

Covenant Presbyterian Church

The Covenanter (USPS 680-460) is published bi-weekly except the months of July and August by: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 550 Madison Ave., Scranton, PA 18510-2497
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We're Open on Sundays!
 9:30 A.M. Sunday School & Adult Seminar
 10:30 A.M. Worship
 11:30 A.M. Fellowship Hour

We're on the web!
www.covenantchscr.org

Local and visiting volunteers will renew flood recovery efforts starting in March and work throughout the summer. Please consider joining us in this effort.

Contact the Presbytery office:
 348-0643



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Service & Soup during Lent

This year's Lenten services - beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012 - will involve us hearing about, and perhaps even making, Transformations in the ways we live out our faith.



Beginning at 5:45 P.M. each week, (and followed by food and fellowship in the Covenant Room after each service), our Times of Transformation begin on Ash Wednesday (in the Sanctuary): "From Ashes to Alleluia". As the pastor marks a cross on your forehead and offers the words 'ashes to ashes, dust to dust,' we are reminded that from dust we were formed and to dust our bodies will return. And, we'll consider what happens in between. From the ashes which remind us of the sinful nature of humanity, so also the cross is proclamation to the world that 'alleluias' will follow.

Each week's service of prayer and scripture readings will be accompanied by gifted musicians to enrich our worship. Except for Ash Wednesday, services will be held in the Schautz Memorial Chapel with supper served in the Covenant Room. The Labyrinth will be available every other week beginning on Ash Wednesday.



Prayer Labyrinth

Covenant Presbyterian Church

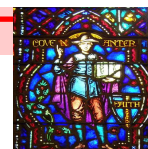
Our Mission:

To be an instrument for God's transformation of individuals and society by
Welcoming all who come our way;
Seeking those who have not come;
Teaching the message of Christ's love in word and deed;
Expressing gratitude to God through stewardship and worship; and
Caring and Praying for those in need of emotional and spiritual support, direct service or partners in their struggle for justice both locally and throughout the world.

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The Covenanter



Volume XXXI, Issue 3

January 31, 2012

What is a Presbyterian?

In this New Year.....I thought I would provide (or refresh your memories of) some of our basic, Presbyterian Church (USA) foundational elements and heritage:

- ◆ In the New Testament, "presbyteros" means elder, and refers to the democratic custom of choosing leaders from among the members of the church.
- ◆ Presbyterians are a group of Protestants whose church is founded on this concept of democratic rule under the Word of God.
- ◆ What is required to be a Presbyterian is to: confess the Christian faith; trust in Christ as our forgiving Savior; promise to follow Christ and Christ's example for living; commit oneself to attend church and to become involved in its work.
- ◆ Authority in the church (beyond that of Christ) resides with the duly elected representatives of the congregation in the appointed governing bodies – in the local church, called the Session.
- ◆ Local sessions oversee the day-to-day work of the church and supervise: deacons, also elected to conduct the temporal and charitable ministries of the church; and trustees, elected to manage financial, legal and property affairs of the church.

In future issues of our newsletter – look for brief descriptions of: What Presbyterian's Believe; a snapshot of our Presbyterian Church history; and more.

Ministering with you in Christ's spirit,

Scott





Who We Are and How To Reach Us . . .

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Office Notes

- *Thursday, 2/2, Infant Care Board meets at 6:00 P.M. in the Covenant House.
- *Personnel meets on Wednesday, 2/8, at 4:30 P.M. in the Covenant House.
- *Worship & Music meets on Thursday, 2/9, at Noon in the Covenant House.
- *Session meets on MONDAY, 2/13, at 7:00 P.M. in the Covenant House.



*Notes
from the Office*

Covenanter Subscription: \$10.00
2012 Per Capita: \$28.50
Has your **address** changed? How about your **phone number?** **Email?** If you don't let the church know, we have no way to contact you. Call the church office or email Patti Ollendyke at **CPCPATTI@EPIX.NET.**

Ushers

Sunday Ushers

February 5th: Team 6

Lee Carr, Alex Hoyle, Dan Richards, Martha & Kyle Carter, James Walsh

February 12th: Team 1

Mike, Lee & Sara Carr, Herb Kneller, Warren & Terry Keller, Mark Lynn, Pete Axford.

Thank You

Many Thanks from the Concert Committee to everyone who helped to make the reception so wonderful! There were lots of goodies enjoyed by all!

Christian Education, Children & Youth

Every Sunday! Sunday School—Third Floor

9:30 A.M. Teen 7– 12th Grade; Youth 4—6th Grade; Kids, K—3rd Grade

Godly Play

Godly Play takes place after the Children's Message in Sunday worship. Children in pre-school to 3rd grade join Rev. Muntzel and Mrs. Sandy Bird on the third floor. Youth in 4-7th grade attend Mrs. Carr's group in the Youth Sunday School Room.

