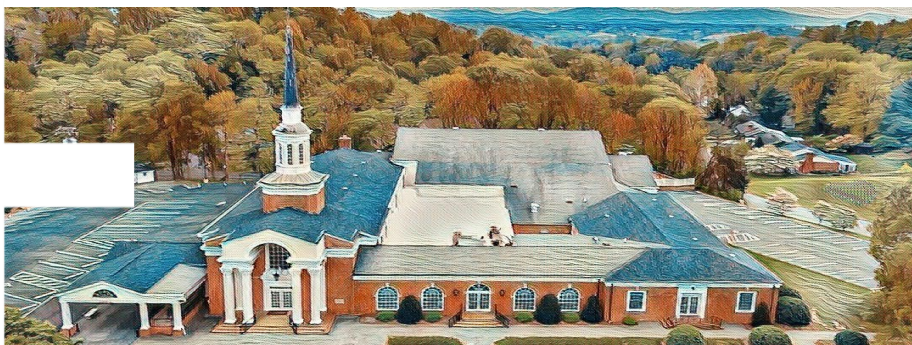


JANUARY 13, 2025
STAUNTON, VA



COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



From the Pastor's Desk

On Sunday we ordained and installed elders in the Class of 2027. In preparation for their service, they all wrote statements of faith which they shared with the Session on Saturday. Their charge was not to write **a** statement of faith but **their** statement of faith. Their statements embraced not only what they believe, but also the faith journeys that brought them to this point. We ask the same thing of our confirmands as they join the church – intentional reflection on what they believe.

What might your statement of faith look like, were you asked to write one? It might be helpful to include God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit there somewhere, but what would you say? Each week in worship we give voice to our faith through the words of a creed or confession of faith that was articulated by our ancestors in faith. Do their words accurately reflect the faith you hold? Or would you choose other words or images to express what you believe, what you trust to be true about the God who created, redeems, and sustains you? As elders who have served more than one term here will attest, faith grows over time; any statement of faith reflects only a snapshot of the faith you hold in that moment. New life experiences, new insights, and new doubts challenge and deepen faith along the way, and give rise to new ways of expressing that faith.

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VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG

Seeing
GOD
Together



GREETERS

JAN 19 -

8:30 AM....Dori & Steve Walk

10:30 AM....Sally & Jonathan Griffith,
Dan Drumheller

JAN 26 -

8:30 AM....Gary & Nancy Gourley

10:30 AM....Harry & Sarah Boney,
Melissa Druff, Marney Gibbs

NURSERY (10:30 AM)

JAN 19 - *volunteer needed*

JAN 26 - *volunteer needed*

COVENANT KIDS (10:30 AM)

JAN 19 - *volunteer needed*

JAN 26 - *volunteer needed*

FLOWER COORDINATORS

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING

January — Mike Riddell



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Children and Youth Protection Policy requires that we have two adults (present whenever we are working with kids. This helps keep our kids and our volunteers safe. We have a fantastic team of Christian Formation program leaders that work hard to prepare for our kids, but we simply cannot provide these programs without help. Volunteers are needed for Sunday School, Covenant Kids, Nursery, and Youth Group.

SIGN UP HERE:

<https://bit.ly/3Z80CXM>



THANKS
from the
HEART

The outpouring of love and kindness during Bill's illness and death was truly amazing. The meals prepared and delivered to our home were outstanding. Without a doubt, you made our journey much easier. Family members — both Jennings and Hall — are surely recalling the love and support that emanated from what we have come to know as our Covenant family.

— Carol Jennings

With Sympathy

Please keep in your prayers the family of Ruth Molony who passed away on January 8, 2025.

May God grant to Ruth eternal rest, and grant to her family comfort and peace.

Visitation will be at Covenant on Saturday, January 18 at 1:00 PM followed by the memorial service at 2:00 PM.

Ushers/Greeters Needed



Help is always needed!

