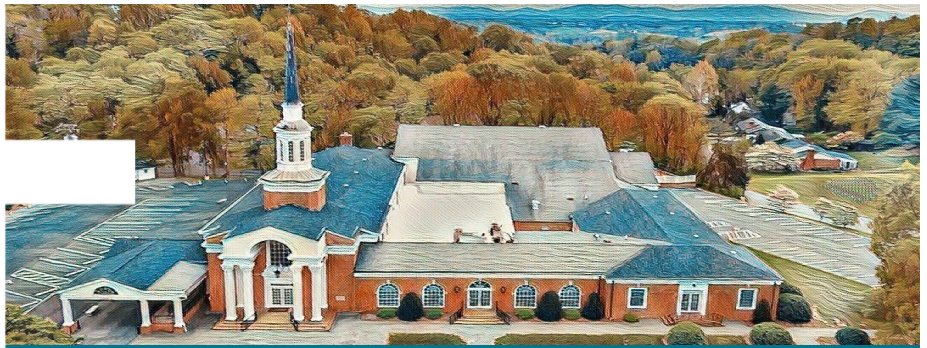


SEPTEMBER 23, 2024
STAUNTON, VA



COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



From the Pastor's Desk

In chapel with the preschool kids this week, I asked if they knew any birds. At first, I was pleasantly surprised at their responses: "A blackbird. A bluebird." But then reality set in as they continued: "A red bird. A green bird. A yellow bird." And I realized that for them, birds were simply identified by their colors – the blackbird was really a black bird, and the bluebird was a blue bird. It took awhile before someone volunteered, "pigeon," and then another suggested, "bluejay," and then another, "hummingbird." And finally, I was able to steer the conversation toward where I had hoped to go in the beginning – to the dove as a symbol of peace. I suppose had we made it to "white bird" I might have segued to "dove" but then again, I may have ended up with an egret or snowy owl!

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In our Christian tradition, the dove is a symbol of peace and of the Holy Spirit. The image of a dove graces the green pulpit cloth that the fabric artists in our congregation made for this season of Ordinary Time. The figure of a dove alights on our baptismal font as a reminder of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus at his baptism, the same Spirit present in our baptisms at that font. Thus, doves are front and center in our worship space – literally and figuratively – and peace should be front and center as well.

Last week we had Peter Egwudah, an international peacemaker from Nigeria, speak to us at the 8:30 service about his

(continued on page 3)

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG

Serving
GOD
Together



GREETERS

SEPT 29 -

8:30 AM....Leslie Burdick, Jacki Dull

10:30 AM....Melissa Druff

OCT 6 -

8:30 AM....Janice & Rae Rockwell

10:30 AM....**Volunteer Needed**

NURSERY (10:30 AM)

SEPT 29 – Kara Miller

OCT 6 – Cindy Bowman

COVENANT KIDS (10:30 AM)

SEPT 29 – **Volunteer Needed**

OCT 6 – **Volunteer Needed**

FLOWER COORDINATORS

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING

SEPT 29 — Bill Terry

OCT 6 — TBD



Monday Morning Bible Study

Join us on Mondays at 10:30 AM

We look at the text for the next Sunday's sermon. Come dive a little deeper into God's word, share your insights, and get a head start on the next sermon.

We meet **in person** in Room 6 **and** also offer this meeting **virtually** through Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting is sent out via opt-ins each Sunday.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HELPERS (age 14+) ARE NEEDED ON SUNDAYS DURING THE 10:30 SERVICE (10:00 during July/August)

These volunteer spots are for the second adult present to satisfy our Child Protective Policy.

SIGN UP FOR NURSERY:

<https://bit.ly/FallNurserySignUp>

SIGN UP FOR COVENANT KIDS:

(Sept. - mid May)

<https://bit.ly/CovenantKidsHelpers>

THANKS
from the
HEART

Many thanks for all your acts of kindness during our recent health dilemmas. You are certainly doers of the Word! We give thanks for the love that shone through your prayers, cards, food, hospital trips — your very presence in our lives.

— Carol & Bill Jennings

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (cont'd)

work in that corner of the world; on World Communion Sunday in October, we will receive the Peacemaking Offering that supports peacemaking efforts locally, nationally, and internationally. Peacemaking is at the heart of our calling as disciples of the risen Christ. "Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you," says Jesus. It is that peace we are called to share with the world – in word and action.

Our world is in desperate need of peace these days as violence surges in Ukraine, Gaza, the West Bank, Israel, Lebanon, and Sudan. Closer to home, political rhetoric has become increasingly volatile and divisive; in some political corners, working with the other party or seeking compromise is anathema. Peace is increasingly elusive! Are you a peacemaker who promotes peace among your friends, family, strangers, and enemies, or are you one who stirs the conflict? There seem to be far more voices calling for conflict, war, retribution, and violence than there are voices calling for peace and understanding. Might we be the voices that offer a peaceful alternative? As followers of Jesus, we are called to counter that narrative of conflict – to "seek peace and pursue it," to quote the psalm, to be channels of God's peace to paraphrase the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. In your work, your neighborhood, and home – among your family, friends, and colleagues – in person and online – seek peace! Be peacemakers! For in doing so, we faithfully follow Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace!



Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, October 4th.**

Please email Martha at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its stated meeting on September 15, the Session took the following actions:

- ◆ Approved purchase of a mixer for the sanctuary sound system to improve sound for livestreaming
- ◆ Approved a proposal for removal of the oak tree near the front parking lot
- ◆ Approved establishing a money market account to secure higher interest on some cash accounts
- ◆ Approved creation of a paid financial secretary position
- ◆ Adopted a challenge budget for 2025 of \$682,000
- ◆ Approved the choir's participation with two other choirs directed by Jeff Ryman for Rutter's *Requiem*
- ◆ Approved a carol sing in worship for the second Sunday in Advent



The next **Equal Exchange** Sale is **Sunday, October 6th.**

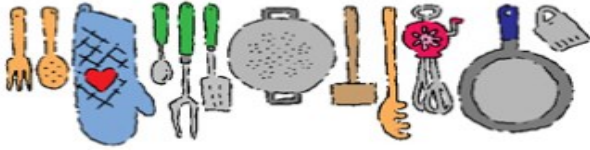
Available are:

- ◆ regular coffee for \$9
- ◆ decaf coffee for \$10
- ◆ tea for \$4
- ◆ dark chocolate for \$4

Make your purchase between the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM worship services and after the 10:30 service. You can place a pre-order by contacting 540-290-1089 or bettyandcliff@comcast.net.



Great Hall Kitchen Rules



The Fellowship Team has recently cleaned out and reorganized the Great Hall kitchen, so this is a great time for a refresher on the rules of the kitchen.

- ◆ **If you dirty something, clean it.**
We know everyone is tired and in a hurry after an event, but please be respectful and do your best!
- ◆ **If you use something, put it back.**
We have labeled everything to make it easy to find, but also to make it easy to put away.
- ◆ **If you bring something, take it.**
This includes non-perishable items, like plastic containers, paper plates, napkins, etc. Consider dropping them in the food pantry or Valley Mission boxes in the vestibule downstairs or use them at home. We know that everyone hates to be wasteful, but these items typically don't get used and end up being thrown away.
- ◆ **If you leave something, label it.**
It is preferable that you do not leave anything in the kitchen. But if you do, PLEASE label it with the date and indicate what it is for, such as "TOW" or "Donation for anyone to enjoy!" If it is not labeled, people will assume it belongs to someone else and it will not get used/eaten. Any item not labeled will be disposed of.
- ◆ **If something is needed for the kitchen or needs to be restocked, please write it on the whiteboard.**

Any questions or concerns, please contact Anne Bell at annebell4253@gmail.com or another member of the Fellowship team. Thank you for helping to keep the kitchen organized, neat, and tidy!

THANK YOU

The Fellowship Team would like to thank Anne Bell and Janet Surratt for their hard work cleaning out and reorganizing the Great Hall kitchen. This mother/daughter team worked numerous days to get this much needed task done! The kitchen looks great!

We still can!!

Come one and all to help can up some apples, make applesauce, and prepare the way for our Youth to finish the job the following day. What a great way to share our gifts with each other and our community. See schedule below and list of needs.



THE BIG CANNING EVENT

Saturday, October 12 ♦ 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Needed: 6-15 persons (any age), 60 regular mouth lids, apple corer/peeling devices, and donations of apples (arrange with Becky ahead of time).

Sunday, October 13 ♦ Noon to 4:00 PM

Youth Group Activity with Rev. Rae and Becky—Pizza lunch provided

Need more info? Contact Becky Wszalek at bwszalek@gmail.com



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

**Tuesday,
October 8
10:30 AM
Breezeway**

PW Fellowship kicked off with prayer, joy, and lunch on September 10. Linda Foster ably facilitated the first lesson of this year's Bible Study with Scripture and helpful, practical ideas for saving our environment as well as our time, money, and energy.

PW gathers next on October 8 when Peggy Roberson is facilitating a conversation about land justice as part of God's call on us to care for neighbors and all creation. We begin at 10:30AM in the breezeway.

There is no FUN without U!
Please join us!

**In happy moments, praise God!
In difficult moments, seek God!
In quiet moments, worship God!
In painful moments, trust God!
In every moment, thank God!**



This year we have even more connections with a variety of community groups, and as a congregation, we are more committed to responding to the needs of our neighbors. Support of the Shelburne food program as well as the Verona Pantry is constant and consistent, as are regular collections for Valley Mission. Covenant is well represented in helping with the Trinity lunch program, and we are a significant supporter of SACRA. We can't begin to list all the other projects and programs which have received generous support!

