



Covenant Connection

February 19, 2018 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2-21

TOW - Together on Wednesday
Taize Service

2-24

STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING

2-25

Confirmation Class
Open Gym
High School Coffeehouse

2-26

Monday Morning Bible Study

2-28

TOW - Together on Wednesday
Taize Service

3-4

Confirmation Class
Fellowship Team
Skating at Funky's
YOUTH Group

3-5

Monday Morning Bible Study
Congregational Care Team
Facilities Team
Worship Team

3-7

TOW - Together on Wednesday
Taize Service

Connect with the Pastor . . .



Another month, another shooting – Columbine, Virginia Tech, Charleston, Sandy Hook, Parkland, FL. It is an all too familiar refrain in our nation. For a day or perhaps a week the news is filled with pictures and stories of the victims and survivors of yet another episode of gun violence. Families weep, communities mourn, politicians rant, flowers are strewn. All proclaim to be praying for the families and communities torn apart by the violence, but nothing seems to change except the location of the pain. How shall we respond as disciples of the risen Christ?

Perhaps a starting point in this season of Lent is to repent of our sins – the sin of indifference to the pain of others (pain that endures long after the cameras are gone), the sin of inaction that tolerates the status quo (as if the problem will resolve on its own), the sin of idolatry with respect to guns (memorialized in the bumper sticker brilliantly quoted in the movie *Men in Black*: “You can have my gun when you pry it from my cold, dead hand.”). Perhaps too we might confess our lack of faith that puts more trust in guns than in God’s call to

This season of Lent, we might recommit ourselves to making a difference.

(Continued on page 3)

Special Update

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. — Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Meet New Member - Ruth Molony



Ruth Molony joined the church family on January 21, 2018 by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro. She is married to Joe and they reside at The Legacy.

Ruth grew up in Clifton Forge, VA. She attended Mary Baldwin, and has lived in Staunton and Waynesboro. She has been blessed with two daughters, two step sons and 12 grandchildren. She first met John Peterson while volunteering at Hospice. She enjoys quiet evenings reading.

There are some big (and exciting) changes ahead for me and my family. For the past two years, my friend Raphael and I have been courting, and we have now agreed that we wish to settle down as husband and wife. Our families (including both my American AND Nigerian parents) have given their blessings. Though our courtship began two years ago, we have been friends for almost ten years. Over that time, Raph has played the role of adopted uncle to my children. His love for me and my love for him grew out of our mutual love for the children

and a calling to be God's hands and feet to these children. We had a beautiful friendship that we both fell in love with.

Though there will inevitably be some changes, and we are yet to see how all of the details



are going to work out, we are seeking God's guidance as we move forward, as we are both committed to continuing to be involved with Ministry of Mercy and being part of Liebenzell's work in Nigeria.

We thank you for your prayers for us as we seek to build a marriage and a family that will be a Christ-light to a broken, hurting world.

*"When I found the one I love, I held him and would not let him go..."
Song of Solomon 3:4a*

— From Faith's heart

Taken from Crystal Gosnell's Newsletter



Connect with the Pastor ... Cont'd

love one another, our lack of love toward those at the margins of society (especially those with mental or emotional illnesses) from which the shooters so often come, our tepid prayers that we don't really believe will make a difference. And perhaps in this season of Lent we might recommit ourselves to making a difference for those in pain, for those at the margins, and for the children of the future who should not have to worry about becoming a victim! Try praying fervently and frequently this Lent. Take action for a more just society this Lent. Reach out to those who are isolated this Lent. Prayer is not an alternative to action – prayer and action walk hand in hand. May God walk hand in hand with us as we pray and work toward a more peaceful, just, loving community, no longer dependent on guns, but wholly dependent on God, our rock and our Redeemer!

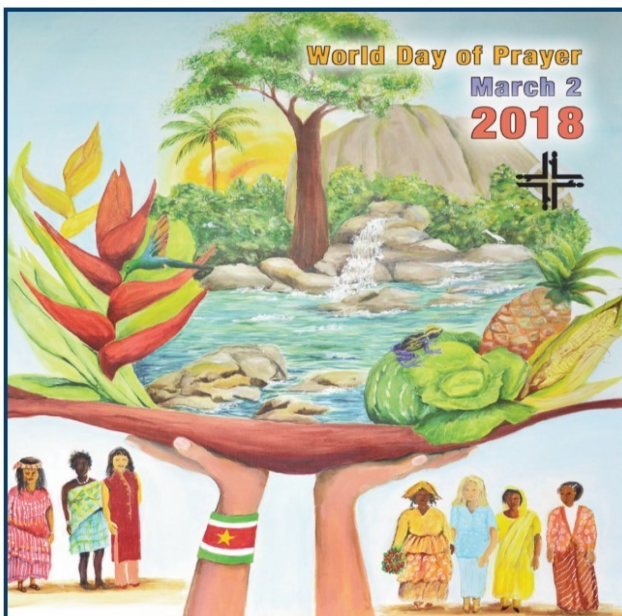
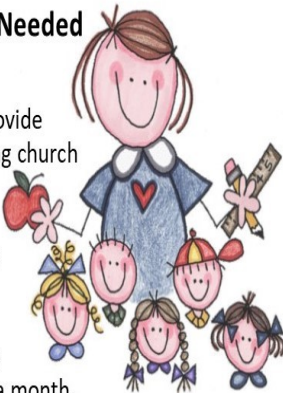


