

## 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 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

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

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FEBRUARY 9, 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.....Martin

*Be Thou My Vision*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....GIVE THANKS

*Give Thanks*

### WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 138)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord with all your heart!

**People: God's steadfast love and faithfulness never end!**

Leader: Sing God's praises! Exalt God's name!

**People: Great is the glory of the Lord!**

\*HYMN No. 1.....NICAEA

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*



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STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that we are unholy people. We look but do not see; we hear but do not listen. We are slow to grasp your Word and slower still to follow you. We are too often distracted, disobedient, and even defiant disciples. Forgive us. Open our eyes, our ears, and our minds so that we may recognize you in our midst, discern your will, and follow faithfully where you lead us – even when that is hard! Merciful 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!***

**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. 778 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible Isaiah 6:1-13*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 16 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible Matthew 13:10-17*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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

**“CLOSED EYES, EARS, AND MINDS”**

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. 451.....Scott

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

**SERVING IN LOVE**

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

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....Gawthrop

*Trust in the Lord*

PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 450.....SLANE

*Be Thou My Vision*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE.....Tallis’ Canon

*Go With Us Lord*

POSTLUDE.....Hastings

*Prelude on Two American Folk Hymns*

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

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

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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. 1

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the  
glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and  
sky and sea.*

*Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

HYMN No. 451

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

*Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear.  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere.  
Open my heart, and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!*

HYMN No. 450

*Be Thou My Vision*

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;  
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*