



Where tradition comes to life!

250 West 7th Street, Erie, PA 16501 • Phone: 814-456-4243 • Fax: 814-454-3350
www.firstcovenanterie.org

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Services
Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 22, 2009
Re-opening of Sanctuary and McBrier Chapel

GATHERING

Gathering Music: *Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals* Karg-Elert/Hopson

Welcome Rev. Dr. Dale E. Southorn

Moment for Ministry: *Singing Rule 6* Steven Skinner

6. Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first. (John Wesley)

Prelude/Introit: *Faith of Our Fathers* arr. Burkhardt

Call to Worship Steven Skinner

Leader: The Lord be with you!

Congregation: And also with you!

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord

Leader: O come let us sing to the Lord:

Congregation: Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

***Hymn No. 464:** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Hymn to Joy

PRAYING

Confession of Sin (*Unison and Silent*) Steven Skinner

Eternal God,

**in whom we live and move and have our being,
whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy
we forget in the blindness of our hearts:**

**Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud
thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble
hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults,
confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and
strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon Steven Skinner

***Response Hymn No. 411:** *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord (Vs 1&2)* St. Thomas

***Passing the Peace**

11:00 a.m.—Stephen Minister Commissioning
Pat Bieber, Linda Holmes, Elaine Morse, Trudy Reichert,
and Nancy van den Honert

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer (*debts...debtors*) Dr. Southorn

11:00 a.m.—Children's Blessing
(*After the Blessing, children up through 4-years-old who leave the service will
be escorted to Classroom A and children 5-years-old through Grade 3 who
leave the service will be escorted to Children's Worship in Reed Chapel.*)

LISTENING

Old Testament Scripture: *Psalm 84*

8:30 a.m.—*Hymn No. 207: *How Lovely, Lord* Merle's Tune

11:00 a.m.—Anthem: *How Lovely Lord, How Lovely* Hopson, arr. Hopp

**Please join the Choirs on Stanza 3, Hymn No. 207
Covenant Choir, Kirk Singers, Gloria Singers, Elisabeth Southorn -Flute*

New Testament Scripture: *John 3:9-21 (Page 864, Pew Bible)* Dr. Southorn

Sermon: "Renewal of Faith" Dr. Southorn

RESPONDING

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: 8:30 a.m.—*My Heart Ever Faithful* J.S. Bach
Elisabeth Southorn, Soprano

11:00 a.m.—*Almighty God* Nelson/McHugh
Joanie Adams, Soprano

Doxology (Hymn No. 592): *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

***Hymn No. 361:** *How Firm a Foundation* Foundation

***Benediction** Dr. Southorn

Postlude: *Rejoice in the Lord* Mansfield

* Congregation will please stand, if able to do so.

Liturgist: Steven Skinner

Attribution for music used in the service represents the name of the composer, arranger, or tune.

Fourth Sunday in
Lent



FIRST COVENANT LIFE

Celebration of the Re-opening of our Sanctuary and McBrier Chapel

We are all so excited to get back into our newly renovated Sanctuary and McBrier Chapel. Please join us for any and all of our Celebration of Re-opening activities.

- ✠ **Friday, March 27th** at 12:00 p.m. we will host a Noontime Open House for our neighbors and friends of nearby businesses.
- ✠ **Saturday, March 28th** from 2:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. join us for a Community Open House.
- ✠ **Sunday, March 29th** at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. join us for our second week of Worship Services in our newly renovated Sanctuary and McBrier Chapel.
- ✠ **Sunday, March 29th** at 5:00 p.m. make sure you attend "Praise at First Covenant," a very exciting Hymn Festival hosted by our congregation.

RE—DEDICATION

- ✠ **Sunday, April 5th** join us for Palm Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. in McBrier Chapel and at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary as we **re-dedicate** our beautiful Worship space.

This is such a momentous time in the life of our church. You truly don't want to miss any of our planned activities.