Adult Education

**"Even the Wind and the Sea obey Him!"
The Power of Christ in the Gospel of Mark
Adult Forum, Winter 2012**



Come join us as we take an in-depth look at the shortest and earliest Gospel in the Bible. Mark's account is sometimes terse, often foreboding, even dark, yet it contains a powerful witness to Christ's ability to confront and overcome all demonic and evil forces. So awe-inspiring were Mark's writings that both Matthew and Luke used them practically unchanged in their own Gospels!

**The Adult Forum meets in Room 8 on Sunday mornings at 9:30 A.M.
All are Welcome! No previous Bible study experience is needed or expected.**

Youth Ministry

Gathering ~ February 5th ~ After Sunday Worship

Parents and Youth are invited to a Pre- Super Bowl Gathering, a time for conversation and planning for Youth Ministry in 2012. And . . . we will have some healthy, some decadent, dips and chips to get you in the mood for the Super Bowl (or just the Super Bowl parties) later in the day.



Parents, youth and teens please be a part of the conversation .
We value the relationship our youth have with one another and with God.
Help us support these relationships.

Teens are asked to help collect donations for the **Souper Bowl** of Caring on **FEBRUARY 5th**. It just takes a few minutes - Youth stand at the doors after worship with soup cans and soup pots. Proceeds go to the food pantries at Safety Net (which is in our building) and at Breadbasket (which has food pantries in churches through-out the area). Just look for Craig Westbrook, Lee Carr or Stefanie before worship on the 5th and let us know you will help.

Hospital/Memorials

Please remember to let the church office know if you or a family member are hospitalized. We do not receive consistent notification from the hospitals.

Regional: Alan Glass,
Deborah Skidmore

Still recovering: Mari
Howell, Jane Roberts.



Memorial contributions have been made to the General Endowment Fund in memory of Louis Ellard and Mary O'Hora.



Men's Lent Communion Breakfast

63rd Annual Lenten Communion Service and Breakfast
February 26, 2012 ~ 7:45 A.M.

Elm Park United Methodist Church, Jefferson Ave. & Linden St.

Speaker: Rev. James Rugg, Pastor, Mill City Assembly of God

Special Music: The Gospelaies

Tickets are \$8.00 for breakfast which will be served immediately following the service.

Contact Herb Kneller at 344-5483

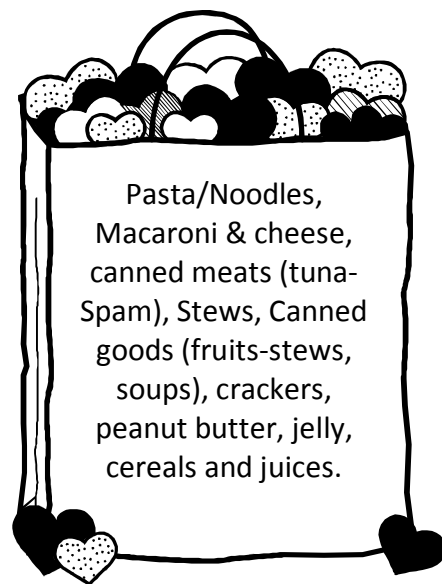
HAVE A HEART : HELP US RESTOCK SAFETY NET'S PANTRY

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Safety Net is a non-profit agency sponsored by several local churches, including Covenant. Each month hundreds of local people in need find emergency support in our building by coming to Safety Net- which has an on site mini-pantry, emergency clothing, vouchers for emergency fresh food/ transportation/medical or rent assistance.

February and March are months that **Covenant** replenishes Safety Net's Emergency Food Pantry. Please purchase non-perishable food items bring them to church.

Any help you can give to Safety Net can help people in need and is greatly appreciated!



The Infant Care Program

Our donation boxes remain at the church entrances!

Some of the suggested items include:

- *Paper Towels, Tissues (cold season is coming!), Paper Plates
- *Tape (masking, packing, scotch), crayons, colored pencils, markers
- *Cereal (Kix or Cheerios), Juice (Apple, White Grape), Healthy Snacks
- *Batteries (AA & D size), All Laundry detergent (Free & Clear)



Keep bringing in your used Inkjet cartridges as well!

Gertrude Hawk Candy Bars

Thank you to everyone who purchased a candy bar!

Souper Bowl of Caring ~ Donations will collected after Worship

On **Sunday February 6th**, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 6th. Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts!



Diversity Sabbath

What do our religions have in common; what are our differences? The Scranton Area Ministerium invites you to experience a different service the last weekend of the each month to learn more about what our neighbors believe, how they pray and how they celebrate Shabbat—"Sabbath" in their language.

