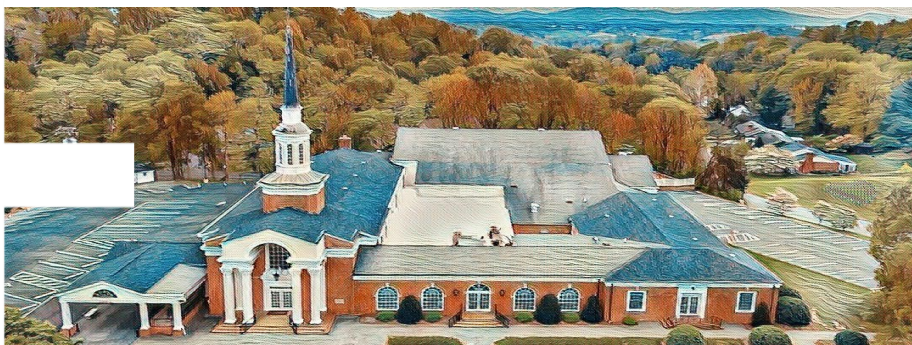


FEBRUARY 10, 2025
STAUNTON, VA



COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



... and what does the LORD
require of you but to
DO JUSTICE, and to
LOVE KINDNESS, and to
**WALK HUMBLY WITH
YOUR GOD?**

Micah 6:8, NRSV

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From the Pastor's Desk

At its retreat in January, the Session identified three priorities for the coming year. Briefly stated they are:

- ◆ **Grow our faith** through increased participation in new and existing opportunities in Christian Formation
- ◆ **Serve our community**, including identifying a significant Matthew 25 project and resourcing it appropriately
- ◆ **Spread the Word** by developing and implementing a communication plan that tells our story within and outside the church

These priorities are driven by strong verbs reflecting our commitment to be an active church that follows Jesus' Great Commission to go and make disciples and Micah's charge to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

The first priority builds on our work to expand Christian Formation beyond Christian Education. Christian formation seeks to form disciples through experiences of worship, fellowship, service, and learning. Its focus is on how we grow into our calling as Jesus' disciples, a process that continues across our whole lives as the world changes and we change. What might you do or give up doing in order to be a more faithful disciple?

The second priority seeks to expand our outreach to the community, specifically around commitments to the

(continued on page 3)

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG

Sewing
GOD
Together



GREETERS

FEB 16 -

8:30 AM....Jeanne & Mick Lambert

10:30 AM....Harry & Sarah Boney,
Janet Surratt

FEB 23 -

8:30 AM....Jeanne & Mick Lambert

10:30 AM....Jim Britton, Dan Drumheller,
Janet Surratt

NURSERY (10:30 AM)

FEB 16 – Katherine Bowman

FEB 23 – TBD

COVENANT KIDS (10:30 AM)

FEB 16 – Jacki Dull

FEB 23 – Anne & Gus Bell

FLOWER COORDINATORS

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING

February — Paul Sorrell

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>

TO OUR VISITORS

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



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>



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.

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

Matthew 25 initiative: address issues of congregational vitality, systemic poverty, and structural racism. We will continue to do the good work that we are doing in our community and beyond, but we will also look for new possibilities to address those challenging Matthew 25 initiatives that focus on the systems and structures of societal problems and our collective response to them. Where do you see new possibilities for us to address these issues in our community?

The third priority is a variation on the E-word that Presbyterians tend to utter only in a whisper – EVANGELISM. We are called to share the good news with one another and with the world, and this year we hope to be more intentional about sharing what we are doing as Christ's church in this place and inviting others to participate. Telling the story includes our individual stories but also our collective story, and that telling takes many forms including expanded use of technology, social media, and pictures. What is the story that you have to tell of what God is doing in and through us here at Covenant?

Keep your eyes and ears open in the coming months for more about these foci in our congregational life and opportunities for you to participate, for these priorities are all about faithfully being Christ's church in this place – together!



Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, February 21st.**

Please email Martha at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com

With Sympathy

Jeannette Homes,
our oldest living Covenant member,
died on January 25, 2025
at her home at the age of 103!

Please keep in your prayers Jeannette's children, Alan and Lynn, and their family. May God grant Jeannette eternal rest and grant to her family comfort and peace.