Reprinted from the November 16, 1930 Church of the Covenant Bulletin— the first Sunday in the new Sanctuary:

Building Unfinished

You will possibly observe that many little details are yet to be finished before the church is fully completed.

The wonderful Cancel window, which is to fill the space at the back of the Chancel, will not be installed until next spring.

All will agree, however, that the work has progressed very satisfactorily and that the church is beautiful in every detail.

It might be well to withhold even your constructive criticism until the building is entirely completed.

A Special Thank you

Over one hundred volunteers cleaned, swept, and polished the Sanctuary and Chapels over this past week in preparation of today's re-opening. Thank you!



Celebration of Reopening

Weekly Financial Report

As of March 17th, we have received General Fund Pledges totaling \$622,311 and have received payment of those Pledges totaling \$151,992.85. We are ahead \$8,689.05 in the budgeted amount for pledges thus far in 2009. The ability of our Church to minister to the members of our congregation, to the Greater Erie area, to our Nation, and to the World depends on the prayerful, sacrificial, and generous gifts of the people of God.

As of March 17th, we have received Capital Campaign Pledges totaling \$1,591,995.17 of the needed \$2,000,000.00. And, we have received payment of those Pledges totaling \$1,187,215.21.

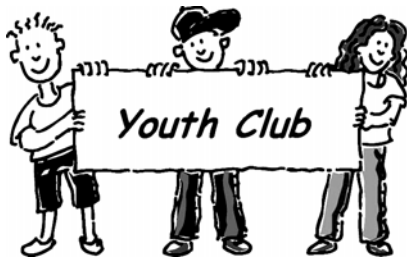
Thank you for your faithfulness. Please continue to give generously.

And, if you have any additional questions regarding the Church finances, please contact the Business Office.

FIRST COVENANT LIFE



- ★ Help a brother out! As men and women, how can we help people of the opposite sex as they struggle to live out lives of chastity? We will discuss this topic at this week's Ark.
- ★ The Ark offers a weekly fellowship for college students.
- ★ We meet on Wednesday evenings in the Parlor from 9:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.



- ★ **Today, Sunday, March 22nd**, join the Middle School and High School youth at 6:15 p.m. for "No Soup for You!"
- ★ We will do prep work for the box lunches being served to downtown workers who attend the Friday, March 27th Noontime Open House of the newly-restored sanctuary!
- ★ No soup will be involved, but we will have an assembly line to take care of all of the nonperishable box lunch items!
- ★ Feel free to invite your friends.
- ★ We invite all middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) youth to attend.

We need you for "Crocodile Dock" Vacation Bible School



- ★ Join us July 13-17 for a *romp in the swamp!*
- ★ Mark your calendars now!
- ★ VBS Craft, Snack, and Recreation teams are now forming.
- ★ **Can you help?** Call VBS Directors Linda Majewski at 838-1679 or Stefanie Johnson at 459-0835.

Covenant Connections

This Wednesday, March 25th:



- ★ We invite you to attend the *Wednesday Morning Lenten Bible Study* at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
- ★ We also invite you to join us at 5:45 p.m. this Wednesday evening for dessert in the Parlor.
- ★ At 6:00 p.m., we offer our Children's Music Program for children age 3 through Grade 5. This program concludes at 7:15 p.m.
- ★ We provide childcare for children up to age 3 in the Nursery.
- ★ At 6:15 p.m. in the Parlor, Pastor Dale will lead a study for adults. Have you ever wanted to raise your hand and ask a question during a sermon? This year during Lent, Pastor Dale will welcome your questions and he will even bring a few of his own to go deeper into the Scripture text from the previous Sunday. Bring your questions and your Bible.

