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Staunton, VA 24401

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



## 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 the 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

November 29  
"Comfort Food Night"

December 6  
"Kline's Night BBQ & Ice Cream"

December 13  
"Pizza Night"

Vegetarian options will be available at all meals.

TOGETHER ON  
**TOW**  
WEDNESDAY



# Covenant Connection

November 13, 2017 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

11-18

Fall Clean-up

11-19

High School Coffeehouse  
STATED SESSION MEETING

11-20

Monday Morning Bible Study

11-22

North End Community  
Thanksgiving Eve Service

11-23

THANKSGIVING

11-26

YOUTH Christmas Shopping  
Open Gym

High School Coffeehouse  
Elder Training

11-27

Monday Morning Bible Study

11-29

TOW-Together on Wednesday

## Connect with the Pastor . . .



As Thanksgiving approaches, have you given any thought to what you are thankful for, not just generally, but specifically? In our Christian tradition, every day should be a thanksgiving of sorts, for God's blessings abound with the rising of the sun each morning and continue after the sun's setting each night. At this time of year each year we take time out of the rolling rhythms of the weeks to pause, stuff ourselves with good food in the company of family and good friends, and offer to God our thanks for all the blessings of our lives. For what then are you especially thankful?

I am thankful for

- The love of my family and friends
- The life of my Dad who offered such a wonderful, loving example of faith and faithfulness
- The continuing joys of serving in this church with such wonderful people
- The staff with whom I serve, especially this year the new folks who have joined us: Martha Pierce, Betty Richmond, and Kate Rascoe (our new Parish Associate who will be serving with us part-time while we continue our search for a full-time Associate Pastor; see note about Kate on pg. 12)

(Continued on page 3)

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* — Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV

## WTON Radio-Thon for the Children

It's time for the 51st Annual WTON Children's Christmas Party Radio-Thon. The longest running program of its type in the USA, the Radio-Thon will run each morning, Monday thru Wednesday after Thanksgiving, November 27-29. \$80 supports each one of the 250 children selected by the Salvation Armies of Staunton and Waynesboro as the most needy. Any amount is greatly appreciated! Please give your donation to John Peterson, mail it to PO Box 1085, Staunton, VA 24402 or drop it by WTON at 304 West Beverley Street. Think of how well you have done this year, what you are thankful for, and help to meet the needs of children in our community. God Bless You! — Gary Ratcliff

## Search Continues for Associate Pastor

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee continues to work diligently to discern who might be called to serve Covenant as Associate Pastor for Christian Education and Nurture in the coming years. Over the past eight months we have considered almost a hundred PIFs (Personal Information Forms), interviewed several candidates, and hosted one candidate on site. However, we have not yet discerned that person whom God is calling here to serve. Please pass along any suggestions that you might have and continue to keep us in your prayers as we continue our work on your behalf.

— The APNC: Savannah Faith Clark, Melissa Hostetter, Mike Riddell [chair], John Sayers, Louise Scott, and Janey Terry.

## Save the Date for Upcoming Events

December is a busy month! The Fellowship Team has some fun activities planned for us. All family friendly! So please, mark you calendars and plan to join us.



Wednesday, December 13 — Gingerbread House Making after TOW dinner (6:00pm)



Sunday, December 17th — Pizza Lunch & Caroling after 10:30 service



Sunday, December 31st — Fifth Sunday Activity — Pizza & Bowling from 1:00-3:00pm at Staunton Lanes