Called "Diversity Sabbath", members of the Ministerium will lead their regular Sabbath services and afterwards sit with guests, explaining the service and answering questions.

Scranton's clergy are working to emphasize that we all are made in God's image. They have found the major cause of intolerance is ignorance—not knowing enough about those whose cultural and religious traditions differ from our own.

January 27th and 28th were held at Temple Hesed and Temple Israel (apologies, we forgot to run the article in the last newsletter).

February 26th—St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Ash St. & Taylor Ave., 10:00 A.M.

March 25th—Covenant Church, 10:30 A.M.

April 29th—Bethel AME, Washington Ave. 11:00 A.M.

Ahhh ... Beautiful Music!



**Were you here for the first Covenant Public Concert of the 2012 season?
If not ... you don't know what you're missing!**

Tom Heinze, and guests, presented a wonderful concert!
Oboe, Harp, Voice, Violins . . . Truly beautiful!
Our next concert of the season happens on March 11, 2012, 3:00 P.M., with an Organ recital. So who is going to be playing that Organ you ask?? None other than our own Director of Music, Dr. Timothy Smith! Mark you calendars now! You don't want to miss it!

The Lyric Consort

A Premier Acappella Ensemble

Formed in 1993 to pursue historically-informed performance of the acappella repertoires of the medieval and renaissance periods, The Lyric Consort's repertoire has gradually broadened to encompass art music of the 17th, 19th, and 20th centuries, as well as multi-cultural and folk music..

**Faith at Work
Music Amid the 16th & 17th century
Wars of Religion
March 4, 2012, 3:00 P.M.
St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

In England, Tallis's Waltham Abbey is dissolved and Byrd composes his masses for secret liturgies. In Amsterdam, Sweelnick begins his musical life at the Catholic Oude Kirkbut ends it in the employ of Protestant magistrates. In France, Claude Goudimel is murdered in the St. Bartholomew's Massacre. We survey great music born of crisis.

Choral Society of NEPA

**Children's & Youth Ensembles
Mid-Winter Concert**

**Sunday, March 25, 2012 ~ 3:00 pm
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Scranton**
The Choral Society's five children's and youth ensembles combine for an afternoon of fine treble and mixed-voice music.

**Symphonic Chorus
American Harmony:
Classic Folk Hymns and Spirituals
Saturday, March 31, 2012 ~ 8:00 pm
Shopland Hall at the Scranton Cultural Center**

American shape-note hymn collections such as the 1816 Kentucky Harmony, 1844 Sacred Harp, and 1835 Southern Harmony preserve a treasury of sacred texts and tunes that convey not only the rough energy and confidence of a new land, but the sorrows and hard lives that accomplished its building. We survey the finest of these memorable and often haunting songs.

Robert Dale Chorale 27th Annual Bach Festival

Organ Concert
March 17, 2012, 4:00 P.M.
Elm Park United Methodist Church



Chamber Music Concert
March 17, 2012, 8:00 P.M.
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Choral Concert ~ March 18, 2012 ~ 3:00 P.M.
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Covenant Women

At the Annual meeting of Covenant Women on Sunday, January 29, 2012 the following persons were elected:

- Alice Goodall—Co-Moderator
- Mabel Holmes—Co-Moderator
- Patricia Ollendyke—Treasurer
- Elaine Young—Secretary

The 2012 budget was passed and plans were discussed for the year. Pledge cards have been mailed to all women. Please make a pledge to Covenant Women!

We will have soup for sale on **SOUPer Bowl** Sunday! You won't have to make lunch/dinner!
Next Cookie Bake is March 14th.



Just Breathe . . . Time to Reconnect with God

Just Breathe:
An Open House at Covenant Church
February 16, 2012

Stop by anytime between 6:00—8:00 P.M.

Come enjoy opportunities to share...
healthy, delicious refreshments, conversation and relaxation activities ~ Covenant room
Quiet reflection and prayer ~ Chapel
Meditation using the Labyrinth ~ Auditorium
Bring a friend or come solo ... everyone welcome.
Sponsored by Covenant Women

Come Join Us!

The Membership & Outreach Committee will be hosting a meal and light conversation on two consecutive Thursdays to:

- *provide information on Covenant's programs and it's ministries
- *talk about what it means to be a Presbyterian
- *offer a tour of our beautiful Sanctuary and building

The event will most benefit individuals who:

- *have been worshipping at Covenant on a regular basis but are not members
- *are newcomers to Covenant or new in the community
- *have joined Covenant in the past few years and would just like to learn more about it

If you are Interested in attending or know someone who may find this program valuable, call the Church Office at 346-6400 with your name.