If you are available at the 8:30 or 10:30 service, please sign-up at <http://bit.ly/3KPmamT>

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK *(cont'd)*

In this new year, consider taking a few moments to reflect on the faith you now hold; jot down two lists: 1) those things you believe wholeheartedly and 2) those questions or doubts you hold. Then consider how you might address those doubts or wrestle with those questions – perhaps attend a class or read a book that reflects on some of those same questions or doubts; talk with Rae or me or a trusted friend; try a new practice or find a new form of service; or take to God in prayer those

nagging doubts or questions that are present in this stage of your life and faith journey. For it is in wrestling with our doubts and questions that faith grows – sometimes slowly, sometimes in fits and spurts, sometimes in “aha” moments, sometimes in the embrace of a mystery that will never be fully explained. It is worth the questioning and wrestling with the doubts and making the journey of faith, for it is a journey we share as God's church in this place!



On Sunday, January 12, 2025, during the 10:30 service, we ordained and installed Janet Surratt, Linda Tenney, and Dori Walk as ruling elders and installed the following ruling elders who had been previously ordained: Sally Griffith, Clay Robinson, Bob Stripling, and Jane Wimmer.



As pictured from left to right: Pastor John Peterson, Clerk of Session Sam Hostetter, Jane Wimmer, Linda Tenney, Dori Walk, Janet Surratt, Bob Stripling, Sally Griffith, Clay Robinson, and Associate Pastor Rae Watson.

Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, January 24th.**

Please email Martha at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



Ice Skating Party



SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
2:00 - 3:30 PM

Generations Park, Bridgewater
Come skate or spectate!
Enjoy Cocoa & Cookies!
Skate Rentals - \$4.00

Sign up at: <https://bit.ly/3ZTH6JE>

The sign up will ask you to let us know if you will be skating or spectating.



MB MARY BALDWIN
UNIVERSITY

34th Martin Luther King, Jr.
Community Memorial Service

for Peace and Justice

In collaboration with the Staunton
branch of the NAACP

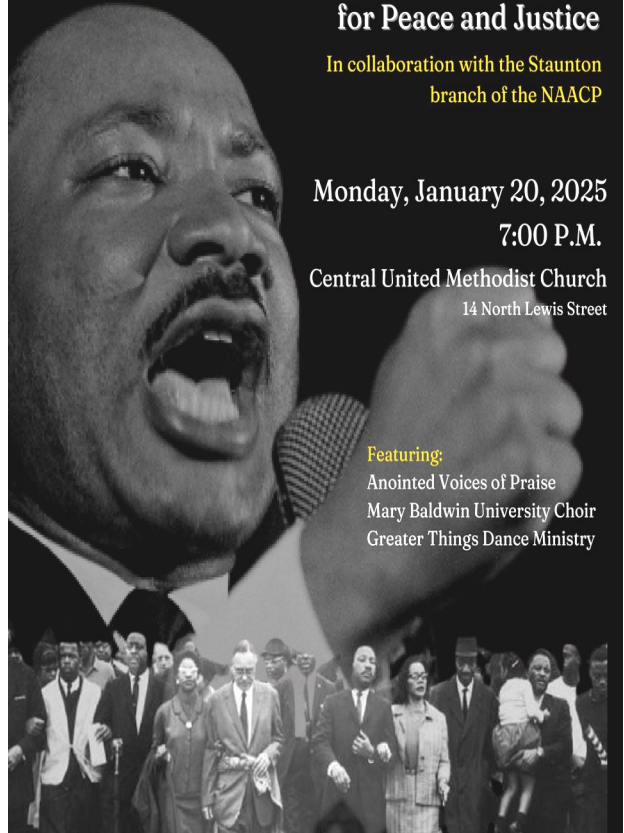
Monday, January 20, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Central United Methodist Church
14 North Lewis Street

Featuring:

Anointed Voices of Praise
Mary Baldwin University Choir
Greater Things Dance Ministry



The next **Equal Exchange** Sale is
Sunday, February 2nd.

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.





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 **3294 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 robysommerfield@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!