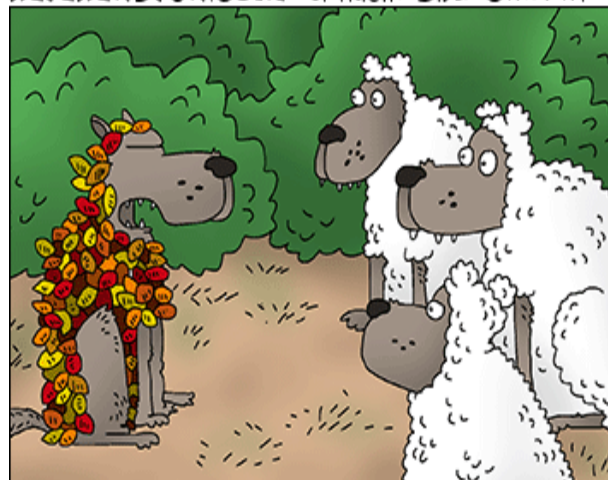
## Glorious Gifts

Each year the Outreach Team selects several organizations that will use your contributions as gifts for shelter, food, medical and spiritual care. The next newsletter will inform you about all the organizations, but we wanted to highlight our newest organization. . . EVACE International, Inc.

# EVACE

Started by Covenant members and run by local volunteers, the goal of EVACE is to help impoverished communities pull themselves out of poverty through better health and education. EVACE works to teach computing, math and English in their Technology Education Center on Ponson Island, Philippines, and runs a free clinic with nutritional and agricultural programs that improve the residents' health and income potential. Additional information can be obtain by visiting their website: [www.evace.org](http://www.evace.org)

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(See Matthew 7:15)

**SHEEP'S CLOTHING IS SO OLD SCHOOL, IT'S ALL ABOUT FEATHERS THESE DAYS**

12-12-2014

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## COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401  
[www.covenantpresstaunton.org](http://www.covenantpresstaunton.org)  
 Office 540-885-2139 • 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](http://www.covenantpresstaunton.org).

## Connect With Other Christians

### Making of College Exam Kits

Come join us after TOW on Wednesday, Nov. 29th to make exam care kits for our college students as they face their first semester exams. We will be making trail mix and cards, as well as a few other surprises. Come be a part of the fun!



### CareGivers Support Group

CareGivers Support Group will meet at 11:45 am on Sunday, December 3rd in Kathy Henderson's Community Nursing Office. Anyone caring for a loved one is welcome to come to share feelings and experiences with others who are also caring for loved ones. Linda Owen and Joan Sayers will lead the discussion. If you have questions, call Linda or Joan.



### Hanging of the Greens

A tradition at Covenant is the "hanging of the greens" as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent season. On Saturday, December 2nd at 9:30am, we will need willing hands to help decorate. Come join us and enjoy the fellowship AND Christmas cookies and hot chocolate!



## Introducing Our New Parish Associate - Kate Rascoe



As a military "brat", I have found "home" in many places – California, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, and (several times) Virginia. After securing a decent school district, my parents' priority in a new community was always to settle into a Presbyterian church. We were there whenever the doors were open. So, outside of my immediate family, the Presbyterian Church has been the most consistent presence in my life. My community of faith has always welcomed me, nurtured me, and has encouraged me to encounter God on my own terms.

School and my calling has kept me moving – Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina (several times), Texas, and back "home" to Virginia. Currently I have the pleasure of living on site at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, where my husband Clayton is Executive Director. We share a view of the lake with our two daughters, a dog, two cats, and three ducks.

I pray that whatever our circumstances, we all be able to call the Church "home" and each other siblings in Christ. I am happy to be welcomed into the Covenant family!

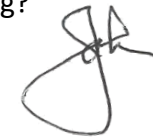
— Rev. Kate Rascoe, katerascoe@yahoo.com  
757-617-5374



## Connect with the Pastor . . . continued

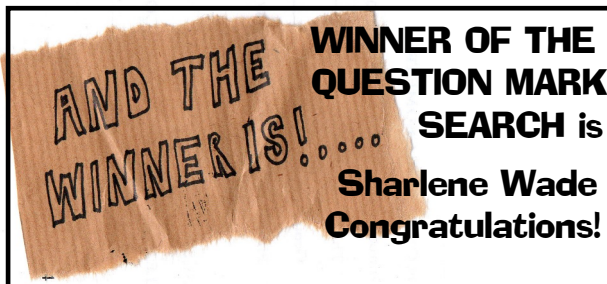
- Good health, relatively speaking
- The beauty of this corner of the world that continues to bring me joy each day – even on rainy days
- The voices and hugs of children who surprise, delight and challenge me each week
- Good books to read, good basketball games to watch, and an occasional good golf shot
- God's presence that makes all days richer

The list could go on and on, for our blessings go on and on. For what are YOU thankful as you come to this Thanksgiving?



