

## Worship Attendance

Sunday, June 23, 2019—83

Yearly Average—134

Last Year's Average—133



### Church Staff

Rev. Scott G. Loomer	Pastor Pastorscott@covnantscranton.org 570-578-9424
Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan	Associate Pastor pastormartha@covnantscranton.org 609-670-2053
Dr. Timothy Smith	Organist, Director of Music music@covnantscranton.org
Mrs. Lee Carr	Church Operations Mgr. leecarr@covnantscranton.org
Mrs. Patricia Ollendyke	Receptionist/Secretary secretary@covnantscranton.org
Mr. Clarence "Mick" Cobb	Sexton

### This Week at Covenant:

\*No Godly Play today, June 30th.

\*Thursday, July 4th, church office closed.

### Next Week:

\*Sunday, July 7th, Holy Communion

\*Tuesday, 7/9, Session & Trustees at the Carter Family home, 6:30 P.M.

\*Thursday, 7/11, Infant Care Board, 6:00 P.M.

### Today's Ushers: Team 4

Glenn Miller, Norma Gabriel, Ted Praschak,  
Elaine Young, Gabriella Temperino, Warren Keller

### July 7th—Team 5

Ken Pembridge, Frank Ciero, Roy Pauli,  
Michael Carr, Himran Aziz

### Summer Music at Covenant Church

July 7	Patrick Fisk, tenor
July 14	Jenna Carmichael, soprano
July 21	Kathy Fisk, soprano
July 28	Catherine Carter & Simone Santarsiero, sopranos
Aug 4	Nina Kouznetsov, piano
Aug 11	Simone Santarsiero, soprano
Aug 18	Fisk Family Quartet
Aug 25	Evelyn Munley, alto

### **SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

**JULY & AUGUST**

**9:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.**

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
550 Madison Ave.  
Scranton, PA 18510



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816 Olive St.  
Scranton, PA 18510

Phone: 570-346-6400

WWW.COVENANTSCRANTON.ORG

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 30, 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.

**GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

Prelude Andante *Sergei Rachmaninoff*  
*(from the Cello Sonata)*

Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

\*Hymn No. 473 For the Beauty of the Earth *Dix*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, will say to the Lord: "My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust."

**People: The Lord delivers us from the snare and pestilence; covers us with his pinions; his faithfulness is shield and buckler.**

Leader: Because we have made the Lord our refuge, the Most High our habitation;

**People: No evil shall befall us, no scourge come near to us.**

Leader: For the Lord will give his angels charge of us, to guard us in all our ways.

**People: God will protect us, because we are known by name.**

Leader: When the Lord calls, we will answer; because he cleaves to us in love, God will deliver us.

**People: With long life we will satisfy the Lord, we will know of our salvation.**

Leader: Accept our prayers and dedication this day, and hear us as we offer our silent and personal prayers to you . . .

*Silent Confession . . . Amen*

**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.)

**Godly Play will meet each week during the summer, (no meeting today.)**

**Sunday School, Adult Education and Monday School classes are on break until September.**

**Vacation Bible School**

As we prepare for VBS, we are looking for a variety of donations. Some items we are looking to be donated and some items we are looking to borrow for the week of VBS.



**Some items that we will need include:**

Rope lights, Burlap or old looking bags, 1" thick foam, clear packing tape or duct tape, sealing wax.

**CAMP LACKAWANNA**

**THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR CAMP!**

Adventure, Wet-N-Wild, Sports, You & Me, Night Owls and MAD (Music, Art, Drama) are some of the camps offered. Ages range from 1st through 12th grade. Covenant Church offers scholarship assistance, please call the church office!

**[www.camplackawannafirst.com](http://www.camplackawannafirst.com)**

**Presbyterian Youth Triennium**

This summer ten young people from our Presbytery, including KD and Ellie Jordan, will travel to Purdue University for a chance to be with 5,000 Presbyterians for a youth conference. We are asking members to write notes that will be distributed on the bus trip letting KD and Ellie know you are praying for them and their experience. In addition, if you would like to help with snacks for the bus trip, we are looking for individually wrapped peanut-free snacks.

**Job Opening**

The Presbytery of Lackawanna (located in the Covenant House) is accepting applications for a Financial Secretary for 15 hours per week. **Applicants should send resumes to [PoLackawanna.actinggpp@gmail.com](mailto:PoLackawanna.actinggpp@gmail.com) BY JULY 5.**

### Infant Care Program Summer Fundraiser

Many thanks to our ICP families, friends and church families for your wonderful support of our program and our fundraising efforts.

This year we have raised \$2,019.56 between three fundraisers—Gertrude Hawk candy bars, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and our Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. The profits may not be huge, but every penny adds up!

In July we have a simple one for you! All you have to do is be hungry and join us for lunch, dinner, or even take-out at Fratelli's Pizza & Pasta House, 1249 Providence Rd., Scranton, on **Tuesday, July 16th.**

'Coupons' are available at the church office or on the Welcome tables throughout the church. Give the coupon to your server, and the Infant Care Program will receive 20% percent of your check. Please join us!

### Bookbags for Students

While summer vacation may have just started, plans are already underway to prepare students for the fall with new backpacks. We will distribute Bookbags to **ALL** children of our church on Sunday, August 18, 2019, during worship.

You can help by donating items to stuff the Bookbags and help our youth get a good start to their new school year. School supply donations will be accepted through Sunday, August 11th. If you cannot be present that day, you can stop by the church office to pick up your book bag!