We are all saddened by the tragic loss of life in the airplane crash in Washington, DC on January 29th. In addition to the families of all the victims, please keep in your prayers Sarah and Don Splaun and their family as Sarah's nephew, Peter Livingston, his wife, and two daughters were aboard the plane and were killed in that crash. May God grant them eternal rest and grant comfort and peace to Sarah, Don, their family, and all those families grieving today.





CHRISTIAN FORMATION

RACHEL WATSON • (540) 885-2138
revrachelwatson@gmail.com

There is a place for everyone in Christian Formation with classes for our adults, youth, and children happening on Sunday morning and all week long! Come grow in faith with us!

Christian Formation Links are at the Covenant website:

www.covenantpresstaunton.org/christian-formation-opportunities/

A NOTE FROM RAE —

Together on Wednesday will begin on February 19. For the first two weeks, it will be followed by a time of Sacred Playtime in the sanctuary. This is a worship time specifically designed for active intergenerational engagement with the liturgy. In other words, we are going to play with the liturgy in ways that depend on, value, and engage people of all ages in theological conversation and wonder.

During the two sessions, we will begin to explore the theology of Christian formation - how we are formed by God, how we are formed by our foundations in faith, and how formation in the faith is a lifelong process. During the first session - Dust, Clay, and the Imago Dei - we will explore how we are formed by God who knows us just as we are meant to be in this diverse and creative world. The second session - Sand, Stone, and Beloved Community - we will explore the way that Jesus formed disciples across the lifespan in his ministry then and now.

These are not just for kids or just for adults - **these sessions are designed for people of all ages** to engage their imagination in worship and play. Bring your kids and your parents and let's learn, grow, and worship together.

The worship playtime will begin at 6:45 PM in the sanctuary.

The Together on Wednesday fellowship dinner will precede it at 6:00 PM. You are encouraged to come for the dinner and stay for the worship, but you can also come for the worship time only. We will be done by 7:30 PM in order to get kiddoes home and in bed at a reasonable hour.

Children's & Youth Sunday Christian Formation

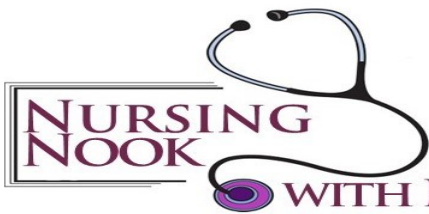
Nursery | Birth - Age 3 | 9:30-11:45AM | Nursery
Growing in God's Word | Age 3-Grade 6 | 9:30 - 10:15AM | Education Wing
Follow Me | Grades 7-12 | 9:30 - 10:15AM | Youth Room
Covenant Kids | Grades PK-1 | 10:45-11:15AM | Covenant Kids Chapel

Children's & Youth Fellowship

Faith Explorers | Grades 2-5 | 6:30 - 8:00PM | First Fridays | Great Hall
Middle School Manna | Grades 6-8 | 12:00 - 1:30 PM | 1st Sundays | Great Hall |
High School YOUTH | Grades 9-12 | 12:00 - 1:30 PM | Typically Third Sundays | Great Hall

Adult Christian Formation

Follow Me: Discipleship Study | Sundays | 9:30 - 10:15AM | Fellowship Hall
Monday Morning Bible Study | Mondays | 10:30 - 11:30AM | Room 6 and via Zoom
Presbyterian Women | Second Tuesdays | 10:30AM - noon | Breezeway
Act III Older Adult Ministry | Thursdays | 10:30AM - noon | Chapel



Kathy Henderson, RN • (540) 290-6396
covenantnurse@gmail.com
Contact Kathy with medical questions or
for a blood pressure check.

Wash your hands: Flu is everywhere!

“We are continuing to see a VERY high census ... around 30 patients more than average, (with) a large percentage of this jump related to increase in FluA cases. Please, please encourage folks to do cold and flu hygiene” an Augusta Health spokesperson said late last week.

The week before that, 230 Central Shenandoah residents tested positive at regional emergency room and urgent care centers, the Virginia Department of Health reported. Nationally, the CDC says, at least 20 million cases – and 11,000 deaths – have occurred during the current flu season.

