

Welcome!

Whether you are a long-time member, occasional worshiper,
or new visitor with us, we hope that in this service you will
encounter the living Christ and be strengthened
by God's promises for you.

Please visit our website at covenantpresstaunton.org to learn
more about our ministries and Covenant life together. We are
happy to have you as part of our church family today!

COVENANT CHURCH DIRECTORY

PASTOR..... John C. Peterson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR..... Rachel Watson
MINISTER OF MUSIC..... Jeffrey Ryman
ORGANIST..... Christopher Wszalek
HANDBELL DIRECTOR..... Alan Cameron
DEVELOPMENTAL PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR..... Mitzi White
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT..... Martha Pierce
FINANCIAL SECRETARY..... Debby Bibens
TREASURER..... Paul Sorrell
COVENANT NURSE..... Kathy Henderson
CUSTODIAN..... Cleo Holly

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Tom Bellamy	Sally Griffith	Katie Campbell
Tom Brooks	Clay Robinson	Frances Craig
Melissa Druff	Bob Stripling	Christy Davis
Jacki Dull	Janet Surratt	Kent Diduch
Donna Hamric	Linda Tenney	Troy Kurtz
Sam Hostetter	Dori Walk	Linda Owen
Kristen Lambert	Jane Wimmer	John Sayers



STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
WORSHIPING WITH JOY, GROWING IN FAITH, SERVING IN LOVE

JANUARY 25, 2026

10:30 AM

*As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship,
please silence any mobile devices.
This service is live streamed on YouTube.*

STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 27)

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation!

People: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives!

Leader: Be strong and let your hearts take courage!

People: We shall not fear, for the Lord our God is with us!

*HYMN No. 616.....LOBE DEN HERREN

Awesome God



2001 NORTH COALTER STREET
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
(540) 885-2138 FAX (540) 885-4399
MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 2948
STAUNTON, VA 24402

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that we fall short of your hopes and dreams for us. You call us to follow, but we do not listen and go our wayward ways. You call us to repent, but selfish pride keeps us from admitting our sins and changing our ways. You call us to fish for people, but we are more apt to fish for compliments. You call us to share your good news, but our tongues fall silent when we should speak. Merciful God, forgive us. Inspire us to hear your call, to respond faithfully, to share you good news joyfully, and to follow wherever you lead us. Lord, hear our prayer . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – Hymn No. 2143

O Lord, your tenderness, melting all my bitterness;
O Lord, I receive your love.
O Lord, your loveliness, changing my unworthiness;
O Lord, I receive your love.
O Lord, I receive your love; O Lord, I receive your love.

GROWING IN FAITH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING.....Pg. 618 of the Old Testament, Pew Bible
Psalm 25:4-5

SECOND READING.....Pg. 4 of the New Testament, Pew Bible
Matthew 4:12-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON.....JOHN PETERSON
“MINISTRY 101”

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (A Brief Statement of Faith “Jesus”)

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

*HYMN No. 726.....KELVINGROVE
The Summons

SERVING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

*HYMN No. 729.....African American Spiritual
Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

HYMN No. 616

Awesome God

**Our God is an awesome God
who reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love;
our God is an awesome God!**

HYMN No. 726

The Summons

**“Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown;
will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you
and you in me?”**

**“Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you
and you in me?”**

**“Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you
and you in me?”**

**“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch
and sound in you and you in me?”**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love
and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.**

HYMN No. 729

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

**Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart.**