

Worship Attendance

Sunday, November 25, 2018—137

Yearly Average—122

Last Year's Average—113



Church Staff

Rev. Scott G. Loomer	Pastor floomer3@aol.com 570-578-9424
Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan	Associate Pastor mypastormartha@gmail.com 609-670-2053
Dr. Timothy Smith	Organist, Director of Music cpcmusc@frontier.com
Mrs. Lee Carr	Church Operations Mgr. leecarr.cpc@gmail.com
Mrs. Patricia Ollendyke	Receptionist/Secretary cpcpatti@epix.net
Mrs. Sandra Seamans	Sexton
Mr. Clarence "Mick" Cobb	Sexton

This Week at Covenant:

- *Advent Workshop, 12/2, after worship
- *Arcadia Chorale Concert, 12/2, 3:00 P.M.
- *Cookie Baking, 12/5, 10:00 A.M.
- *Church & Community, 12/5, 5:00 P.M.
- *Advent Service & Soup, 12/5, 5:45 P.M.
- *Labyrinth with music, 12/5, 7—8:30 P.M.
- *Infant Care Board, 12/6, 6:00 P.M.
- *Breakfast with Santa, 12/8, 9:00 A.M.
- *Family Fellowship, 12/8, 9:30 A.M.
- *Cookie wrapping, 12/8, 1:00 P.M.

Next Week:

- *Angel Tree gifts due back—Sunday, Dec. 9th
- *Mitten Tree, Sunday, Dec. 9th.
- *Session, Tuesday, Dec. 11th, 7:00 P.M. in the Covenant Room.
- *Wednesday, 12/12, Covenant Women's Luncheon, Noon, Covenant Room.
- *Advent Service & Soup, 12/12, 5:45 P.M.
- *Worship & Music, 12/13, Noon.
- *Pageant Rehearsal, 12/15, 10:00 A.M.

Today's Ushers: Team 3

Todd Sykes, Frank, Lisa, Frank & Leslie Major, Bob Jones

Dec. 9th—Team 4

Glenn Miller, Norma Gabriel, Ted Praschak, Jane Roberts, John Duffy, Warren Keller

Covenant Presbyterian Church
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Scranton, PA 18510



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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

Children are invited to remain throughout the service of worship.

However, nursery & childcare are available, please ask an usher.

As you arrive in worship and find a place in a pew, please use the following prayer to center your thoughts and spirit. As the Prelude begins, quiet your voice and soul.

With music and prayer let us move from 'getting to church' to 'being the church' as we worship together.

Eternal God, we are seeking signs of your presence in our lives. Open our eyes, open our ears, open our hearts to receive some word of hope as we anticipate the coming of the One whom you are sending. Amen.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude Two settings on "*Savior of the Nations, Come*" Anton Kniller
Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship

Leader: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

*Processional Hymn No. 7 Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth
Mit Freuden Zart

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious God, in this season of your coming, the darkness in us deepens awaiting your light. It is easy to forget human sorrow, deny pity, excuse indifference, and ignore the needs around us. Can we find a place in our lives for you as we await your coming? Can you bring a new day to disturb our busyness, that we may be ready to accept the forgiveness and rebirth you have to offer.

Accept our prayer this day, and hear us as we offer the prayers of our hearts in silence . . . *Silent Confession . . . Amen*

Christmas Pageant

This year's **Christmas Pageant** theme is based on celebrations of the past. Practice will be held on:

Saturday, December 15th, 10:00 A.M.—11:00 A.M.

*Costume Fitting, Sunday, December 9th, after worship.

If you have not yet signed up your child to be in the pageant please speak to Pam Huddy or Bruce Jordan.



***The Arcadia Chorale
presents***

"The Song of a Rose"

**Sunday, December 2, 3:00 P.M.
Covenant Presbyterian Church**

The Chorale's Christmas program features music about the Virgin Mary, and includes a sing-along of traditional Christmas carols. Covenant Chancel Choir members Catherine Carter and Patrick Fisk sing with the chorale.



MITTEN TREE

Next Sunday, December 9th, during worship we'll ask the children to help decorate the **Hilda Muller Memorial Mitten Tree**.

Please bring in donations of hats, gloves and scarves and place them on the front pew.



Calendar Dates Ahead

Covenant Church is busy planning for activities and events that we'd love for you to pencil in on your calendars.

December

- *12/2—Advent Workshop
- *12/2—Arcadia Chorale Christmas Concert
- *12/5, 12, 19—Advent Wednesday Service & Soup
- *12/ 8—Breakfast with Santa
- *12/8—Family Fun Fellowship
- *12/9—Mitten tree, Cookie Sale, Angel Gifts due
- *12/12—Covenant Women's Christmas Luncheon
- 12/16—Ordination & Installation
- *12/16—Covenant Christmas Party
- *12/19—Church staff Christmas Party
- *12/20—Deacons pack Food Baskets
- *12/23—Advent IV worship with choral cantata and handbells
- *12/24—Christmas Eve services, 4:00 P.M. and 10:00 P.M.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Godly Play

Children age 4 through 3rd grade are excused to Godly Play after the Children's Sermon during worship. (Children in 4th—12th grade shall remain in worship).