Sunday Christian Education Schedule

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Children

Nursery.....Room 109 and 113
 Preschool Room A
 Kindergarten, Grade 1Room C
 Grades 2-3..... Room 313
 Grades 4-5..... Room 315

Youth

Grades 6-7..... Middle School Lounge
 Grade 8 Confirmation Class..... Room 119
 Grades 9-12.....Senior High Lounge

Adults

"Christianity for the 21st Century"..... Room 116
 "Don't Know Much About Sunday School".....Fidelis
 "Exploring the Text"..... Parlor

WELCOME

WELCOME TO ALL, especially guests and newcomers to Erie. Please take the Welcome Pad (burgundy folder in each pew) from the center aisle, sign it, and be sure to include any change of address information. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be added, please include your address. Then pass the Pad to the others sitting in your row. Once the Pad reaches the outside aisle, please pass it back to the center aisle.

AFTER EACH WORSHIP SERVICE, we invite you to join us for a time of fellowship in the Parlor.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP: Please switch off cell phones and pagers upon entering the Sanctuary and McBrier Chapel. Welcome and make room for those who arrive during the service by leaving space at the ends of the pews. Please do not take flash photographs during the service.

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: We have childcare available during both entire worship services, with an infants' and toddlers' nursery in Room 113, and—during the 11:00 a.m. service only—for preschool-age children in Classroom A.

After the “Children’s Blessing” in the 11:00 a.m. service, children through age 4 who leave the service will be escorted to Classroom A and children from age 5 through grade 3 who leave the service will be escorted to Children’s Worship in Reed Chapel.

We welcome children in the worship service. We have special children’s bulletins available from the ushers.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED is available for worship. Please contact an usher if you wish to use the system.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE USHERS.

IF YOU NEED HELP ENTERING OR LEAVING THE SANCTUARY OR CHAPELS, our ushers will gladly assist you and provide whatever help you may need.

RESTROOMS are located at the rear of the Sanctuary, in the Narthex. Please use the side aisles to reach these preferred facilities in order not to distract the worship leaders or other worshippers.

PARKING AVAILABLE at the southeast corner of 7th and Myrtle Streets. Additional parking is available at the municipal parking ramp (7th Street); Altman Hall, 235 West 7th Street; Dr. Kohler’s office, 219 West 7th Street; and Carney and Good offices, 254 West 6th Street.

THE FLOWERS AT THE LECTERN are in loving memory of Jane Diane Mascharka, given by her family. At the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. worship service, the Mascharka family invites you to take flowers from the sanctuary bouquet and distribute them to a shut-in, hospitalized friend, or person you wish to reach out to in Christ’s name.

WOULD YOU LIKE SOMEONE TO LISTEN TO YOU OR PRAY WITH YOU? A Stephen Minister will gladly meet with you, listen to you, and pray with you in McBrier Chapel following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

MEANING OF THE LITURGICAL COLOR: The color purple marks the time in the church calendar for seasons of penitence and preparation, Lent and Advent.

SERMON TAPES or CDs are available for \$2.00 each. Please place your order with the church office by calling 456-4243. You may also listen to the sermon free of charge, or view a manuscript of the sermon, at www.firstcovenanterie.org.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS: If you wish to submit information for inclusion in this weekly bulletin, the information needs to reach the church office no later than Noon on Monday to appear in the bulletin for the following Sunday.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, March 22nd

—Lent IV—

—Reopening of Sanctuary/McBrier Chapel—
—Stephen Ministry Commissioning—

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service—*McBrier Chapel*
- 9:25 a.m. A Time of Fellowship—*Parlor*
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education—*Assigned Rooms*
- 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class—*119*
- 9:30 a.m. Stephen Ministry Training—*Discovery*
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service—*Sanctuary*
- 12:15 p.m. Sanctuary Tour Guide Training—*116*
- 12:15 p.m. A Time of Fellowship—*Parlor*
- 4:45 p.m. Lenten Study: Women—*Parlor*
- 4:45 p.m. Youth Bells—*Music Room*
- 5:30 p.m. Kirk Singers—*Music Rooms*
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Club—*Senior High Lounge*

Monday, March 23rd

- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Study—*LeSuers' Home*
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Study: P 10—*Clovers' Home*
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Study: P 10—*Sweets' Home*
- 7:15 p.m. Covenant Bells—*Music Room*