At-home flu tests (which work much like Covid-19 at home tests) are available in local pharmacies, and cost \$10-\$20 each. “If you test positive, you’ve got it,” says Honest RX pharmacist Matt Garner, while cautioning that a negative result is not always accurate. Local pharmacies and physicians’ offices also perform flu tests.

What to do to avoid the Flu? Clean your hands often! Wear a mask. Take care of yourself by sleeping and eating well! And, for Heaven’s sake, if you haven’t already done so, get your flu shot!

If you cannot easily find hand sanitizer or masks at church, let me know.



\$10,150 may not buy a new car anymore but it sure goes a long way as a donation.

Can you imagine the amount of food distributed at the Verona Food Pantry, Chromebooks for EVACE, boxes of nails for Habitat, school uniforms at ICARE, or piping at Decapolis were purchased with that \$10,150?

These organizations and the people they serve cannot begin to thank you enough for your generosity!



HOST & HELPERS NEEDED

For each TOW, we need one host and two helpers to assist with clean up.

February 19 & 26 - Each week, we will need one person (or a team if you want to sign up together) to host the dinner for us. (You may choose to cook the meal or arrange catering and be reimbursed for the costs.) The hosts come a little early and make sure that everything is set up, the food gets prepared, and makes a salad. Also needed are two people to assist with clean-up. ***We also need people to sign-up to bring deserts.***

March 5 through April 9 - TOW will be serving soups during the Lenten season. We need five (5) crockpots of soup with one being a vegetarian option each Wednesday. TOW begins at 6:00 pm so please have your soup in the Great Hall 15 minutes prior. Hosts are responsible for bringing salad and bread and helping with set up and clean up. Hosts will be notified about how many people rsvp'd and will be reimbursed by the TOW fund.

If you have any questions, contact Seth Ward at wardsi4966@marybaldwin.edu

Sign up at:

<https://bit.ly/4hgM28f>

or call the church office
(540-885-2138).



Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the Great Hall

February 19 & 26:

Menu is Host's Choice

March 5 - April 9:

Menu is Soup, Salad, & Bread

Make a reservation by noon on the Monday before the TOW you plan to attend so we know how many to prepare to feed.

Sign up online at

<https://bit.ly/4jBxYYQ>

OR sign the Friendship Pad on Sunday

OR contact the church office
at 540-885-2138.



At 7:00 pm after TOW beginning on March 5, join us for Lenten Taizé Worship Services in the Sanctuary.



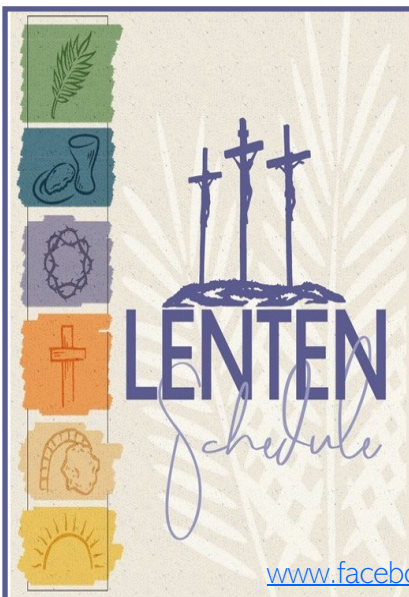
BLANKET THE
WORLD IN
love

CWS Blanket Sunday

"And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God."
- 2 CORINTHIANS 9:11

Please Remember to Support the Annual Blanket Fund on Sunday, February 23, 2025

Few things give more comfort and consolation than a warm blanket. Church World Service has a long-standing program which quickly responds to disasters all over the world, including our own country, and continues to meet emergency needs as well as the long-term demands of rebuilding shattered lives and communities. Please help the Presbyterian Women reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ in their time of need. A \$10 donation provides one blanket. Look for an offering envelope in the worship bulletin on February 23rd. *No donation is too small.* If writing a check, please make it payable to *Covenant Presbyterian Church* and indicate Blanket Fund in the memo section.



