

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)



Moses Striking Water From the Rock, by Marc Chagall, 1958 ✠
Etching with hand-coloring, Chagall Museum; Nice, France

Sunday, September 27, 2026 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: David Loebell

Musician: Don Wallace

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

Musician: Lars Morrison

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Listen, people of God!

People: **Hear the wonders of our Creator!**

Pastor: God split the sea;

People: **walls of water towered above.**

Pastor: God guided our ancestors in faith:

People: **clouds by day, lightning by night.**

Pastor: God split open the rock;

People: **water flowed like rivers.**

Pastor: God split open the heavens and met earth.

People: **God meets us still – let us worship God!**

**OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 475

Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess to you: We are not of the same mind. We do not share the same love. We act in selfish ambition and do not regard others as better than ourselves. We have not looked to the interests of others instead of ourselves. We do not embrace the humility of Jesus Christ.

Forgive us. Continue to be at work in us, that we might serve each other as you served us, and reflect your glory in this world.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: When we lift up our souls to God, God does not put us to shame. Through Christ, God forgives us, leads us in the truth, and leads us in what is right.

People: **This is the good news of the gospel! In Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, we are forgiven. 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: 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 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 17: 1 – 7 *Pew Bible P.56*

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

PSALM 78 Hymn 632 *People of the Lord* JENNY VAN TSCHEGGNT LESSON Philippians 2: 1 – 13 *Pew Bible P.954*

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

****GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 21: 23 – 32 *Pew Bible P.802*

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 PASTOR JOHN

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN SONG

HYMN 415 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* RESTORATION

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 *Upon This Rock ~ Choplin*

****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**

Great God, your liberating power opened a way through the waters and guided your people through the wilderness. Guide the use of these gifts by that same power. Free us from the need to determine and control your grace, and turn us into servants of your boundless love, poured out for us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Sending

****HYMN 53**

O God, Who Gives Us Life

NOEL

****THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

****POSTLUDE**

✦-- About the artist: *Marc Chagall (1887-1985) was a Belarusian-French artist who became one of the most influential modernist painters of the 20th century, renowned for his distinct, dreamlike style. His work famously blended elements of Cubism, Fauvism, and Symbolism with rich folklore, his Jewish traditions, and personal memories from his childhood in Vitebsk, Belarus. Here he hand-colored an etching of Moses striking the rock at Horeb (Mt. Sinai) to bring water gushing forth for the thirsty people of Israel as recorded in the book of Exodus 17:1-7, our Hebrew Testament passage today.*



Church Notices:

Wait! Don't Go Yet! Join us for food & conversation in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to *Connie Swartzfeger & Grace Sechler* 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 October is cake/pie/brownie mixes & pie shells

Calendar

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

Oct 11 SRU Fall Break

Oct 16 America 250 Film Series "*Great Awakening*" 7:00 PM

Oct 18 Pastor & Ministry Appreciation Sunday

Oct 25 Reformation Sunday

Nov 1 All Saints/All Souls Sunday

Nov 20 America 250 Film Series "*King of Kings*" 7:00 PM



Prayer List

Alene Campbell, mother of Ione Mathias, transferred from personal care to advanced care at Sugar Creek Nursing Home.

Elaine Nucci, recovering from shoulder surgery at home;

Trent Harviel, friend of Lynn Deluga, **along with his family**, as they mourn the loss of son Matthew who took his own life; Matthew was a veteran and former law enforcement officer. . . Lynn asks for prayers for all veterans.

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.