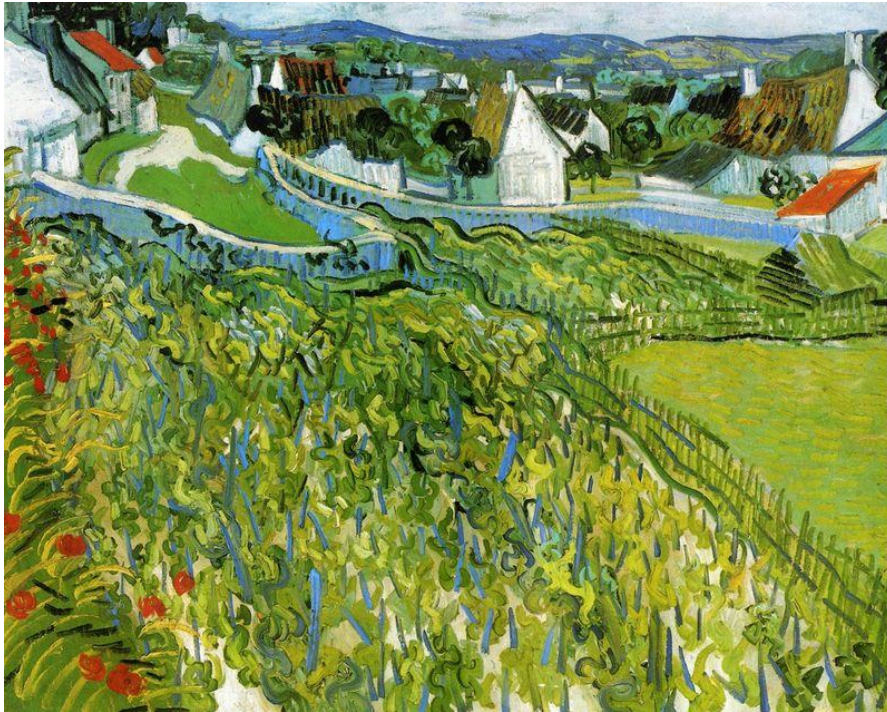


Covenant United Presbyterian Church

107 Staley Ave. Butler, PA 16001

724-287-7731 covenantoffice@zoominternet.net

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



Vineyards with a View of Auvers, by Vincent Van Gogh, 1890 ☩
Oil on canvas, the Art Museum of Saint Louis, Missouri

Sunday, October 4, 2026 – World Communion 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Ann Morrison

Musician: Ione Mathias

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We gather with hope in our hearts,
People: **for something happens here that teaches us God is present.**

Pastor: We know this place is sacred and set apart,
People: **for something happens here that teaches us God is our center.**

Pastor: We gather with joyful praise,
People: **for something happens here that teaches us God is forever faithful.**

All: **We gather to worship God!**

**OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN 511

Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven

LLANFAIR

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the law and the prophets, We do not want to admit all the commandments we have broken. We worship idols of money, success, and power. We use your name to justify whatever we do. We do not honor each other; we covet, we lie, we wish evil upon others. Our sins are too many to name.

Forgive us. Speak to us and we will listen, remembering that you are our freedom and deliverer.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Do not be afraid: God loves us with an everlasting love;
God’s grace is unending. Beloved in Christ, we are forgiven.
People: **Thanks be to God for such graciousness!**

**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
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 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 20: 1 – 4, 7 – 9, 12 - 20 *Pew Bible P.58*
Leader: This, is the Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 19 Hymn 61 *Your Law, O Lord, Is Perfect* CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN

NT LESSON Philippians 3: 4b – 14 *Pew Bible P.954*
Leader: Here ends the reading of the Epistle. People: **Praise be to You, O Lord!**

**GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 21: 33 – 46 *Pew Bible P.803*
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 *Giving-Up in Order to Gain* PASTOR JOHN

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Nicene Creed*
**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Eucharist

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, & GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *One World, One Communion* ~ 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.***

**THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
Celebrant: It is right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, loving God, creator and sustainer of life. . . . (the prayer continues)
Therefore we praise you, joining the faithful who hunger and thirst for righteousness, singing the hymn of the whole creation – along with the saints in every time and place, and with the whole angelic host in heaven:

Congregation: *Holy, Holy, Holy (Hymn 552)* LAND OF REST
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: We praise you, most holy God, for Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. . . (the prayer continues)
Remembering all that you have done in Jesus Christ, we offer our lives to you with great thanksgiving as we share this feast of love and grace. Great is the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine . . . (the prayer continues)

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**
Celebrant: And now, let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom as our Lord has taught us:

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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**THE COMMUNION *Seated, follow Pastor’s instructions*

**THE RESPONSE AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN 535 *Bless the Lord, O My Soul* BLESS THE LORD
Celebrant: Bless the Lord, O my soul;
People: **And all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**
Celebrant: Bless the Lord, O my soul;
People: **And forget not all God's benefits.**
Celebrant: Let us pray:
All: **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe, for you have satisfied our souls with this feast of**

your grace. Keep us faithful in your service until your realm of glory comes; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Sending

**HYMN 515

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

**THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE

✠-- About the cover: Vincent Van Gogh (Dutch, 1853-1890), among the greatest of the Post-Impressionists, here, merges what is there to be painted – grapes at the time of harvest in Auvers, France – with what is in the heart of the artist to paint – note the mix of heavy-handed brushstrokes but suffused with light throughout; this was the artistic signature of Van Gogh at the end of his life. Though his life as an artist was short-lived, 1880-1890, it was prolific – especially in Auvers where he lived the last two years of his life. The subject matter at hand is an appropriate reminder of World Communion Sunday where we gather to break bread and share the fruit of the vine.

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 11 SRU Fall Break

Oct 16 America 250 Film Series “Great Awakening” 7:00 PM

Oct 18 Noisy Offering and *Pastor & Ministry Appreciation Sunday*

Oct 25 Reformation Sunday

Nov 1 All Saints/All Souls Sunday

Nov 8 Stewardship Sunday

Nov 15 Pledge Dedication & Noisy Offering 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;

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.