### Pledge Update

If you haven't already done so, pledges for the 2018 budget are still being accepted. You may mail your pledge card to the church to Dave Metz's attention or drop it off at the church office. Also, we received a \$1000 per month pledge with no name. If you made a pledge of this amount, please contact Dave Metz so we can connect your name with the pledge.



## Welcome to Our New Member



On Sunday, November 12, we welcomed the following new member to our Covenant family:

Carolyn Suffern by Letter of Transfer from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, TN

### Congratulations

Congratulation to Jayden Beasley. She was recently named to the first team all-conference 29 volleyball! Go Jayden!



### Thank You's

Thank you for all the support and love that our Covenant family showered upon us during the recent loss of John's father. We were comforted by the meals, cards, prayers and conversations that you provided. Your love and support made a difficult time easier. Also, thanks to John Peterson for being there every step of the way. It is times like this that we all know what a loving and caring family we are to each other.

— John and Joan Sayers

Thank you to all who provided cleaning and paper supplies for the Valley Mission.

— The Outreach Team

# What's Happening

## In the Community



If you're looking for something special, fun, and educational to do with the entire family during the holiday, go to the Christmas Fair at the Frontier Culture Museum on Friday, November 24th and Saturday, November 25th, 9:00am to 5:00pm both days. Learn about holiday traditions from costumed interpreters on the Museum's many exhibits; enjoy great food and entertainment on the Pavilion; and find unique holiday gifts from artisan craftspeople at the Courtyard Fair. Admission is FREE. Donations gladly accepted.

### A BACH FESTIVAL CHRISTMAS

The Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival will celebrate the holidays with **A Bach Festival Christmas** on Friday, December 1 at 7:00pm. The performance will take place in the newly completed concert hall in the Whitesel Music showroom at 1592 CF Pours Drive, Harrisonburg. This festival concert will feature Cuban tenor Dian Rene and JMU faculty pianist Paulo Steinberg in a mix of classical, holiday, and popular tunes sure to delight music lovers of all ages. The Bach Festival String Quartet will also perform, featuring violinists David McCormick and Susan Black, violist Diane Phoenix-Neal, and cellist Lisa Wright. The concert is free and open to the public; donations will be gratefully accepted to benefit the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival.



### CONCERT WITH ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

The Season of Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for the coming Christ. Enjoy an evening from 5:00-6:00 pm on Sunday, December 3rd at Trinity Episcopal Church, Staunton. An interweaving of Holy Scripture, carols and choral music by the Trinity Choirs will be presented to celebrate the coming of our Savior. Music by Palestrina, William McKie, Peter Warlock, and many more. A festive reception will follow in McCracken Hall.



## COVENANT FAMILY EVENT

# Fall Clean-up Day

*Saturday, November 18th*  
*9:00am to Noon*

Grab a rake, blower, or tarp and enjoy a cool, fall morning with your Covenant family.

