

## 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](http://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..... Lou Dolive  
 DEVELOPMENTAL PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR..... Mitzi White  
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT..... Martha Pierce  
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY..... Debby Bibens  
 TREASURER..... Paul Sorrell  
 COVENANT NURSE..... Kathy Henderson  
 CUSTODIAN..... Cleo Holly

### SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Eileen Cooper	Cindy Bowman	Tom Bellamy
Chris Earhart	Brandon Cline-Taskey	Tom Brooks
Kristen Lambert	Mandy Drumheller	Melissa Druff
Sue Morley	Linda Foster	Jacki Dull
Roderic Owen	Joan Sayers	Donna Hamric
Sarah Splaun	Randy Smith	Sam Hostetter
Dan Summers- Minette	Seth Ward	David Stahl



# Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

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JANUARY 12, 2025

10:30 AM

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

### STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

PRELUDE.....Carter

*Here I Am, Lord*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....Huber

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

### WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 29)

Leader: The Lord reigns with majesty and might!

**People: The Lord reigns as king forever!**

Leader: May the Lord give strength to God's people!

**People: May the Lord bless God's people with peace!**

\*HYMN No. 634.....Crosby

*To God Be the Glory*



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STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, you love us, listen to us, and know us better than we know ourselves. Yet still we turn away from you and go our own way. We let the noise of the world drown out your voice. We allow the pace of our lives to keep us from doing your will. We are stubborn, hard-headed, and too often hard-hearted. God of compassion, forgive us. Bind up what is broken in us, and inspire us to live more faithfully, using our gifts in your service. Lord, hear our prayer. . . (silent confession) . . . Amen**

\*DECLARATION OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — Hymn No. 449,  
Alt. Tune: Old Hundredth

**Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love,  
and let your saving grace be near;  
when we return with open hearts  
the Lord speaks peace and we will hear.**

**GROWING IN FAITH**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE — Those who prefer their child(ren) not be on camera are welcome to have their child(ren) continue sitting with them during this time. *(Following the Children’s Message, children ages 3-1st grade are invited to exit the sanctuary for Covenant Kids.)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING.....Pg. 822 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible Isaiah 43:1-7*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 73 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible Luke 3:15-22*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON.....**JOHN PETERSON**

**“A FRESH START”**

MUSICAL REFLECTION

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *The Apostles’ Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy**

**Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

\*HYMN No. 623.....African American Spiritual  
*I’ve Got Peace like a River*

**SERVING IN LOVE**

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

Statement of Office  
Questions of Elders-Elect  
Questions of Congregation  
Prayer and Laying On of Hands  
Charge to Elders

HYMN No. 69.....Schutte  
*Here I Am, Lord*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER (...“sins”)

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM.....Schrader  
*Order My Steps*

PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 547.....FESTAL SONG  
*Go, My Children with My Blessing*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE.....Tomer  
*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

POSTLUDE.....Collinsworth  
*Siyahamba*

*(Please be seated for the Postlude or exit the sanctuary quietly while the Postlude is being played.)*

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

*Today we ordain and install Janet Surratt, Linda Tenney, and Dori Walk as ruling elders and install the following ruling elders who have been previously ordained: Sally Griffith, Clay Robinson, Bob Stripling, and Jane Wimmer.*

*The liturgy for today’s service is gleaned from the worship services written by our elders-elect as part of their elder training course.*

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*Children are always welcome in the Sanctuary during worship.  
Children’s worship folders are available in the Narthex.  
Should you find that your child grows restless, there is childcare available in the nursery for ages 3 and under.*

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*(Hymns and streaming used by permission One License A-715880)*

HYMN No. 634  
*To God Be the Glory*

*To God be the glory;  
great things he has done!  
So loved he the world  
that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life  
an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate  
that all may go in.*

*Refrain:  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;  
let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;  
let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father  
through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory:  
great things he has done!*

*Great things he has taught us;  
great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing  
through Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher  
and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport,  
when Jesus we see. (Refrain)*

HYMN No. 623  
*I've Got Peace like a River*

*I've got peace like a river;  
I've got peace like a river;  
I've got peace like a river,  
in my soul.*

*I've got peace like a river;  
I've got peace like a river;  
I've got peace like a river,  
in my soul.*

*I've got joy like a fountain;  
I've got joy like a fountain;  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
in my soul.*

*I've got joy like a fountain;  
I've got joy like a fountain;  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
in my soul.*

*I've got love like an ocean;  
I've got love like an ocean;  
I've got love like an ocean,  
in my soul.*

*I've got love like an ocean;  
I've got love like an ocean;  
I've got love like an ocean,  
in my soul.*

HYMN No. 69  
*Here I Am, Lord*

*I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?*

*Refrain:  
Here I am, Lord.  
Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?  
(Refrain)*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?  
(Refrain)*

HYMN No 547  
*Go, My Children with My Blessing*

*"Go, my children, with my blessing,  
never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,  
you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing,  
you are my own."*

*"Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you,  
what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story;  
here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure."*

*"Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving,  
joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you;  
here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
joyful and free."*