Tuesday, March 24th

- 7:00 a.m. Lenten Study: Men—*Parlor*
- 8:00 a.m. Food Pantry—*Garage*
- 9:00 a.m. Staff—*Parlor*
- 9:30 a.m. Program Staff—*Pastor's Study*
- 12:00 p.m. Preschool Staff—*Fidelis*
- 3:00 p.m. VBS Directors Meeting—*Library*
- 5:15 p.m. Trustees—*116*
- 7:00 p.m. Budget—*Parlor*
- 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training—*119*

Wednesday, March 25th

—Covenant Connections—

- 6:30 a.m. Lenten Bible Study: Men—*Perkins, 4403 Peach*
- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study—*Parlor*
- 12:00 p.m. Circle of Angles 4 God—*Fidelis*
- 5:45 p.m. Desserts—*Parlor*
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Music—*Assigned Rooms*
- 6:15 p.m. "Pastor's Sermon Discussion"—
Parlor
- 7:15 p.m. Stephen Ministry Leaders—*Library*
- 7:30 p.m. Worship Support Committee—*Parlor*
- 7:30 p.m. Local Mission Committee—*116*
- 7:30 p.m. Global Mission Committee—*119*
- 9:00 p.m. Ark—*Parlor*

Thursday, March 26th

- 9:15 a.m. Moms' Bible Study—*Assigned Rooms*
- 10:00 a.m. Lenten Study—*Parlor*
- 10:15 a.m. Chimes Mailed—*116*
- 7:00 p.m. Operation Christmas Child—*Parlor*
- 7:15 p.m. Covenant Choir—*Music Room*

Friday, March 27th

- 12:00 p.m. Noontime Open House—*Sanctuary*
- 7:00 p.m. Lenten Study—*Wilson's' Home*

Saturday, March 28th

- 9:00 a.m. Hymn Festival Rehearsal—*Sanctuary*
- 2:00 p.m. Community Open House—*Sanctuary*

Sunday, March 29th

—Lent V—

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service—*McBrier Chapel*
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education—*Assigned Rooms*
- 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class—*119*
- 9:30 a.m. Stephen Ministry Training—*Discovery*
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service—*Sanctuary*
- 5:00 p.m. Hymn Festival—*Sanctuary*
Festival Reception Immediately
following Hymn Festival—*Knox Hall*

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH, 2009
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

"Renewal in Worship"
Psalm 150 and John 4:1-26

REV. DR. DALE E. SOUTHORN

Our mission at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant: To awaken all people to their need for a life-changing encounter with the living Lord Jesus Christ, and encourage and equip each one to become His fully-devoted follower.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

Rev. Dale E. Southorn, D.Min., *Pastor*
Rev. Stephen E. Morse, *Parish Associate*
Steven Skinner, *Minister of Music and Worship*
Joseph Kumer, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*
Del VonVolkenburg, FPCBA, *Director of Administration*
Cheylan Fosmer, *Campus Minister*
Nick Hernandez, *Campus Minister*
Shirley Wilson, *Music Associate/Organist and Children*
Lisa Hiegel, *Director of Covenant Preschool*
Leanne A. Bentz, *Ministry Assistant*

Emily Anauo, *Bookkeeper*
Mary Cooper, *Secretary*
Chris Samler, *Building Engineer*
Shirley Albrecht, Jr., *Housekeeper*
Luba Kovalchuk, *Custodian*
Stephanie Johnson, Anne Sauer, and
Carol Skinner, *Nursery Attendants*
Helen Greider, Jackie K. Jones, Seph Kumer, *Hosts*
Richard Schraeder, *Kitchen Assistant*

The Congregation, *in ministry*
We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

FIRST COVENANT LIFE

Your church needs you! We believe every member has gifts to be used for the glory of God in the various ministries of our church. Please look over this list of committees and see if there is some area of ministry that you would enjoy assisting with. You may either call the elder directly, or give us your name (by filling out the form below and dropping it in the offering plate or bringing it to the church office) and we will contact you. You are invited to call even if you just have questions and want to know more about the ministry. Committee involvement is only a one-year-at-a-time commitment.