Sponsored by the Facilities Management Team



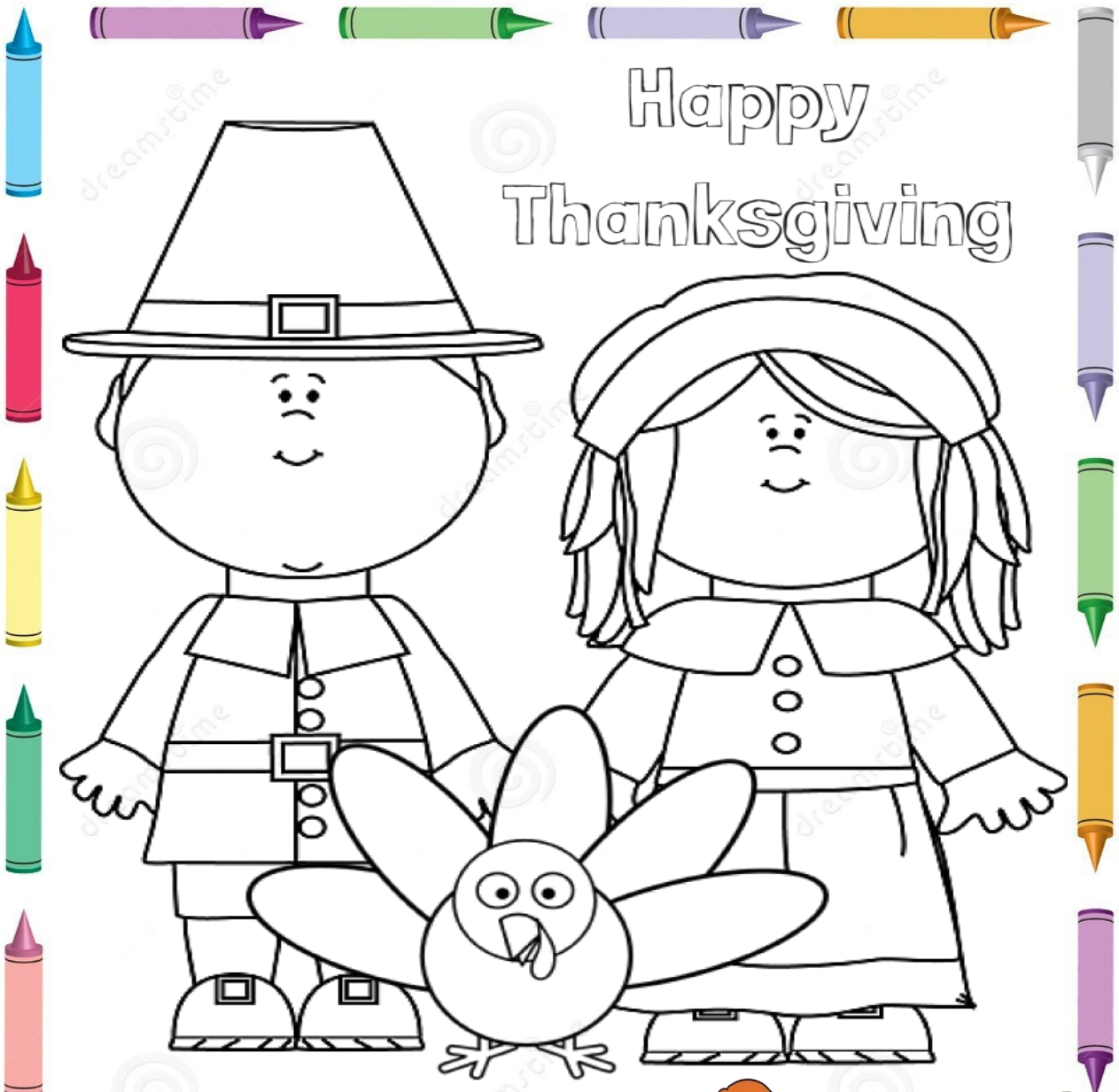
## The Joy of Sharing Christmas

*Saturday, December 9 —  
come anytime between 6-8pm*  
*Sunday, December 10 —  
come anytime between 3-5pm*

This theatrical production sponsored and coordinated by the Christian Education Team is a re-telling of the story of the birth of Jesus. Created to hold the attention of all ages, this re-telling is depicted in bite-size stories. People will journey through the church to see the different scenes of stories leading up to and following Jesus' birth.

There will be music, skits and cookies! We will share the story of Jesus' birth and learn why we celebrate so much at Christmastime.

***Be sure to share Christmas  
by inviting your friends and family  
to join you!***



# Happy Thanksgiving

We would love to share what your child has drawn while attending worship with you. Please submit the drawing to Martha at [covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com) or bring to the church office Monday-Thursday 8:15am-3:15pm or Friday 8:15am-12:15pm.



