

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..... 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 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Cindy Bowman	Tom Bellamy	Sally Griffith
Brandon Cline-Taskey	Tom Brooks	Clay Robinson
Mandy Drumheller	Melissa Druff	Bob Stripling
Linda Foster	Jacki Dull	Janet Surratt
Joan Sayers	Donna Hamric	Linda Tenney
Randy Smith	Sam Hostetter	Dori Walk
Seth Ward	David Stahl	Jane Wimmer



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

FEBRUARY 23, 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..... Wood
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT..... The Covenant Ringers
As the Deer — Martin Nystrom

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 37)

Leader: Trust in the Lord and do good!

People: Take delight in the Lord, for the Lord is our God!

Leader: Wait patiently for the Lord, and keep to God's way!

People: The Lord is our refuge and our salvation. Praise the Lord!

*HYMN No. 399..... THEMBA AMEN

God Welcomes All



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 STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you ask hard things of us, and we confess that we are not up to the task. We do not love as you call us to love, serve as you call us to serve, pray as you call us to pray, live as you call us to live, forgive as you call us to forgive. We do too little good and too much harm. Forgive us. Inspire us to be merciful and loving as you are, to do to others as we would have them do to us, and to be a blessing to all our neighbors – and to you. Lord, hear our prayer. . . (silent confession) . . . Amen

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — Hymn No. 437

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

ANTHEM.....The Covenant Ringers
Exuberant Joy — Arnold Sherman

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. 728 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible Proverbs 10:12*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 78 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible Luke 6:27-38*

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

SERMON.....**JOHN PETERSON**
“THE GOLDEN RULE”

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. 435.....IN BABILONE
There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

SERVING IN LOVE

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

FOUR CENTS PER MEAL

BLANKET OFFERING

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....Larson
Lamb of God - Pam Ward, violin

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 432.....REPTON
How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE.....ENVIADO
The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

POSTLUDE.....Raney
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*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.*

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

HYMN No. 399
God Welcomes All

*God welcomes all,
strangers and friends;
God's love is strong
and it never ends.*

HYMN No. 435
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.*

*For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.*

HYMN No. 432
How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

*How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call
to live according to your word
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all
and will not let us fall.*

*But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind
and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care:
our inward life repair.*

*We marvel how your saints became
in hindrances more sure:
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure
your power to cleanse and cure.*

*In what you give us, Lord, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines or ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you:
the cross you hung upon,
all you endeavored, done.*