A Note from Rae



What do you need to feed your spirit and soul? What are you wondering about? What do you wish the church would talk about more? The Christian Formation team wants to hear from you. How can we help you grow and be formed in faith? What do you think are the essentials of faith formation for our younger disciples? Whether you are already participating in Christian formation classes and activities or are sure you never will, we want to hear from you. Click this link and fill out the (quick, I promise) form:

<https://forms.gle/iZB1GGgNmRLJfSWm9>



SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY

A COMMUNITY OF CHRIST FOR WORSHIP, NURTURE & MISSION

The fires in California have been destructive of homes and lives across the region. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working to help those impacted. If you would like to give to support their work, you can make checks payable to Covenant and marked: PDA - California fires, or visit the website below. Please keep in your prayers all the folks impacted, those ministering to them, and those fighting the fires.

For more information about how the PCUSA churches are affected and what you can do to help, click this link:

<https://www.pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/fires-rage-out-control-southern-california-affecting-churches-and-presbyteries>

Thank you to Rev. Bronwen Boswell, for sharing this information.

To make an online donation, click this link:

<https://pcusa.org/donate/dr000165-us-wildfires>





Children's Corner

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>13</p> <p>COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED</p> <p>10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30 PM Preschool Team</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM Yoga Class</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:30 AM Act III Ministries</p> <p>5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	
<p>19</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream</p> <p>11:45 AM CareGivers Group</p> <p>2:00 PM Ice Skating</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 AM Yoga Class</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:30 AM Act III Ministries</p> <p>5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 AM Newsletter Submission Deadline</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 4 Cents a Meal</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream</p> <p>11:45 AM Grief Support Group</p> <p>2:30 PM Fellowship Team</p>	<p>27</p> <p>COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED</p> <p>10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Christian Formation Team</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 PM Stewardship & Finance Team</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 AM Yoga Class</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30 AM Act III Ministries</p> <p>5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p>	





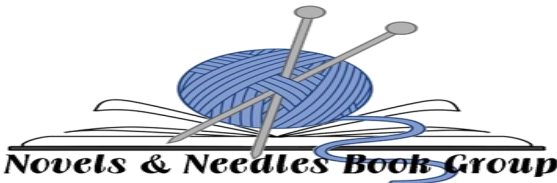
CareGivers will meet immediately after the 10:30 service on **Sunday, January 19th** in Room 5. Anyone caring for a loved one who would like to talk with others in similar situations is invited to come. For more information, please contact Ruth Arnold.



**Sunday, January 26th,
at 11:45AM in Room 5.**

With the holidays now behind us, the new year can present unique challenges in our grief journey. Whether your loss is recent or happened some time ago, all are welcome to share their feelings and experiences in a caring and supportive environment. Please join us as we explore ways to move forward with renewed hope in the days ahead.

We meet on the 4th Sunday of each month immediately after the 10:30 service. Contact Eileen Cooper if you have any questions.



Novels & Needles Book Club will meet at 10:00 AM on Friday, February 14th in the Breezeway with Sue Crave Rosen, discussion leader.

The book being discussed is *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell: A Novel*

by Robert Dugoni

Members are encouraged to bring their knitting or crocheting which could benefit the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

We also welcome those who do not knit or crochet.

Please join us!



Monday Morning Bible Study

Join us 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.



The weather outside is frightful!
Are church services or events canceled?
Want to know the answer?

Information is available via an opt-in email, through the Covenant Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Covenant-Presbyterian-Church-163891301309), on the home page of the church website (covenantpresstaunton.org), and on WHSV-TV.

If you are not on the opt-in email list and would like to be, please contact Martha in the church office at 540-885-2138.



"He's today's greeter."

TO OUR VISITORS

If you are interested in learning more about Covenant, our ministries, or membership, please call John Peterson at 540-885-2138.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mailing Address:

PO Box 2948, Staunton, VA 24402

Physical Address:

2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton

Office — 540-885-2138

Fax — 540-885-4399

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 Wszalek

Organist

Lou Dolive

Handbell Director

Mitzi White

Developmental Preschool Director

Martha Pierce

Administrative Assistant

Debby Bibens

Financial Secretary

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

Covenant Presbyterian Church.

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



Presbyterian
Church of America

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MATTHEW 25

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



Wrap us in your
warm love
this
wintery day,
O God,
as we call on
you and
praise your
holy name!