## Children's Corner

# 44TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY Thanksgiving EVE SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22 at 7:00pm  
Staunton Church of the Brethren, 1615 N. Coalter Street

There will be participants from the six north end churches who share in this service (Cherryvale Methodist, Christ Lutheran, Covenant, Memorial Baptist, St. John's Methodist and Staunton Church of the Brethren), and the Rev. Chuck Cole of St. John's United Methodist Church will preach. Come and worship together with our neighbors as we give thanks for all our blessings!



## HAPPY Thanksgiving

From the Staff of  
Covenant Presbyterian Church,  
we wish you and your family  
a very blessed  
Thanksgiving.



## Connect with God

Periodically the Connection newsletter will be high-lighting how our members have "connected" with God. We need your stories! You don't need to wait until the newsletter deadline to submit an article.

Submissions can be made to [covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com).

Please indicate if we can use your name. Thanks!

# Christmas Decorating

As Advent begins December 3rd, we are preparing to decorate for the coming joyous season. We need monies for greenery, trees and poinsettias. The poinsettias are \$10.50 each for a 6 1/2" pot. Poinsettias may be given in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. Please make your check payable to "Covenant", designate "Christmas Greenery and/or Poinsettias" on your check, and place your order form in the offering plate or take it to the church office **no later than Monday, November 27th**, if you wish to have your name mentioned in the Poinsettia and Greenery Gift booklet.

## ORDER FORM (Please print in black ink)

Donor \_\_\_\_\_  
 In honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
 In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am ordering \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias at a total cost of \_\_\_\_\_  
 poinsettias are \$10.50 each

**Poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service.**

# THE JOY OF SHARING CHRISTMAS

Volunteers are needed for the production of "The Joy of Sharing Christmas."

We need people to assist with the preparation as well as on the days of the production. Please check the areas that interest you. You will be contacted by a coordinator to finalize times and responsibilities.

If you have any questions, please contact Laura Lawson at 540-383-4944 or lauramayfieldlawson@gmail.com.

- Take part in the drama (angels, shepherds, wisemen, soldiers, townspeople)
- Donate artificial Christmas tree (3 needed)
- Usher at the performance
- Greet visitors at doors at the performance
- Help in parking lot at the performance
- Provide cookies
- Assist in serving cookies at the performance
- Pray for this outreach ministry
- Help with childcare for volunteers
- Sew angel costumes (2 needed)
- Assist in moving classroom furniture

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please place completed form in the offering plate on Sunday or return to the church office.

# NOVEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>5 COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> <b>PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICH PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT</b> 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship followed by Fellowship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 12:00pm Christian Education Team 6:30pm Youth Group	<b>6</b> 10:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Congregational Care Team 7:00pm Facilities Team 7:15pm Worship Team	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b> 5:00pm TOW Community Panel	<b>2</b> 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 10:00am Trinity Noon Luncheon Program 5:30pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	<b>3</b> 10:00am Newsletters & Needles Book Group	<b>4</b>  <b>VETERANS DAY</b> 9:00am Fall Clean-up
<b>12</b> 8:30AM Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship followed by Fellowship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 2:00pm Open Gym 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse	<b>13</b> 10:30am Bible Study Covenant Connection Published	<b>14</b> 9:30am PW Executive Board 10:00am PW Circle Meeting 5:30pm Preschool Team	<b>8</b> 6:00pm TOW 7:00 Community Panel	<b>9</b> 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	<b>10</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:00am Novels & Needles Book Group	<b>11</b>
<b>19 CHILDREN'S HOME OFFERING</b> 8:30AM Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship followed by Fellowship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse 7:00pm STATED SESSION MEETING	<b>20</b> 10:30am Bible Study 7:15pm Stewardship & Finance Team	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Northend Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Staunton Church of the Brethren	<b>23</b>  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving	<b>24</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>25</b>
<b>26 4 CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION</b> 8:30AM Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship followed by Fellowship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 2:00pm Open Gym 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse	<b>27</b> 10:30am Bible Study Covenant Connection Published	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:00pm TOW 7:00pm College ExamKit Making	<b>30</b> 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	<b>24</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>25</b>