Church Nursery Caregivers Needed

Covenant Presbyterian Church is seeking a Nursery Caregiver to provide care for infants and toddlers during church services on three to four Sunday mornings a month from 8:15am to 12:00pm, occasional mid-week activities on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, as well as for special events. Caregivers are also needed for one or more Sundays a month.

Applicants must have transportation and agree to a criminal background check. Caregivers should have CPR and/or First Aid training *or be willing to take classes*. Must be 18 or older. Compensation \$12 - \$16 per hour. Our nursery staff provides a happy, active, healthy environment reflecting the love of Christ.

For more information, contact Covenant Presbyterian Church, 540-885-2138 or email covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

"World Day of Prayer"

Friday, March 2, 2018

Augusta Street United Methodist Church

325 North Augusta Street, Staunton, VA

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Registration and refreshments at 9:30am

Program begins at 10:00am

Please join the Church Women United of Staunton as we celebrate with women around the world the program and prayers composed by our sisters across the sea.

Please keep in your prayers:

*Earl Chittum and his family
on the death of his sister,
Pauline Austin at the age of 95,
on February 5th.*

*Peggy Roberson and her family
on the death of her brother,
Neill McGeachy, on
February 9th.*

Candolences

Spring Clean up

Join the Facilities Team as we tidy and clean up the interior of the church in preparation for our Easter Services.

Saturday, March 17th
9:00am to Noon



Connect with Others

The Outreach Team would like to recommend this unique opportunity for us to both engage in interfaith dialogue and get to know more of our neighbors in our little corner of the Valley. Get to "Know Your Neighbor" on Sunday, February 25 from 1:30-3:30pm at the Islamic Center of the Shenandoah Valley, 1330



Country Club Road, Harrisonburg. The program will be "I'm Your Neighbor Now: Stories from recent immigrants to the Shenandoah Valley." Know Your Neighbor is a gathering of congregants from Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Temple House of Israel, Islamic Center of the Shenandoah Valley, and Trinity Episcopal Church. All are welcome to attend. Please bring a potluck dish to share (*no pork please*).

CAUTION!



Slips, Trips & Falls Class

This class provides simple tips to improve balance and prevent falls. Participants will receive home safety checklists and will learn about fall prevention programs in their area.

Wednesday, March 21st
5:00 - 6:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Reaching Out from Outreach

Under the auspices of the Outreach Team, Covenant serves many organizations. One of these is the Verona Community Food Pantry. Every month Covenant sends approximately 150 pounds of food to the Pantry. Several church members are regular volunteers. Not only does Covenant donate from our Outreach budget — \$1500 is allocated for 2018 — but we also give a portion of our 4 Cents A Meal offering. Glorious Gifts 2017 raised an additional \$2400 for VCEP in December. The Verona Community Food Pantry serves an average of 1370 families each month. Thirty-six percent of those served are under age 18. Something to keep in mind when you bring your peanut butter the first Sunday of each month!

Taize
WORSHIP SERVICES
SONG - WORD - SILENCE - PRAYER

Wednesdays, February 14 - March 28
7:00pm in the Sanctuary

Lenten Journey Sunday School Class

Throughout Lent there will be an adult study opportunity during the Sunday School Hour: "Praying With Great Prayers". Prayer is not always easy, and while words are not always necessary in our praying, sometimes the words of others can help to speak for us or to us. Join John Peterson on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 in Room 5 for a study of the prayers of some of the great pray-ers from across the ages, and perhaps find your own prayer life enlivened!