We are looking for the following donations:

Pens, pencils, erasers, notebooks, pencil boxes, crayons, colored pencils, folders, rulers, scissors, glue sticks, pencil sharpeners, binders, and loose paper.



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

*Gloria Patri*

**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.**

Welcome, Joys & Concerns

### GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

Psalm 31: 1-5; 14-16; 21-24

*NRSV*

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.”

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

Blessed be the Lord, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was beset as a city under siege.

I had said in my alarm, “I am driven far from your sight.” But you heard my supplications when I cried out to you for help.

Love the Lord, all you his saints. The Lord preserves the faithful, but abundantly repays the one who acts haughtily.

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

”You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.”

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Hymn No. 366                      Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me                      *St. Catherine*  
(Prayer concern cards will be collected during the hymn.)

### **GOD’S WORD REVEALED**

Sermon                                      “Faith is Never Free”                                      *Rev. Scott G. Loomer*

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory                                      First Arabesque                                      *Claude Debussy*

\*Doxology                                      *Old Hundredth*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

Sung Call to Prayer                      “O Lord, Hear My Prayer”                                      *J. Berthier*  
*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.*  
*When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer.*  
*O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me. (Sing Twice)*

### **Communications Committee News**

Covenant announces a new service of **Give+**, a Vanco product, which provides a complete range of payment solutions for religious organizations. Give+ offers the services of text, mobile or online giving. In the coming weeks, information on Give+ contributions will be provided in Covenant's weekly bulletins and future Covenanters. Questions regarding online giving can be directed to any of Covenant’s staff members.

You can visit Covenant’s “Give” webpage (on our website) and view a short video of how Give+ works.

<https://covenantscranton.org/give/>



You can also use the QR code to take you directly to the Give+ page.

### **New Emails**

In another effort by the Communications Committee, all church staff members have been given new email addresses that will coincide with our website address.

Scott Loomer - [pastorscott@covenantscranton.org](mailto:pastorscott@covenantscranton.org)  
Martha Jordan - [pastormartha@covenantscranton.org](mailto:pastormartha@covenantscranton.org)  
Lee Carr - [leecarr@covenantscranton.org](mailto:leecarr@covenantscranton.org)  
Tim Smith - [music@covenantscranton.org](mailto:music@covenantscranton.org)  
Patti Ollendyke - [secretary@covenantscranton.org](mailto:secretary@covenantscranton.org)

### **Summer Adventures with Flat Paul**

Last summer, many people took Flat Jesus with them on their summer adventure. We have photos of him having fun in Mexico and Moscow. We have photos of him relaxing with family and friends and touring the sites. This summer as we prepare for our VBS adventures with Paul, you are invited to take Flat Paul with you. We don’t want you to miss your relationship with the church and with scripture.

Flat Paul helps all of us stay plugged into our faith throughout the summer months—giving families a unique opportunity to continually engage in their faith development all summer long! Take a picture and tag on social media #FlatPaul. It will be fun to see his adventures this summer. You can pick up your Flat Jesus at church to take home and color.

# 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 Covenant, (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. **Godly Play will continue to meet over the summer.**



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

The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in Honor of  
Dr. Tim Smith and the Chancel Choir  
By Roy & Vee Pauli

### Participating in Worship Today

Rev. Scott G. Loomer, Pastor  
Nina Kouznetsov, Guest Organist  
Mrs. Linda Keene, Liturgist

The Deacons are asking for your help in collecting items for **Christmas in July** at the Lackawanna County Prison. **We have until July 7th to take donations!**

### Items requested:

Toothpaste, socks, bar soap, greeting cards, loose-leaf binder paper, #10 envelopes, shampoo (12.5 oz. VO5 or Suave ONLY), lots and lots of wrapped hard candy. Boxes for donations are located at the Olive St. & Madison Ave. entrances.

### **Baseball Night with the Railriders**

**August 2, 2019 ~ 7:05 P.M.**

Sponsored by the Presbytery of Lackawanna.

Tickets are \$11.00 (Parking \$5.00 per car paid at the field.) The Railriders will be playing the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs. A Friday night with fireworks after the game. **Tickets need to be purchased by July 1st**—to reserve your tickets, please speak with Pastor Martha. [mypastormartha@gmail.com](mailto:mypastormartha@gmail.com)



Prayers of the People & 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.*

### GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*Hymn No. 388

O Jesus, I Have Promised

*Angel's Story*

\*Charge & Benediction

\*Postlude

My Heart Ever Faithful

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

\*Those who are able, please stand

NRSV – New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

### Sermon Series: Lessons for Early (and later) Christians from Acts

The “early” Christians, who were first forming the worshiping communities recorded in the Acts of the Apostles (look to the “book” following the four Gospels in the New Testament), struggled with this new Christian faith. I daresay many struggle with Christian faith more than two thousand years later.

For three weeks – June 23, June 30 and July 7 – I am offering a sermon series to address some of the same issues and concerns as those first Christian communities faced.

June 23 – “The Link between Death and Resurrection”

John 11.1-4, 14-44 and John 20.19

June 30 – “Faith is Never Free” Acts 7.51-60

July 7 – “The Heart of Faith: Not Rules but Relationships”

John 3.16 and Acts 2.43-47

Look forward to exploring some of the foundational building blocks of our Christian faith and practice.