Sunday School

Classes meet at 9:30 A.M. on the third floor. All youth age 4 through 12th grade are invited to Sunday School.

Adult Education

Adult Education classes meet at 9:30 A.M. in Room 8. Brian Kaschak will be leading the class and studying I Corinthians.

Monday School

Looking for a small group adult bible study? Join us at Monday School! The group meets at 6:30 P.M. in the Covenant House.

C-3 Youth Group

Covenant Chosen Children or C 3 is designed for 4th through 8th grade. The group will meet from 12:30 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. on Sundays. This will give our young people an opportunity to attend the children's choir from 12:00—12:30 P.M. before coming to group. In November we will meet on the 25th and in December on the 2nd, 9th and 16th in Room 8.



The **Angel Tree** is available today in the back of the sanctuary. Pick a card from the tree in the rear of the sanctuary, give your name and card number to the Deacon on duty—and help to make Christmas a little brighter for area children. All gifts will be due back to the church by **Sunday, December 9th.**



Wednesday evening Advent Services

Join us each Wednesday during Advent! Service at 5:45 P.M. followed by a soup supper in the Covenant Room.

12/5: Andrea Wittchen, harp

(this service to be held in the sanctuary)

12/12: Ed Wargo, flute

12/19: Tom Heinze, oboe

*As the busy holiday season approaches,
Covenant Church invites you to plan a visit to
the Labyrinth to . . .
Quiet your mind . . .
Restore your Spirit . . .*

The Labyrinth will be available each Wednesday from 1—4:00 P.M. and from 5:30—8:30 P.M.

Harpist, Andrea Wittche, will join us on December 5th from 7—8:30 P.M. and candles will illumine our path as we begin the Advent season.
All are Welcome!



Response No. 572

“Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us”

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon and Grace

*Response of Praise

Regent Square

Laud and honor to the Father, Laud and honor to the Son,

Laud and honor to the Spirit. Ever three and ever one;

One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Richard & Christine Wagner

Sung Response

Veni Emmanuel

O Come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;

To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Welcome, Joys & Concerns

Minute for Mission—Christmas Joy Offering

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

NRSV

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Anthem

I Wonder as I Wander

John Jacob Niles

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor on'ry people like you and like I – I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all. But high in God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, He surely could have it, 'cause He was the King.

Patrick Fisk, tenor

Gospel Lesson

Luke 21: 25-36

NRSV

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Children’s Sermon & The Lord’s Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

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.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

You are invited to greet one another saying,

‘The peace of Christ be with you...and also with you’

*Hymn No. 1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

(Prayer concern cards will be collected during the hymn.)

GOD’S WORD REVEALED

Sermon

“Raise Your Heads, Life Your Vision”

Rev. Scott G. Loomer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

GOOD MORNING!

We’re glad you have joined us for worship this Sunday! If you are a visitor or guest, let us know of your presence by filling out one of the Welcome envelopes located in each pew to receive The Covenanter, (newsletter) filled with the church’s activities. Large print bulletins and hymnals are available—please ask an usher. Childcare is available during worship. **Godly Play** meets on the 3rd floor after the Children’s Sermon (during worship) for children age 4 through 3rd grade.



Children’s Worship Bags are located in the basket in the front of the sanctuary. Please return bags to the basket after worship.

There will not be a Fellowship Hour today—everyone is invited to attend the Advent Workshop (with lunch!) in the Sawtelle Auditorium.

The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

Stewart K. Lewis

Robert S. Lewis

Garett Lewis

By The Lewis Family

Participating in Worship Today

Rev. Scott G. Loomer, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan, Associate Pastor

Dr. Tim Smith, Organist/Director of Music

Mrs. Karen Fogley, Liturgist



Saturday, December 8, 2018

9:00–11:00 A.M.

To Benefit The Infant Care Program

at Covenant Presbyterian Church

550 Madison Ave., Scranton, PA

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, French toast sticks, Fruit, Danish, Beverages

Ticket Donation: \$10.00 Adults

\$6.00 Children 10 & Under (*2 & under free*)

Tickets can be purchased at the church office. 570-346-6400 or during Fellowship Hour from Patti Ollendyke

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ we take from you this bread and this cup, and joyfully celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of His coming. Great is the mystery of faith...

We pray in the name of Christ Jesus.

Words of Institution

Bread Broken

(Please receive as served, remembering that we come to Christ individually)

Cup Shared

(Please hold and receive together when directed by the pastor, remembering we are also a part of the united community of faith)

Prayers of the People

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn No. 8 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates *Truro*

*Charge & Benediction

*Choral Amen

*Postlude Toccata on "Veni redemptor, gentium"
Savior of the Nations, Come *Paul Manz*

*Those who are able, please stand

NRSV—New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

Offertory

And the Glory

G. F. Handel
*(from **Messiah**)*

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

Chancel Choir

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(All the baptized faithful are welcome to receive Holy Communion. It is our commemoration of the Last Supper of our Lord, a time to offer thanks, remember Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, and to be strengthened and nourished in faith.

The *Communion Wafer* in center cup is *Gluten Free*)

Words of Invitation and Institution

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, joining our songs with the hosts of heaven from every time and place...