

Worship Attendance

Sunday, November 24, 2019—116

Yearly Average—120

Last Year's Average to Date—122



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:

- *12/1, Advent Workshop after worship
- *12/1, Choral Society concert, 4:00 P.M.
- *12/4, Cookie baking, 10:00 A.M.
- *12/4, Advent Service & Soup, 5:45 P.M.
- *12/4, Labyrinth with harp, 7:00 P.M.
- *12/5, Personnel, 5:00 P.M.
- *12/5, Infant Care Board, 6:00 P.M.
- *12/7, Breakfast with Santa, 9:00 A.M.
- *12/7, Packing cookies, 1:00 P.M.

Next Week:

- *12/8, Mitten Tree
- *12/9, Communications, 4:00 P.M.
- *12/10, Session, 7:00 P.M.
- *12/11, Women's Luncheon, 12:00 P.m.
- *12/11, Advent Service & Soup, 5:45 P.M.
- *12/12, Worship & Music, 12:00 P.M.
- *12/13, Family Fun Fellowship, 6:00 P.M.

Today's Ushers: Team 1

Alice Goodall, Robin Nash-Arneil, Rich & Kate Hollenberg, Bob & Kathy Kintzer, Siemong Wang, Cody Brooks, Gregg Sandercock, Karen Fogley, Ken Pembridge, Carol Winn, Pam Huddy

Dec. 8—Team 2

Sara & Matt Scott, Rick & Chris Wagner, Emily Maher, Marilyn Griffiths, Rufus Holmes, JoAnn Cortazar

Covenant Presbyterian Church
550 Madison Ave.
Scranton, PA 18510



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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 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.

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.

Prayer of Invocation

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

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? Bring a new day, O Lord, 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

Response No. 572 "Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us" Kyrie
**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Wednesday Advent Worship

Join us for Wednesday worship this Advent in the Schautz Memorial Chapel! Worship begins at 5:45 P.M. A soup supper will follow each service in the Covenant room.

Dec. 4: Mary the mother of Jesus, Luke 1.26-35/Luke 1.46-55

Guest artist: Andrea Wittchen, harp

(Andrea will also play for the Labyrinth from 7:00—8:30 P.M.)

Dec. 11: Joseph, the carpenter, Matthew 1.18-25/Matthew 1.24-25

Guest artist: Tom Heinze, oboe

Dec. 18: The shepherds, abiding in fields, Luke 2.8-14/Luke 2. 15-20

Guest artist: Ed Wargo, flute



A Nursery Rhyme Christmas

HEAR YE – HEAR YE – HEAR YE! ALL COVENANT KIDS!!

Parents/Grandparents/Aunt/Uncles: We are starting to get ready for our Christmas Play (which will be presented at the Covenant Christmas party on Sunday, December 15th) if you would like to sign up your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, cousin, all are welcome to participate in our production. Sign up sheets will be available at Fellowship Hour, and if you have any questions, please contact Pam Huddy or Bruce Jordan.

Christmas with the Choral Society

December 1, 2019, 4:00 P.M.

Covenant Presbyterian Church
arcadiachorale.org



Arcadia Chorale Concert

A European Christmas

Saturday, December 7, 2019, 7:30 P.M.

St Luke's Episcopal Church
232 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA 18503
choralsociety.net

Stewardship



Please remember to return your estimate of giving cards to the church office as soon as possible. If you did not receive a pledge card, please call the church office or pick one up from any of the Welcome Tables.

Hilda Muller Memorial Mitten Tree

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Hats, gloves, scarves, mittens! Bring in your donations and place them on the front pew. The children will be asked to help decorate the Mitten Tree during worship. All donations will be forwarded to the Thomas B. Hargrave Daycare Center in Portsmouth, Virginia.



The **Angel Tree** may still have a few angels left on it. Pick a card from the tree and give your name and the card number to the Deacon on duty and help to make Christmas a little brighter for area children. All gifts for Outreach (pajamas only) will be due no later than December 8th.

Covenant Women's Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 12:00 P.M.

Lunch, carols, and a program by the Barbershop Quartet. Invite your mother, sister, aunt, friend . . . even your husband! Men are welcome to attend! The more the merrier! There is no charge, but donations towards the luncheon are welcome. The women also invite you to bring a pair of socks. Yes, socks! The socks will be donated to the NEPA Youth Shelter, so we're looking for adult size sweat socks for boys and girls. Please call the church office with your lunch **reservation by Friday, December 6th.**



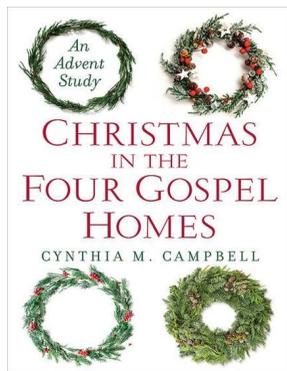
Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes

An Advent Study By Cynthia M. Campbell

Sunday mornings during Advent, 9:30 A.M.

(Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22)

How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it? In *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*, beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns re-imagine each of the four Gospels as a "house," which the church visits at Christmas. ***If you haven't signed up for the class, please know you are still welcome to attend. Books will be available and all are welcome.***



Wi-Fi

Network name and password are the same: **cpcguest**. The signal may not be available in all areas of the church building.

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 First Advent Candle

Jack & Lisa Neuls

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

Mr. Bruce Jordan

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson

Malachi 3: 1-4

NRSV

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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 1: 68-79

NRSV

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Sermon and 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

A Christmas Miracle—Zechariah and Elizabeth

Rev. Scott G. Loomer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Text & Online Giving available: 570-363-4324 (one time registration)



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 front of the sanctuary. Please return bags to the basket after worship.

Everyone is invited to join us in the Sawtelle Auditorium after worship for our Advent Workshop! Lunch will be served.

The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in Honor of, and with Gratitude to:

Rev. Scott Loomer, Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan, Dr. Tim Smith
And the Covenant Chancel Choir
By Mrs. Linda Keene

Participating in Worship Today

Rev. Scott G. Loomer, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan, Assoc. Pastor
Dr. Tim Smith, Organist/Director of Music
Mrs. Catherine Carter, Liturgist

Infant Care Program Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 7, 2019

9:00—11:00 A.M.

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, French toast sticks, fruit, beverages . . . and milk & cookies with Santa!

Ticket Donation: \$10.00 Adults

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

All proceeds benefit The Infant Care Program



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. 601

Song of Zechariah

Kingsfold

*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

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him that freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy, Holy Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus quickly come and night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

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...