The needs in our community are great, from newcomers starting a new life in a new country to people whose old lives were disrupted and who must leave destructive ways behind after serving time in jail, to too many who are food insecure or housing deprived. Just have a look at this informative link: [ALICE In The Crosscurrents | United Way of Staunton, Augusta County & Waynesboro, Inc. \(unitedwaysaw.org\)](http://ALICE In The Crosscurrents | United Way of Staunton, Augusta County & Waynesboro, Inc. (unitedwaysaw.org))

The Outreach Team seeks to present opportunities for responding to God's Call as a Matthew 25 congregation. Also, we recognize a need to help understand our role as Jesus followers in response to so many requests. Join with Building Bridges for the Greater Good in collecting food and personal supplies for people who are without reliable shelter (see list below). Collection boxes will be available in the Narthex and the vestibule by the church office. Collection ends on Nov. 10th.



All donations will be distributed to the homeless population during the week of Thanksgiving.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING MONETARY DONATIONS:

Elaine Rose 540.448.6822

Please donate the following items that are tear-open or pop-top only:

- Prepackaged tuna/chicken pouches
- individual peanut butter cups
- Vienna sausages
- individual packs of crackers
- fruit cups
- pudding
- granola bars
- water/Capri Sun/juice boxes
- hand wipes, emergency blankets, and hand warmers
- plasticware
- and gallon-size Ziploc bags



Revealing >>> the <<< invisible



Create some invisible art and then reveal the seasonal design.

What you need:

- Leaves
- White paper
- White crayon (label removed)
- Watercolor paints
- Water
- Paintbrush



What you do:

1. Gather leaves of different shapes and sizes. On a table, arrange them flat without overlaps. Set the paper over them.
2. Hold the crayon sideways and use the long edge to color over the leaves. You'll make an invisible rubbing of them.
3. Then paint over the paper with watercolors. The areas with crayon will resist the paint and reveal the hidden leaf designs.



Children's Corner



ONGOING OUTREACH

Peanut Butter Sunday

First Sunday of Each Month

You can drop off your jar of peanut butter in the vestibule area outside the church office.

Fun Fact: On average you donate over 80 lbs. of food per week. That's a lot of peanut butter!

FILL THE BUCKET - HELP RESTOCK THE VERONA FOOD PANTRY

Help feed our neighbors in need! Donations may be dropped off in the **RED BUCKETS** located in the vestibule just outside the church office or in the Narthex.



1000 lbs. = a bench

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH PLASTIC BAGS

THANK YOU, COVENANT! We have kept over **3156 pounds** of plastic out of the landfills. **AND** we've provided benches to the Boys and Girls Club and Covenant Preschool. **We are now working towards a sixth bench!** Keep up the good work:

- Please make sure your bags are **CLEAN, DRY** and **FREE OF FOOD RESIDUE**.
- Plastic bags need to be stretchy. Look for a #2 or #4 recycling symbol (polyethylene films).
- You don't need to cut off zip tops or remove paper labels.
- Please no cellophane (as in snack bags) or metallic films (see nextrex.com for details)

WANT TO HELP? Volunteers are always needed to do the weekly weigh-in and take bags to Food Lion. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/3CzoJTW>

Questions? Contact Robyn Sommerfield at robynsommerfield@gmail.com



RESTOCK THE SHELburnE PANTRY

THE PANTRY HAS A CONTINUING NEED TO BE STOCKED!


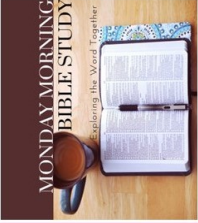





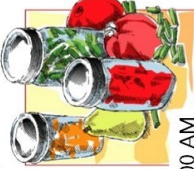
Donations needed are laundry and cleaning items, hygiene products, and foods such as canned vegetables, canned fruits, soups, and snacks. Please place your donations in the boxes outside the church office or in the Narthex.

Thank you for helping our community's children and their families!

SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	23 COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study	24 10:30 AM Act III Ministries	25 9:30 AM Yoga Class	26 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 8:00 AM Executive Team	28
29 4 CENTS A MEAL 8:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream 11:30 AM High School Youth 2:30 PM Fellowship Team	30 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study 	OCT 1 10:30 AM Act III Ministries 	2 9:30 AM Yoga Class 6:00 PM Together on Wednesday (TOW) 	3 5:45 PM Outreach Team 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 9:00 AM Newsletter Submission Deadline 6:30 PM Faith Explorers (Grades 2-5)	5 2:00 PM Blessing of the Animals 
6 PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream 11:45 AM High School Youth	7 COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study 5:30 PM Congregational Care Team 7:00 PM Facilities Team 7:15 PM Worship Team	8 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team 10:30 AM Act III Ministries 10:30 AM Presbyterian Women 5:30 PM Preschool Team	9 9:30 AM Yoga Class 6:00 PM Together on Wednesday (TOW) 	10 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 10:00 AM Novels & Needles Book Group  6:30 PM Middle School Youth	12 9:00 AM The Big Canning Event 



Fellowship Dinner Groups Begin Soon

How do dinner groups work?

