

Worship Attendance

Sunday, February 23, 2020—191
Yearly Average—128
Last Year's Average to Date—121



Church Staff

Rev. Scott G. Loomer	Pastor Pastorscott @covenantscranton.org 570-578-9424
Dr. Timothy Smith	Organist, Director of Music Music @covenantscranton.org
Mrs. Lee Carr	Church Operations Mgr. Leecarr @covenantscranton.org
Mrs. Patricia Ollendyke	Receptionist/Secretary Secretary @covenantscranton.org
Mr. Clarence "Mick" Cobb	Sexton

This Week at Covenant:

*Mar. 1st, Communion training after worship
*Mar. 1st, Hostess meeting, 11:45 AM, Room 8
*Mar. 3rd, Christian Ed. & Fellowship committees, 6:30 P.M. Covenant House
*Mar. 4th, Service & Soup, 5:45 P.M.
*Mar. 4th, Labyrinth with music
*Mar. 5th, Infant Care Board, 6:00 P.M.
*Mar. 7th, Pysanky workshop, 9:30 A.M.

Next Week:

*Mar. 8th, Women's Circle Take-out Chicken Dinner after worship.
*Mar. 9th, Communications, 4:00 P.M.
*Mar. 10th, Session, 7:00 P.M.
*Mar. 11th, Cookie baking, 10:00 A.M.
*Mar. 11th, Service & Soup, 5:45 P.M.
*Mar. 15th, Lent Workshop

Today's Ushers: Team 1

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

March 8th: Team 2

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

Covenant Presbyterian Church
550 Madison Ave.
Scranton, PA 18510



Covenant
Presbyterian
Church
Scranton

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Be **KIND**
to one another,
TENDERHEARTED,
FORGIVING
one another, as
GOD in **CHRIST**
has forgiven **YOU.**

Ephesians 4:32, NRSV

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2020

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.

In our worship this Lent we recognize and reflect upon God’s purposes as we stand at the foot of the cross. In Week One we remember that all our sins have been crossed out through the forgiveness that comes only through the atoning sacrifice of the crucified Christ.

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness. In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt, and temptation. Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted. As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

Prelude Prelude in f minor, BWV 534 *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

*Hymn No. 260 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God *Ein’ Feste Burg*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, forgive those times when we are inconsistent in our faith; for those times we have fallen short of your desires for our life.

Forgive any hurt we have caused, and any help we have withheld from those in need. Strengthen and sustain us, and lead us to strengthen and sustain others, as you use us to discover and do your will, in Christ’s spirit we pray . . .

Silent Confession . . . Amen.

**Covenant Community Connections
Events for the community offered free
of charge, sponsored in part by the
Women’s Circle at Covenant Church**

March 24th

5:30—8:00 PM Understanding Medicare
Enjoy a light supper and hear an
informative presentation by APPRISE.

Reservations required for this event,
please call the church office.

**All are welcome—and most
importantly—Invite a Friend!**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Lent Workshop

Join us after worship in the Sawtelle
Auditorium on **Sunday, March 15th.**

We will have craft projects for children
and adults. There also will be a light
lunch for all. To help us prepare, please
sign up in advance. We are also looking
for **donations of jelly jars** for a craft that
Jean Stubbs will be leading.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Saturday, March 28, 2020

9:00 A.M.—11:00 A.M.

Join us for a fun-filled morning of
pancakes, children’s activities and more!
Be sure to bring your camera for your
child’s picture with the Easter Bunny!
Tickets will be available soon.

Ticket Donation: \$8/adult \$5/child

All proceeds benefit The Infant Care Program!

*Quiet your Mind,
Restore your Spirit*

Covenant Presbyterian Church invites
you to walk with us on a Lenten
Journey. The Labyrinth will be available
in the Sawtelle Auditorium every
Wednesday from February 26th, Ash
Wednesday, through April 8th.
1—4:00 P.M. and 5:30—8:30 P.M.

Guest musicians and candlelight will
create a serene setting on three special
evenings from 7:00-8:30 P.M.

March 4th--Jay Steveskey, guitar
March 18th—Nina Kouznetsov, piano
April 1st--Andrea Wittchen, harp
All are welcome to walk, meditate or just
sit and listen to beautiful music.

Wednesday Lent Services

Covenant’s Wednesday Lent services are
held in the Schautz Memorial Chapel at
5:45 P.M. each week. A soup supper will
follow each service in the Covenant
room.

- 3/4 Jay Steveskey, guitar
- 3/11 Mark Woodyatt, violin
- 3/18 Tom Heinze, oboe
- 3/25 Ed Wargo, flute
- 4/1 Andrea Wittchen, harp
- 4/9 Maundy Thursday,
Chancel Choir



Covenant Women's 6th Annual Spring Tea!
"From Sea to Shining Sea" Our Fifty States
Friday, April 24, 2020, 6:30 P.M.
Sawtelle Auditorium

Hostesses are needed!