Budget & Stewardship	Elder Geoff Ginader, Chair 814-454-7691
Personnel	Elder Dick Decker, Chair 814-836-9108
Adult Education	Elder Lauren Fillmore, Chair 814-838-8529
College Education	Elder R.C. Griffin, Chair 814-454-4366
Youth Education	Elder Clint Messenger, Chair 814-452-1563
Children's Education	Elder Margaret Matthews, Chair 814-838-8991
Local Mission	Elder Dale Sweet, Chair 814-898-3417
Global Mission	Elder Marge Kibler and Joel Magee, Co-Chairs Marge: 814-835-1143 Joel: 814-899-0890
Evangelism	Elder Jean Blodien, Chair 814-864-9251
Membership	Elder Laurie LeSuer, Chair 814-455-2611
Music	Elder Marykay Stahl, Chair 814-864-8239
Worship Support	Elder Pat Tracy, Chair 814-864-6118

Additionally, the Ushers are seeking interested individuals to join them.

Ushers Elder Dale Sweet, Head Usher
814-898-3417

I am interested in serving on or gathering more information on the following committee: _____

____ I would like more information on the committee, please contact me.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

Email Address: _____

Comments: _____

*Please place completed form in the Offering Plate
or Return it to the Church Office*

FIRST COVENANT LIFE

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



Lenten Studies

- ★ There is still time (and room) for you to join a Lenten Study Group!
- ★ Choose a group from the list below, from the Bulletin Board under the clock outside the Library, or from the “Week Ahead” on the back of your bulletin.
- ★ Questions? Call Joseph Kumer in the church office, 456-4243 extension 204.
- ★ Available Small Groups include:
- ★ **Sundays, 4:45 p.m.** in the Church Parlor for women, hosted and facilitated by Lorie Fritts.
- ★ **Mondays, 7:00 p.m.** at the Clovers’ home (2690 Lakeside Drive) specifically for Parish 10, however anyone can attend. This group is hosted by Jerry and Jean Clover and facilitated by Barb Magee.
- ★ **Mondays, 7:00 p.m.** at the Sweets’ home (3527 Brierwood Drive) specifically for Parish 10, however anyone can attend. This group is hosted and facilitated by Dale and Sheila Sweet.
- ★ **Mondays, 7:00 p.m.** at the LeSuers’ home (650 West 7th Street) for everyone, hosted and facilitated by Bob and Laurie LeSuer.
- ★ **Tuesdays, 7:00 a.m.** in the Church Parlor for men, hosted and facilitated by Joseph Kumer.
- ★ **Wednesdays, 6:30 a.m.** at Perkins Restaurant (4403 Peach Street), facilitated by Allen Sheasley.
- ★ **Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m.** in the Church Parlor for everyone, hosted and facilitated by Pastor Dale Southern as a part of *Covenant Connections*.
- ★ **Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.** in the Church Parlor for retirees, hosted and facilitated by Phil Magnuson.
- ★ **Fridays, 7:00 p.m.** at the Wilsons’ home (4394 Magnolia Court) for everyone, hosted and facilitated by Dean and Shirley Wilson.



Angels 4 God

- ★ Circle of Angels 4 God will meet on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 in the Fidelis Room for lunch and a study.
- ★ Please bring your bag lunch, Bible, and inquiring mind and spirit.
- ★ Lauren Fillmore will continue to lead the study on the Gospel of Luke, “Jubilee!”.
- ★ All women of Covenant are cordially invited to attend!



Easter Flower Order Forms

Easter Flower Order Forms are available in the Welcome Center, the Church Office, or from an Usher.

For only \$7.50 each, members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant may purchase beautiful Easter flowers to adorn our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Then, we will distribute these plants to shut-in members to brighten their Easter.

Order forms must reach the Church Office by Thursday, April 2, 2009. (Sorry, but we cannot accept telephone orders.)