- ◆ Groups are made up of eight people (singles or couples), *you don't have to be a church member to join a group.*
- ◆ Each couple/single will take turns hosting either at home, in a restaurant or other location
- ◆ The group divides up the work by each bringing a dish; host provides the main course.

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

Please sign up by completing the form below and returning it to the church office or by contacting Bruce at bruce-hemp@gmail.com or 540-294-2496. You may also sign up online at <https://forms.gle/TR4KQGozvARDSFSk8>. Registration deadline is Sunday, Sept. 29th.

FALL/WINTER DINNER GROUP SIGN-UP

Name of participants _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Check if you would like to be the first in your group to host.

Check if you would like to be a substitute.

If you have any food allergies or types of food you do not eat, please list:

We want your suggestions or comments:

Music Library Storage

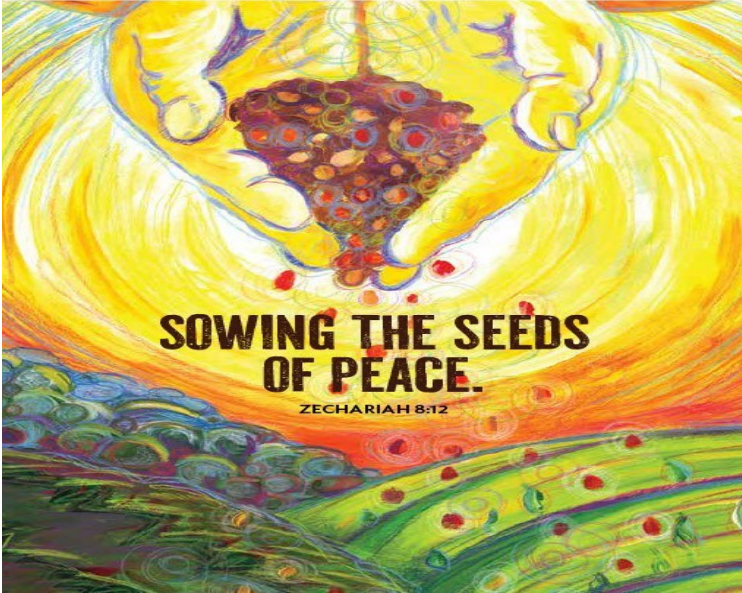


If you get a chance, stop by the Choir Room to see the new set of music library storage units that have been installed. Thank you Dan Drumheller, Clay Robinson, and Donald Splaun for doing the hard work of installing these huge and heavy units.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

October 6th



SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE.

ZECHARIAH 8:12

Our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering are helping our neighbors in need — those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe.

25%

of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25%

of this Offering goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region.

50%

of this Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Our neighbors need us. Please give what you can to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.


WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

Thank you!


WAYS TO GIVE


Through your congregation


Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/peace-global


Text PCUSAPEACE to 41444 or scan this QR code for more information.



COVER: SOWER OF THE SEEDS - ANNE ANDERSON - STUDIOANELL.COM

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs, 8:15AM - 3:15PM

FRI, 8:15AM - 12:15PM



MINISTERIAL & PROGRAM STAFF

John C. Peterson

Pastor

Rachel Watson

Associate Pastor

Jeffrey Ryman

Minister of Music

Christopher Wzalek

Organist

Lou Dolive

Handbell Director

Mitzi White

Developmental Preschool Director

Martha Pierce

Administrative Assistant

Paul Sorrell

Treasurer

Kathy Henderson

Covenant Nurse

Cleo Holly

Custodian

The Mission of Covenant Presbyterian Church is "Striving to be Faithful Disciples of Christ: Worshiping with Joy, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love."

Covenant Connection

is a publication of

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The newsletter is published bi-weekly to inform members and friends of church programs, news and events.

The Connection newsletter is online at

www.covenantpresstaunton.org.

COVENANT



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MATTHEW 25

*Striving to be Faithful Disciples of Christ:
Worshiping with Joy, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love*



God,
thank you that
by your power,
small things like seeds —
and faith —
**CAN GROW BIG
AND STRONG.**
Nurture my growth
in you always.
Amen.

**Save
the Date!**

**Together on Wednesday (TOW)
begins on Oct. 6th at 6:00 pm
for food, fellowship, and fun!
Watch for opt-in emails for
more details and sign-ups!**