

A new year offers . . .

The opportunity for a fresh start. This new year we have fresh opportunities for you to dive into the Scriptures, wrestle with questions of faith and practice, and engage in thoughtful discussion about our place in the world and God's place in our lives. Within these pages you will find a host of possibilities that will enrich your faith, possibilities that will be enriched by your participation! Make a New Year's resolution to join us on this journey in 2018!

 — John Peterson



TOGETHER ON TOW WEDNESDAY

Each evening begins in the Great Hall

6pm - Circle time for sharing joy & concerns

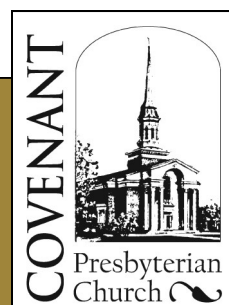
Followed by Dinner

Suggested donation: Adults \$5; Children \$2

Childcare is provided

Beginning January 17, 2018

Covenant Presbyterian Church
2001 N Coalter Street
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 885-2138
Fax (540) 885-4399
www.covenantpresstaunton.org



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Spring 2018

*All your children will be taught by the Lord,
and great will be their peace.
Isaiah 54:13*

ADULTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30am

ADULT II

In January, we will continue studying and discussing **Searching for Happiness** by Rev. Martin Thielen. The author describes how generosity, faith, and other spiritual factors can lead to a full life. Happiness, he writes, is an *inside* job. In February, we will begin studying and discussing **Belief** by Dr. Francis Collins. Rabbi David Wolfe writes, "**Belief** is more than an anthology; it is a provocation, a brilliant, wide ranging, and powerful series of readings on the possibilities, problems, and mysteries of faith." The publisher writes, "Is there a God? This is the most central and profound questions that humans ask. With the New Atheists gaining a loud voice in today's world, it's time to revisit the long-standing intellectual tradition on the side of faith. Francis Collins, *New York Times* best-selling author of **The Language of God** defends the reasons for faith in this provocative collection."

Location: Room 6

Led by: Richard & Donna Esther

CURRENT EVENTS WITH A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

This spring the class will continue our congregational study of the impact of poverty on children by reading and discussing a book that offers insights into the reality of poverty and the challenges it offers to our nation, our world, and our church. Location: Fellowship Hall

QUESTIONS CLASS (Sundays, April 8 - May 20)

Can't commit to every week? This is a drop-in class dealing with questions/ concepts of our faith journeys. New discussions will include:

- ◆ How do you imagine Jesus when you consider him?
- ◆ What matters more: to be a Christian or act like one?
- ◆ What would you include in a list of what makes a Christian lifestyle?

Location: Breezeway

Led by: Various

INQUIRERS (January 7, 14, 21)

What is a Presbyterian? Who is Covenant? Is there a place for me here? Bring your questions and join us in exploring the faith and practice of Presbyterians and life here at Covenant. This class is especially for those who are considering joining us or who have recently joined Covenant.

Location: Room 5

Led by: John Peterson

LENTEN JOURNEY (Sundays, February 18 - March 25)

Lent is a season for penitence and self-examination, a time to pray, read God's Word, and listen for God's voice. Through these forty days we will join together each Sunday for a Bible study that will focus upon this spiritual journey we share on the road to the cross and empty tomb.

Location: Room 5

CHILDREN

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30am

This year, we will be using the *Walk with Me* curriculum for elementary-age students. This curriculum uses Bible stories to teach about God's love, promises, and desired response from us.

Toddler and Pre-K (Blue Room)

Led by: Joan Sayers, Katie Campbell, Susie Oberg, & Rebecca Allison

K and 1st Grade (Yellow Room)

Led by: Kristin Siegel, Ellen Lucius, Elissa McDonald, & Dan and Mandy Drumheller

2nd and 3rd Grade (Green Room)

Led by: Bill & Janey Terry

4th and 5th Grade (Room 2-Upstairs)

Led by: Cora Leigh Clark, Diana Bohart, Kevin & Kathlynn Luebke-Brown

INFANTS

Nursery is provided for babies through 18 month olds during the Sunday School hour by Nursery Caregivers and Huggers & Helpers.

GODLY PLAY

Squirming in the pews? September through May after the Children's Message in the 10:30 service, children ages 4 through 1st grade are invited to an active worship experience. Bible stories will be taught through song and interactive storytelling.

Location: Room 3

Led by: Grace Melvin, Amanda Campbell, Kent Diduch, Jessica Herr, Michele Kielty & Laura Lawson

ALPHA CHOIR

The Alpha Choir is for children in K, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades. Their rehearsals are before Sunday School at 9:10-9:30am. At 9:30am they will go to their Sunday School classes.

The Alpha Choir will sing on the second Sundays of the month.

Location: Choir Room

Led by: Joan Swift & Mike Riddell

OMEGA CHOIR

The Omega Choir is for children in 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th grades. Their rehearsals are the 1/2 hour immediately following the 10:30am Sunday services. The Omega Choir will sing on the fourth Sundays of the month.

Location: Choir Room

Led by: Joan Swift & Bonnie Powell

YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30am

- ◆ Did Jesus know that he was the Son of God when he was a child?
- ◆ What if we never have a "mountain-top experience?"
- ◆ Does God let bad things happen to us today just so we can later experience God's grace?

The youth (grades 6-12) will be using Rebecca Kirkpatrick's book, *100 Things Every Child Should Know Before Confirmation*, as a guide for lessons and discussion.

Location: Senior High Room Led by: Lee Clark, Darlene Schneck, Tom & Vicki Bellamy, Debbie Melvin & Laura Lawson

HIGH SCHOOL COFFEEHOUSE

Meeting to talk about life, faith, and the Bible. Small service opportunities will be included! September through May, Sundays from 6:00 to 7:00pm in Laura Lawson's office.

FIRED UP FRIDAYS

WHO: 2nd - 8th Graders

WHAT: Bible Study, Service Project, and Soccer Darts

WHEN: 3rd Fridays, 6:00 to 8:00pm
(check-in begins at 5:45)

WHERE: Check-in outside of the Great Hall

WHY: Gettin' fired up about faith!

YOUTH GROUP

First Sundays of the month from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

Location: Senior High Room

Led by: Laura Lawson

LENTEN TAIZÉ WORSHIP -

The Taizé community in France is an ecumenical monastic order devoted to peace and justice through prayer and meditation. Thousands of pilgrims, mostly young, travel to Taizé each year to participate in and worship with the community.

Taizé worship is structured around prayer, scripture, silence and music. The music (much of which can be found in our hymnal) is purposefully repetitive, using simple phrases drawn from the Psalms or other scriptures. The repetition is designed to encourage meditation and prayer.

The deeply meaningful worship style of this community has spread world-wide. At Covenant, we offer a Taizé-style worship service each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm during Lent (beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018). We invite our Covenant family and all members of the Staunton community to make this weekly worship part of your Lenten practices.