Ash Wednesday Service in Sanctuary (no live stream)
Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 PM

Lenten Taizé Service in the Sanctuary (no live stream)
Each Wednesday March 12 through April 9 at 7:00 PM

Palm Sunday Services in the Sanctuary:
Sunday, April 13 at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM (live streamed)



Maundy Thursday Service in the Sanctuary
Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 PM (live streamed)

Easter Services in Sanctuary:
Sunday, April 30 at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM (live streamed)

Live streams can be viewed at

www.facebook.com/Covenant-Presbyterian-Church-163891301309/videos/

FEBRUARY

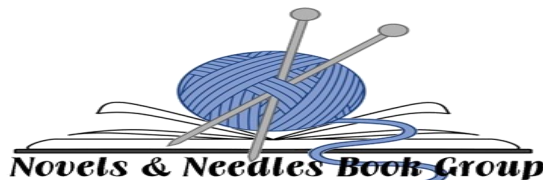
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p></p> <p>Love one another. 1 JOHN 4:7</p>	<p>10 COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study 7:00 PM Personnel Team</p>	<p>11 5:30 PM Preschool Team 7:00 PM Stewardship & Finance Team</p>	<p>12 9:30 AM Yoga Class</p>	<p>13 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day  God is LOVE! <small>1 JOHN 4:7-10</small> 9:00 AM Executive Team 10:00 AM Novels & Needles Book Group</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream 11:45 AM CareGivers Group 11:45 AM High School YOUTH 7:00 PM STATED SESSION MEETING</p>	<p>17 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study</p>	<p>18 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team 10:30 AM Presbyterian Women</p>	<p>19 9:30 AM Yoga Class 6:00 PM Together on Wednesday (TOW) 6:45 PM Sacred Playtime for All Ages</p>	<p>20 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 9:00 AM Newsletter Submission Deadline</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 4 Cents a Meal Blanket Sunday 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream 11:45 AM Fellowship Team 11:45 AM Grief Support Group</p>	<p>24 COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study 7:00 PM Christian Formation Team</p>	<p>25 9:30 AM Presbytery Meeting via Zoom</p>	<p>26 9:30 AM Yoga Class 6:00 PM Together on Wednesday (TOW) 6:45 PM Sacred Playtime for All Ages</p>	<p>27 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>MAR 1</p>



NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday,
February 18th,
10:30 AM in the
Breezeway

Come join the women of the church on February 18 at 10:30 AM in the Breezeway. *This is a change from our regular meeting date due to the inclement weather forecast for Feb. 11.* Mary Ann Stripling is facilitating a conversation focusing on what Scripture has to say about the air we breathe!

The Church World Service Blanket Campaign is an annual event at Covenant. This year flyers and donation envelopes will be in bulletins on February 23. Please be generous for the need is great and every gift — large or small — makes a difference. Look in the newsletter for more information about this Presbyterian Women's project.



Novels & Needles Book Group

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!



CareGivers will meet immediately after the 10:30 service on **Sunday, February 16th** 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, February 23
at 11:45AM in Room 5.

We meet on the 4th Sunday of each month immediately after the 10:30 service.

Please join us as we continue to explore goals for the year ahead. Our group offers a welcoming and safe space to share, connect, and support each other.

We hope to see you there!
Please contact Eileen Cooper if you would like more information.



Sanctuary Flower Sign-Up

Thank you to all those who provided lovely flowers to beautify our sanctuary during 2024. It's a new year and we have Sundays in 2025 available. To provide flowers in memory or in honor of someone, or just to decorate the sanctuary, sign-up online by going to <https://bit.ly/3MD9wX0> Now is the time to reserve that special Sunday! You can also sign-up by calling Christy Davis (540-290-8493) or Susan Polly (540-292-2837). Please sign up at least two weeks before your desired date. To-do list after signing up:

- ◆ Place an order for flowers from a florist of your choice. Please do not have them bill the church. The florist will deliver your order the Saturday before your reserved Sunday.
- ◆ Email Martha with your flower note for the bulletin on Monday or Tuesday before your reserved date.
- ◆ Please take the flowers with you after the service. If you wish to leave flowers, they will be used the following Sunday if no one has signed up.

THANKS
from the
HEART

Many thanks to all who contributed to Martha's Meals on Wheels in honor of Bill Jennings. When he was in better health he and Carol teamed-up and delivered meals — and what a joy it was!

— Carol Jennings

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



MATTHEW 25

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



*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.



Spring Clean-Up
Saturday,
April 5
9:00 AM