

## Worship Attendance

Sunday, December 30, 2018—90

Yearly Average—124

Last Year's Average—116



## 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:

- \*All board meeting (Session, Deacons, Trustees), Tuesday, 1/8/19, 6:30 P.M.
- \*Labyrinth available, Wednesday, 1/9.
- \*Covenant Women's Circle, 1/10, 6:00 P.M.
- \*Family Fellowship, 1/12, 9:30 A.M.
- \*Christian Ed./Fellowship Comm., 1/13, after worship.

## Next Week:

- \*Communications Committee, 1/15, 7:00 P.M.
- \*Worship & Music, 1/17, 12:00 P.M.
- \*Sunday, 1/20, BiAnnual meeting after worship.
- \*Monday, 1/21, church office closed.

## Today's Ushers: Team 4

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

## January 13th—Team 5

Ken Pembridge, Roy Pauli, Michael Carr, Himran Aziz, Gabriella Temperino, Dominic Temperino



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Scranton, PA 18510



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# The star... came to rest over the place where the child was.

Matthew 2:9, ESV



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Epiphany of the Lord

January 6, 2019

*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.

*Lord, we see your star and seek your presence in our midst. Draw us to you, guide us by your light, that we, too, might become witnesses to your great Good News. Open our hearts, that we may perceive your promises of justice and righteousness fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem.*

*May we, like the Magi, have a star to guide us on our journey quest to find the one who will truly set us free. Amen.*

**GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

Prelude

Prélude sur l'introit de l'Épiphanie

Maurice Duruflé

Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

**People: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.**

Leader: We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

**People: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.**

Leader: We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**People: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace, where hatred is overwhelmed by love, where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

Leader: Let us enter this time and place for prayer.

\*Processional Hymn No. 67

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

Morning Star

Prayer of Invocation

## 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.

### 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. **(Monday School will resume January 7th.)**

### C-3 Youth Group

Covenant Chosen Children or C 3 is designed for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 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 January we will meet on the 6th, 13th and 20th in Room 8.

### Labyrinth

Covenant Church invites you to plan a visit to the Labyrinth to . . .

*Quiet your mind . . . Restore your Spirit . . .*

The Labyrinth will be available on Wednesday, January 9th and Wednesday, January 23rd, from 1:00—4:00 P.M. and from 6:30—8:30 P.M. All are Welcome!

### Covenant Public Concert

Sunday, January 27, 2019  
3:00 P.M.

Mainstreet Brass Quintet

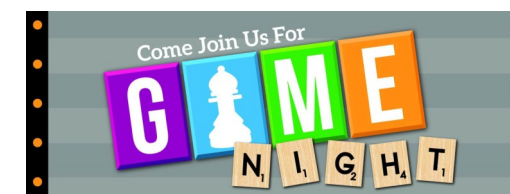


**GAME NIGHT!  
FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 25, 2019  
6:00 P.M.**

Once Christmas wears off it'll be time to beat those winter blues and get out for some good old fashion fun!

Dinner provided,  
please bring a snack to share.

Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend.



# 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 be a Fellowship Hour today following worship in the Sawtelle Auditorium hosted by Matt, Andrea & Jack Grotzinger.

### **Participating in Worship Today**

Rev. Scott G. Loomer, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan, Associate Pastor  
Dr. Bruce Main, Guest Speaker  
Dr. Tim Smith, Organist/Director of Music  
Mrs. Michelle Westbrook, Liturgist

### **Joint Board Meeting**

All Elders, Deacons and Trustees will hold a joint board meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at 6:30 P.M. in the Sawtelle Auditorium.



### **Annual Reports**

All annual reports are asked to be submitted to the church office *no later* than tomorrow, Monday, January 7, 2019. This will make it possible for the reports to be distributed on January 13th ahead of the meeting. Please email reports to Patti Ollendyke at [cpcpatti@epix.net](mailto:cpcpatti@epix.net).

### **Covenant Women's Circle**

The next meeting of the Covenant Women's Circle will be January 10, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. in the Covenant Room. Our speaker will be Laura Ducceschi, CEO of the Scranton Area Foundation. Dinner is \$7.00. Please let Linda Frangos or Lee Carr know that you will be attending by January 3, 2019.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace.**

**In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. . .** *Silent Confession . . . Amen.*

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

Leader: This is the good news: God remembers! Not our sins, not our foolish lives, not our rebellion.

God remembers us—and redeems us! Hear the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**People: Thanks be to God that we are a new people forgiven.**

\*Response of Praise

*Gloria*

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.  
Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo; Glo-ri-a in excelsis Deo!**

Welcome, Joys & Concerns

### **GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED**

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-12

*NRSV*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are

by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem    The Three Kings    *Peter Cornelius*  
*Three kings from Persians lands afar to Jordan follow the pointing star: and this the quest of the travelers three, where the new-born King of the Jews may be, full royal gifts they bear for the King; Gold, incense, myrrh, are their offering. The star shines out with a steadfast ray; the kings to Bethlehem make their way. And there in worship they bend the knee, as Mary's child in her lap they see; Their royal gifts they show to the King; Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering. Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem the kings are traveling, travel with them! The star of mercy the star of grace shall lead thy heart to its resting place. Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring; Offer thy heart to the infant King.*  
Craig Westbrook, Jr., tenor

#### Scripture Lesson

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’**

#### GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*Hymn No. 63    As with Gladness Men of Old    *Dix*  
  
\*Charge & Benediction  
  
\*Postlude    Allegro – “The Rejoicing”    *G. F. Handel*  
*from the Royal Fireworks Music*

\*Those who are able, please stand  
NRSV – New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

#### **BIANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 550 MADISON AVENUE SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA**

*January 20, 2019*

*By order of the bylaws, the Biannual Meeting of the Congregation of the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Scranton, Pennsylvania will be held in the sanctuary immediately following the morning service of worship on January 20, 2019 for the purpose of receiving reports, approve the Pastoral Terms of Call and any other business properly brought before the meeting.*

*Rev. Scott G. Loomer, Moderator  
Mrs. Lee Carr, Clerk to Session*

*By order of the bylaws, the Biannual Meeting of the Corporation of the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Scranton, Pennsylvania will be held in the sanctuary immediately following the meeting of the congregation on January 20, 2019 for the purpose of receiving reports, electing the Infant Care Board of Directors, and transacting any other business properly brought before the meeting.*

*Mr. Michael Carr, President, Board of Trustees  
Mr. Gregg Sandercock, Secretary, Board of Trustees*

\*Hymn No. 66                      We Three Kings of Orient Are                      *Three Kings of Orient*  
**Vs. 1 All, Vs. 2 Choir men, Vs. 3 All men, Vs. 4 All women, Vs. 5 All**  
*(Prayer concern cards will be collected during the hymn.)*

**GOD'S WORD REVEALED**

Sermon

*Dr. Bruce Main*

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

What Child is This?

*16<sup>th</sup> century English Ballad*

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.  
Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian feat; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; come one and all to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.*

Chancel Choir

*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

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...*