

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)



"The Carry" (Goose River, Maine), by Andrew Wyeth, 2003
Tempera on panel, Private Collection †

Lent III

March 8, 2026, 11:00 AM

Pastor: Rev. John C. R. Silbert

TV Producer: Brian F Graff, C.P.

Worship Leader: Lars Morrison

Choir Director: Chrystal Sircely

Guest Musician: Melanie Rodgers

~ Order of Worship ~

** = Please stand, as able

The Gathering

PRELUDE & TIME OF CENTERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Create in Me a Clean Heart

CREATE IN ME (Capers)

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Welcome to you—the dreamers, the troublemakers, the wanderers, and the stargazers!

People: **Is the Lord among us—has the Creator of the universe come to meet us here?**

Pastor: God's welcome is for you—the nobodies, the somebodies, the overworked, and the forgotten!

People: **Is it true—Is there a place for us here?**

Pastor: Welcome to you all—you who thirst after a new start, you at the back of the line, you at the end of your rope! Welcome, one and all!

People: **With grateful hearts we sing praises to our God, who brings life abundant and full.**

** OPENING PRAYER

**OPENING HYMN 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & CORPORATE PRAYER CONFESSION †

Holy and beloved God, you promise us your Spirit – a constant companion, a wise guide, a source of courage and peace. Yet we confess that we often close our hearts to your presence. We cling to control when you ask us to trust, and we choose comfort over calling. You lead us to those in need, but we hesitate to help. You open doors for justice, but we walk past them in awkward silence. You whisper truth, but we turn up the volume of living our lives. Forgive us, Spirit of Truth. Unclench our hands. Unblock our ears. Unbind our hearts. And wherever we are – wherever you send us – help us walk in your Way. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Beloved of God, hear this Good News: The Spirit of Truth is not distant or demanding, but near, gentle, and steadfast.

People: **By the Spirit's grace, we are forgiven, renewed, and never alone. Amen.**

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

***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: May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

The Word

**ILLUMINATION 224 v.3 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* ROCKINGHAM

***See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?***

HT LESSON Exodus 17: 1 – 7 *Pew Bible P.56*

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

PSALM 95 Hymn 638 *O Come and Sing unto the Lord* IRISH

NT LESSON Romans 5: 1 – 11 *Pew Bible P.917*

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

**GOSPEL LESSON John 4: 5 – 42 *Pew Bible P.864*

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

**CANTICLE *My Spirit Longs for Thee* FINGAL

***My spirit longs for Thee with in my troubled breast,
Though I unworthy be of so divine a Guest.
Of so divine a Guest unworthy though I be,
Yet has my heart no rest, unless it come from Thee.
Unless it come from Thee, in vain I look around;
In all that I can see no rest is to be found.
No rest is to be found but in Thy blessed love;
O let my wish be crowned, and send it from above! A-men.***

THE MESSAGE *The Broad Boast Beneath Life's Chisel* PASTOR JOHN

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN SONG Hymn 479 *Ho, All Who Thirst*

JACOB'S WELL

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *A Lenten Meditation ~ Wagner*

**DOXOLOGY 717 *For the Life That You Have Given* PLEADING SAVIOR

***For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own;
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.***

CORPORATE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God Most Holy, you have set us free to worship you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Receive these gifts of our substance as acts of worship, and let all that we do bless your beloved people in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Sending

**HYMN 440 *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* ABERYSTWYTH

**THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

FINAL RESPONSE *Abide with Me ~ Lyte/Monk*

***Abide with me: fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens: Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.***

POSTLUDE

⌘ About the bulletin cover: Andrew Wyeth (American, 1917-2009) painted this swollen portion of the Goose River, near Waldoboro, Maine, in 2003. When he was not painting with water colors, Wyeth was deftly painting with egg tempera (a viscous medium of egg yolk, water, and dry pigment) as he does here. "The Carry," a reference to a place of portage along the river, is alive with glistening, living water – note the rich bubbling of oxygenation in the foregrounded portion of the river and the falls pouring over and out from the rocks on the left into the center. This image came to mind for me as we read of the

LORD's provision of water in the wilderness (Exodus 17) and of Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman about living water as they sat at Jacob's well (John 4). As today's sung affirmation declares: "All who come may take this gift of living water./They will thirst no more, for they shall be filled."

✦ The Call to Worship is written by the Rev. Nancy Gowler, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Morehead, KY. The Prayer of Confession was submitted by the Rev. Lucus Levy Keppel, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Bixby OK.

Church Announcements

Wait! Don't Go Yet! Join us for food and conversation in Fellowship Hall right after the service. Thanks to *Linda Peters* for hosting today!

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

Easter Memorial Flowers: Due date for flower orders is **TODAY!** Please bring your order form with full payment to the church office. Do not place in offering plate.

ABBE: Adult Brown-Bag Education: The group will meet on Thursday, March 13, 2026, at 11:30 AM, to continue conversation and reflection on *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi.

Souper Bowl of Caring: March 22 during fellowship hour we raise funds for a local food charity. This annual event has been rescheduled from February. If you are making soup, please sign-up in the narthex so we don't have duplicates. If you are eating soup, please leave a donation in the soup kettle on the serving table. Thank You for your participation & support!

Celebration: March 8 Elaine Nucci's Birthday

Lighthouse Item of the Month: MARCH – Cereal

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.



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

Please Prayer for:

All active in and affected by the military actions in Iran, Israel, and other portions of the Middle East – for relief from suffering, for discerning diplomacy, and a lasting peace for all;

Virginia Lokovich, is in Concordia Cabot;

Audrey Carlson, doing physical therapy after hip replacement at Concordia Cabot;

Donna, known to Gina Loebell, recovering from stroke, now at Sunnyview;

Richard Mazza C.F.X., cousin of Elaine Nucci, being treated for recurring cancer;

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;

All affected by the massive winter blizzard along the East Coast this past week.