Help By Serving on a Task Force

At its retreat in January, the Session identified our next step forward in addressing the impact of poverty on children. Input from the congregational surveys indicated a clear desire for building relationships and being actively involved, though there was no consensus on exactly what we should do. To help us in that effort, two task forces are being formed to provide specific proposals for action:

Food Insecurity and Health Concerns ***Education and Mentoring***

If you are interested in serving on either of these task forces, please contact Martha Pierce, Jane Wimmer, or John Peterson. We are hopeful that from these task forces will come opportunities for many of us to be involved in making a difference for our young neighbors in the months and years ahead.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Blesses

Thank you so much for the prayer shawls you sent to my daughter, grandson and myself. They are soft and beautiful. My grandson is particularly fond of cuddling with the shawl. Both my daughter and grandson are doing much better. — Carol Koch of Sequim, WA (Dennis Avery's sister)



Editor's Note: Do you know of someone who could benefit from a prayer shawl? Contact Prayer Shawl Coordinator, Joan Sayers.

SISTER ACT



**Sunday,
February 25
3:00 pm
Wayne Theatre
in Waynesboro**

On the run from her mobster ex-boyfriend, singer Deloris Van Cartier goes into witness protection in a struggling convent, where her gift for music and knack for trouble shake up her newfound sisters. Sister Act is a feel-good musical comedy smash that has audiences jumping to their feet! This uplifting musical was nominated for five Tony awards, including Best Musical.

The Fellowship Team has reserved a block of tickets for \$20 per ticket.

*If you wish to attend, please contact
Melissa Druff at 540-448-1948 or
druffm@comcast.net by 5:00pm
on Tuesday, February 20th.*

It's ROLL!



SKATING AT FUNKY'S SKATE CENTER
100 MILLER CIRCLE, HARRISONBURG
SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 4:00 - 6:00PM
COST - \$1 FOR REGULAR SKATES
\$3 FOR INLINE SKATES

FELLOWSHIP TEAM COVERS ADMISSION.
RINK RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THIS EVENT.

WATER WILL BE PROVIDED.

PLEASE BRING A SNACK TO SHARE.

CONCESSION STAND WILL BE OPEN.

JOIN US TO SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS

OR JUST TO WATCH!

OPEN TO CHURCH MEMBERS,
FAMILY AND FRIENDS

CONTACT ROBYN SOMMERFIELD WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 PW Blanket Sunday 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 12:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse 7:00pm STATED SESSION MEETING	19 10:30am Bible Study Covenant Connection Published	20	21 6:00pm TOW 7:00pm Taize Worship Service	22 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	23	24
25 4 CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 12:00pm Confirmation Class 3:00pm Open Gym 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse	26 10:30am Bible Study	27	28 6:00pm TOW 7:00pm Taize Worship Service	MARCH 1 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	2 9:00am Newsletter Items Due	3
4 Communion Peanut Butter Sunday Presbyterian Coffee Project 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 12:00pm Confirmation Class 2:00pm Fellowship Team 4:00pm Skating at Funky's 6:30pm Youth Group	5 10:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Congregational Care Team 7:00pm Facilities Team 7:15pm Worship Team Covenant Connection Published	6	7 6:00pm TOW 7:00pm Taize Worship Service	8 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	9 10:00am Novels & Needles Book Club	10
11 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 12:00pm Confirmation Class 2:00pm Outreach Team 3:00pm Open Gym 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse	12 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Christian Education Team	13 9:30am PW Executive Board 10:00am PW Circle Meeting 5:30pm Preschool Team 7:15pm Stewardship & Finance Team	14 6:00pm TOW 7:00pm Taize Worship Service	15 8:30am Executive Team 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	16 9:00am Newsletter Items Due	17
18 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 12:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse 7:00pm STATED SESSION MEETING	19 10:30am Bible Study Covenant Connection Published	20	21 6:00pm TOW 7:00pm Taize Worship Service	22 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	23	24

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2018

What's Happening In the Community

February 24—Planetarium Show. Come see a FREE full dome show and hear a live seasonal star talk highlighting our Valley sky. On SUNNY Saturdays, the Planetarium will also have solar telescopes set-up *outside* near the JMU Sundial. See our Sun as the active, dynamic star that it is, instead of the pale, yellow dot drawn by kids! Don't miss out on seeing our STAR in a SAFE way that will leave you mesmerized. **ALL FREE** at the John C. Wells Planetarium. **FAMILY SHOWS** at 11:00am and 1:00pm, designed for families with young children (ages 4 to 8). **FEATURE SHOWS** at 2:15pm and 3:30pm, great for middle/high school students and adults.

