

## Worship Attendance

Sunday, December 15, 2019—141

Yearly Average—120

Last Year's Average—123



## 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 cpcmusic@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:

\*12/24, Christmas Eve services, 4:00 P.M. & 11:00 P.M.

\*12/25, Christmas Day, church office closed

## Next Week:

\*Dec. 29th, No Sunday School or Adult Ed.

\*Dec. 31st, church office closes at noon.

\*Jan. 1st, church office closed

\*No Chancel choir rehearsals this week.

## Today's Ushers: Team 4

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

## Dec. 24th—4:00 P.M., Team 5

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

## Dec. 24th—10:00 P.M. Team 1

Alice Goodall, Robin Nash-Arneil, Cody Brooks, Gregg Sandercock, Karen Fogley, Pam Huddy, Carol Winn

## Dec. 29th—Team 2

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

*Wifi: Network name and password are the same: **cpcguest.***

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
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Scranton, PA 18510



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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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.

*O God, out of the busyness of this season, we give pause this morning to refocus our lives on you. We invite you into this place and into our hearts. Accept our worship as a humble attempt to glorify and honor you. Hear our prayer, O God. Amen.*

**GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

Prelude Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One, BWV 611

*Johann Sebastian Bach*

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

*Es ist ein Rose*

Call to Worship

Leader: The advent of Christ brings the joy of God's presence;

**People: we sing praises to God for the salvation Christ brings!**

Leader: Because of Him, the weak are strengthened,  
the fearful are encouraged, and the unrighteousness are redeemed.

**People: Joy and gladness are ours, because God has come to us in Christ,  
to walk with us in the paths of righteousness.**

Leader: As we continue our preparations for Christmas,  
may our celebrations renew our faith,  
and fill us with joy and thanks!

Prayer of Invocation

\*Processional Hymn No. 23 Angels We Have Heard on High *Gloria*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and merciful God, in this busy season help us to keep our prayers, and our concerns most simple. Forgive us for not seeking light in our darkness; for not listening to your voice and your Word; for not believing that**



**Arcadia Chorale**

**Annual Messiah Sing-Along**

Sunday, December 22, 2019, 3:00 P.M.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

35 S. Franklin St., Wilkes Barre, PA

[www.arcadiachorale.org](http://www.arcadiachorale.org)



**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. **Offering Envelopes** are on the window sills in the ambulatory. Please pick up your envelopes as soon as possible. If there is not a box with your name on it and you want envelopes, please call Mrs. Lee Carr at the church office.

**Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service**

Hickory Street Presbyterian Church, 435 Hickory St., Scranton

Sunday, December 22nd at 7:00 P.M.

Come and join with others experiencing sorrow and loss in this season and find light and hope. Pastor Martha will be leading this service.

**Holiday Closings**

The church office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

***Merry Christmas to All!***



**Covenant Women's Association** board members will hold a meeting on Monday, December 16th, at 10:00 A.M. in the Covenant House.

#### **Deacons Reminder**

Deacons will be packing the Christmas food boxes on Saturday, December 21st, at 9:00 A.M. All helping hands needed!

#### **January Board Meeting**

There will be a combined board meeting of **Session, Deacons and Trustees on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 6:30 P.M.** in the Covenant Room. Please let the church office know if you cannot attend.

#### **Dates to Remember**

The Covenant Women's Circle would like you to save the following date(s) for activities they are planning and watch your newsletter for more information:

**January 18th**—Yoga class with Jenna Carmichael

**February 8th**—"Labor of Love" making recycled ground mats for the homeless.

**Please save your plastic bags for us!**

**April 22nd**—"Sustainable Shopping" with Joyce Hatala.

#### **Christmas Joy Offering**

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Watch your mailbox for a special letter from the Pastor about the Christmas Joy Offering.



#### **Covenant Christmas Offering**

In your pew you will also find a second offering envelope just for Covenant Church. This offering helps to defray all manner of costs over the holiday season: Advent Festival, Christmas food boxes, Angel Tree gifts, mailing the mittens, etc. Your gifts to the Covenant Christmas Offering are greatly appreciated.

#### **Annual Reports**

Covenant Presbyterian Church's BiAnnual meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2020, following worship. All annual reports are asked to be submitted to the church office ***no later*** than Sunday, January 12, 2019. This will make it possible for the reports to be distributed on January 19th ahead of the meeting. Please email reports to Patti Ollendyke at [cpcpatti@epix.net](mailto:cpcpatti@epix.net).



you make surprising difference in our world; for not speaking good news of great joy. Teach us to live in peace, to long for your presence; to celebrate with true joy, and to always share your love. 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.**

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 Fourth Advent Candle

*The Fisk Family*

Sung Response

*Veni Emmanuel*

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

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

Welcome, Joys & Concerns

Minute for Mission—Christmas Joy Offering

*Mrs. Emily Maher*

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

Anthem

Rest Merry, Rejoice!

*arr. Barbara Scheffter*

Chancel Handbell Choir

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.***

#### **Cantata for the Nativity**

Reading

Come, Lord Jesus!

*Miriam Therese Winter*



The Chancel Choir

Soprano

Jenna Carmichael  
Catherine Carter  
Kathy Fisk  
Rebecca Fisk  
Lorrie Loughney\*  
Patti Ollendyke\*  
Vee Pauli  
Simone Santarsiero  
Patty Sherbine

Alto

Jane Foy  
Nina Kouznetsov  
Sheryl Marionni\*  
Evelyn Munley  
Jane Schildt\*  
Crystal Szewczyk

Tenor

Patrick Fisk  
Bruce Jordan\*  
Harry Mumford  
William Speare  
Craig Westbrook, Jr.\*

Bass

Bryan Fisk  
Richard Gilardi  
Matthew Grotzinger  
Jim Schildt\*  
Bruce Sherbine

The Chancel Handbell Choir

Tracy Bryndza  
Ellie Jordan  
Carolyn Pembridge  
Jon Ventre  
Alyssa Wintermute  
Debbie Wintermute  
Audra Young

\* additional bell choir members



Reading

First Coming

Madeleine L'Engle

GOD'S WORD REVEALED

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Nativity Carol

John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago; born 'neath light of star He who loved us so. *Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.* Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby; over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky. *Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.* Wisemen from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills. *Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; innocent dreaming babe, make me Thy love to know. *Far away, silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

\*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.**

Prayers of the People

GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*Hymn No. 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

\*Charge & Benediction

\*Postlude

Toccata from Carol Rhapsody

Richard Purvis

\*Those who are able, please stand

NRSV – New Revised Standard Version of the Bible