Ban, architect ♦

*"As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him."*

Matthew 4:18-20, NRSV

**Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 25, 2026, 11:00 AM**

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

Worship Leader: Lars Morrison

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Music Director: Dominico Reyes

## ~ Order of Worship ~

\*\* = Please stand, as able

### The Gathering

PRELUDE & TIME OF CENTERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Pastor: In the sea of life's daily stress and strife, in the struggle to keep our heads above the waves, Jesus calls us from the shore: "Follow me, and be fishers of people!"
- People: **God gathers us into new boats built with room for friend and stranger.**
- Pastor: "Follow me, and use your gifts with purpose. Follow me, and build abundant life."
- People: **We will be weavers of community, architects of justice, gardeners of peace. As we come together, let us worship God!**

\*\* OPENING PRAYER

\*\*OPENING HYMN 637

*O Sing to the Lord*

CANTAI AO SENHOR

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER CONFESSION

**Christ, our Messiah, you call us to fish for people, but we are hesitant to leave our boats. We are afraid to let go of the things we hoard, believing they make us secure. We are afraid to put our trust in you, afraid to follow, afraid we will fail. Forgive us. Transform our fear into faithfulness, and enable us to walk with you, that we may be part of your work in the world.**

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- Pastor: Just as Jesus called the disciples, so Christ calls us. Forgiven of our sin and freed to serve, let us answer Christ's call.
- People: **Christ calls us, forgives us, heals us, and teaches us. Thanks be to God!**

\*\*CONFSSION 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: Through Christ, God was pleased to reconcile all things, by making peace through the blood of the cross. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

## The Word

\*\*ILLUMINATION 459 v.3

*O Word of God Incarnate*

MUNICH

*O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold  
to bear before the nations your true light as of old;  
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this our path to trace,  
till, clouds and storms thus ended, we see you face to face.*

HT LESSON

Isaiah 9: 1 – 4

*Pew Bible P.555*

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

RESPONSIVE PSALM Psalm 27: 1, 4 – 9 (part of) *Triumphant Song of Confidence*

Pastor: *1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

Leader: 4 One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

Men: 5 **For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.**

Women: 6 **Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

Pastor: 7 *Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!*

Leader: 8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.

All God's People: 9 **Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!**

NT LESSON 1 Corinthians 1: 10 – 18

*Pew Bible P.926*

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

\*\*GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 4: 12 – 23

*Pew Bible P.785*

Pastor: The Gospel of Our Lord.

People: **Glory to You, O Christ!**

\*\*CANTICLE 288

*Spirit of the Living God*

LIVING GOD

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (x2)*

*Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

THE MESSAGE

*A Perpetual Series of Occasions for Hope*

PASTOR JOHN

\*\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.15*

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.**

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 606

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTHE

*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

**Great God of Heaven and Earth, you call us to leave behind our preoccupations and to follow you into the future. Sometimes we find your call challenging. We are comfortable, maybe even complacent, in our present. May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## The Sending

\*\*HYMN 721

*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

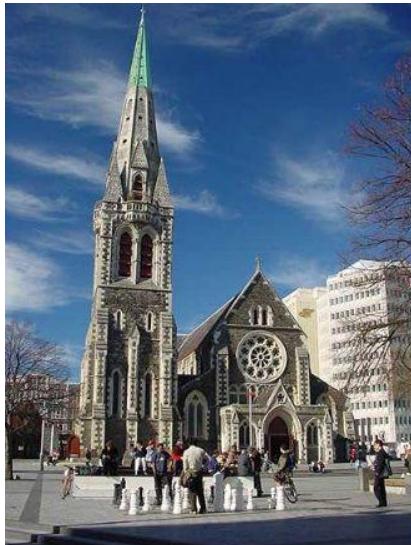
PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

\*\*THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

⊕ Just before 1:00 PM, on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, the Transitional Church – the formal name of the historic Anglican Cathedral of Christchurch, New Zealand -- suffered crippling damage as a result of a 6.3 magnitude earthquake that struck the capital of the South Island –

sixth months after a magnitude 7.1 quake. While plans to rebuild the cathedral were put into motion, the “Cardboard Cathedral” was built as a temporary church and dedicated in 2013. Designed by architect Shigeru Ban, the building is made of paper tubes of equal length and 20 ft shipping containers that form the building’s triangular shape (R). Below are pictures of the cathedral before and after the quake damage.



### 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.

## **Church Announcements**

Wait! Don’t Go Yet! Join us for conversation and light snacks in the Sanctuary right after the service. Thanks to *Elaine Nucci* for hosting today! *Regular fellowship downstairs returns February 1<sup>st</sup>.*

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

ABBE Group Meeting: The next meeting to discuss Niall Williams', *This Is Happiness* will be on January 29, 2026, at 11:30 AM – Please read through Chapter 33.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, February 1, 2026 – Corporation & Ecclesiastical Reports presented, plus Election of Elder Slate. All may attend, but only active list members may vote.

February 18: Ash Wednesday Worship – Butler Area Presbyterians at TBD 7:00 PM.

February 22: Musical Melodies 3 – A vocal & choral concert. Free-will donations accepted for the student musician program. In the Covenant Sanctuary at 3:00 PM. Please tell your friends.



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](mailto:covenantoffice@zoominternet.net)

Please Pray for:

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

**The Family of the Rev. Dr. William N. Jackson**, honorably retired minister member of Beaver-Butler Presbytery, who went home to Jesus on January 14, 2026.

**Cheri White**, an 87 year-old inactive member of the church, who has anxiety about a move to assisted living her family is wanting for her.

**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.