February 28—"Wings of Spring" Bird Migration with Rich Wood. Join Rich for one of the greatest shows on earth—the annual Spring Bird Migration! We'll review the upcoming birding season, some of the highlight species seen this winter and some of the best spots to see these winged wonders at the JMU Arboretum. 12:00—1:00pm. Free. Registration required, sign up at: www.jmu.edu/arboretum

March 2—First Fridays Downtown (Harrisonburg). Stroll the streets of downtown Harrisonburg and enjoy extended hours at many shops while viewing art and enjoying performances by local artists, musicians, and more. 5:00-8:00pm

March 6—Brad Parks Book Launch and Friends of the Library Fundraiser. You're invited to Launch of CLOSER THAN YOU KNOW, the new thriller by award-winning author Brad Parks. 7:00 pm at Bedlam Brewing, VA. Brad will be discussing his new thriller novel (set right here in Staunton), doing a reading, and signing books. Signed copies will cost \$20 each at the night of the event, with **proceeds going to support the Friends of the Staunton Library.**

Please contact the Library to find out how to guarantee your copy!

March 7—First Wednesday Square Dance. Square dance with caller Hannah Johnson and live string band! No experience or partner necessary! Beginners welcome, music will be fast and fun! \$10 Tickets on sale online (<https://squareup.com/store/the-kettle>) and at the door (The Kettle, 19 W. Beverley St). **LIMITED SPACE!**

VARIOUS DATES—Monday Movie Classics at the Wayne Theatre, 7:00pm, pay what you will.

Feb. 26 — **Singin' in the Rain** (1952) Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds

March 5 — **The Searchers** (1956) John Wayne

AND THE
WINNER IS!...

**WINNERS OF THE
QUESTION MARK
SEARCH ARE**

**Jane Wimmer
Marney Gibbs
Congratulations!**

Items for the next
newsletter are due
to Martha by
**9:00am on Friday,
March 2nd.**



Please email her at:
covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com

Read the Bible in a Year

Feb. 19 *Reflect on God as Faith*

<input type="checkbox"/>	20	Lev. 21-22	Ps. 22	Mark 12
<input type="checkbox"/>	21	Lev. 23-25	Prov. 22	Mark 13
<input type="checkbox"/>	22	Lev. 26-27	Ps. 23	Mark 14
<input type="checkbox"/>	23	Num. 1-3	Prov. 23	Mark 15
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Num. 4-6	Ps. 24	Mark 16
<input type="checkbox"/>	25	Num. 7-9	Prov. 24	Luke 1

Feb. 26 *Reflect on God as Author*

<input type="checkbox"/>	27	Num. 10-12	Ps. 25	Luke 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	28	Num. 13-15	Prov. 25	Luke 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Num. 16-18	Ps. 26	Luke 4
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Num. 19-21	Prov. 26	Luke 5
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Num. 22-23	Ps. 27	Luke 6
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Num. 24-26	Prov. 27	Luke 7

Mar. 5 *Reflect on God as Redeemer*

<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Num. 27-29	Ps. 28	Luke 8
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Num. 30-33	Prov. 28	Luke 9
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Num. 34-36	Ps. 29	Luke 10
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Deut. 1-2	Prov. 29	Luke 11
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Deut. 3-4	Ps. 30	Luke 12

This information will be updated monthly for those wishing to read the entire Bible during 2018.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



THANK YOU FOR CALLING IN SICK, MRS. EDWARDS, BUT IT IS REALLY NOT NECESSARY

Copyright © 2015 HarperCollins Christian Publishing

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401

www.covenantpresstaunton.org

Office 540-885-2138 • Fax 540-885-4399



MINISTERIAL & PROGRAM STAFF

John C. Peterson

Pastor

Kate Rascoe

Parish Associate

Laura Lawson

Director of Youth Ministries

Betty Richmond

Interim Director of Children's Ministries

Jeffrey Ryman

Minister of Music

Christopher Wszalek

Organist

Lou Dolive

Handbell Director

Joan Swift

Director of Children's Music

Mitzi White

Developmental Preschool Director

Martha Pierce

Administrative Assistant

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, 2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401. 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.



2001 North Coalter Street
Staunton, VA 24401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #188
STAUNTON, VA
24401

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

We're on the web!
covenantpresstaunton.org

Let Us Know

You're Coming to TOW!

In order to prepare the correct quantity of food, we are asking that you **RSVP by noon on Monday** before the TOW you will be attending.

You may do this by:

- Signing the Friendship Register in the pew on Sunday
- Calling the church office at 885-2138

February 28 at 6:00pm
Lenten Soups

March 7 at 6:00pm
Lenten Soups

Vegetarian options will be available at all meals.

TOGETHER ON
TOW
WEDNESDAY

Supply Drive for the Valley Mission

The flu season has hit everyone hard this year and the Valley Mission is no exception. The Outreach Team is having a special drive to help restock the Mission's supplies. Please bring tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfectant (such as Lysol) and paper towels to the church by Monday, March 5.