Pick a state and show us your "creativity." States already chosen include: Hawaii, Louisiana, New York, Florida, Alaska, South Dakota, Georgia, California, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

A meeting for all hostesses will be held after worship today, **March 1, 2020**, in Room 8. Tickets will be available soon!

Any questions, please contact: Co-Chairpersons

Sara Wintermute 570-561-3478 or Norma Ciero 570 881-4459

Covenant Women's Association

Pledge cards have been mailed to all women—please prayerfully consider pledging to Covenant Women. All pledges (however big or small) assist us in upholding our mission contributions as well as fund our yearly activities.

HAVE A HEART

February and March are Covenant's months to help supply the **Safety Net** pantry with non-perishable foods. Bags and a list can be found at the entrances to the sanctuary. **Any help you can give to Safety Net can help people in need and is greatly appreciated!**

Suggested items: Canned meats (chicken, spam), tuna, Chef Boyardee, canned stews, canned potatoes, Ramen, Canned fruit, applesauce, packaged potatoes or rice.

Nursery Workers Needed

Covenant Church is searching for **Child Care workers** for our **Sunday Nursery**. This is a paid position and interested persons must have all child care clearances performed. You can work one Sunday a month or more, the choice is yours. Please contact the church office with questions or speak with Kim Hoehle.

Daylight Savings Time begins next weekend! Clocks will 'spring forward' one hour on **Sunday, March 8th**. Don't forget—or you'll miss church!



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

The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days, The God of love!
The Lord, The Great I Am, by earth and Heav'n confessed,
We bow before Your Holy Name, Forever blest.

Leoni

Welcome, Joys & Concerns

GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Lesson Ephesians 4:31—5:2 *NRSV*
Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.
Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Anthem

Lord Jesus, Think on Me *Raymond Haan*
Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin;
from earth-born passion set me free, and make me pure with-in.
Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity point thou the heavenly way.
Lord Jesus, think on me, with care and woe oppressed;
let me thy loving servant be, and taste thy promised rest.
Lord Jesus, think on me, amid the battle's strife;
in all my pain and misery be thou my health and life.
Lord Jesus, think on me, when flows the tempest high;
when on doth rush the enemy, O Savior, be thou nigh.
Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,
I may eternal brightness see, and share thy joy at last.

Chancel Choir

GOOD MORNING!

Gospel Lesson Matthew 6: 9-15 *NRSV*
“Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

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. 85

What Wondrous Love Is This

Wondrous Love

GOD’S WORD REVEALED

Sermon

“Cross Out”

Rev. Scott G. Loomer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Text Giving: 570-363-4324



Offertory

Forty Days and Forty Nights

arr. Harrison Oxley

Forty days and forty nights thou wast fasting in the wild, forty days and forty nights tempted and yet undefiled. Sunbeams scorching all the day, chilly dewdrops nightly shed, prowling beasts about thy way, stones thy pillow, earth thy bed. Let us thine endurance share, and from earthly joys abstain, with thee watching unto prayer, strong with thee to suffer pain.

And if Satan, vexing sore, flesh or spirit should assail, thou, his vanquisher before, grant we may not faint nor fail. So shall we have peace divine, holier gladness ours shall be, round us too shall angels shine, such as ministered to thee. Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by thy side, that with thee we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

Chancel Choir

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.



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

There will be a Fellowship Hour following worship today in the Sawtelle Auditorium (1st floor) hosted by members of the board of Session.

The Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God.

Participating in Worship Today

Rev. Scott G. Loomer, Pastor

Dr. Tim Smith, Organist/Director of Music

Mrs. Catherine Carter, Liturgist

Communion Training

Pastor Scott would be happy to meet with anyone interested in **Communion “training.”** Simply put, we don’t always know exactly what to do or where to go when serving communion. Join Pastor Scott at the communion table after worship today for a brief time of training and explanation as to the duties of being a communion server.

Covenant Women’s Circle Take-Out Chicken Dinner

Sunday, March 8, 2020, to support the activities of the circle such as Labor of Love, Yoga, and many more to come! **The deadline for ticket purchase is TODAY!** Tickets are available from circle participants. \$12.00 adults, \$5.00 children. Circle members are asked to turn in their money/unsold tickets after worship today in the kitchen.

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

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. 87 The Glory of These Forty Days *Erhalt Uns, Herr*

*Charge & Benediction

*Choral Response God Be in My Head *Rita E. Landrum*
God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in mine eyes and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing. A-men.

*Postlude Fantasie: *Ein fest Burg ist unser Gott* *Michael Praetorius*

*Those who are able, please stand

NRSV – New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

CROSSES IN THE CHANCEL

The Cross Banners hanging in the Chancel symbolize Lenten Scripture messages. Designed and crafted in 1992 by Susan Shontz and Lorrie Loughney, the banners remind us that we all must choose our crosses and follow Jesus and were designed to help us find our stories in the symbols.

The **Tau Cross**, named for the Greek letter from which it takes its shape, is an austere, spare design reminding us of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. The burst of white represents Jesus' triumph over temptation. (wall to your left)

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...

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...