



# Covenant Connection

February 5, 2018 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**2-5**

Monday Morning Bible Study  
Congregational Care Team  
Facilities Team  
Worship Team

**2-7**

TOW - Together on Wednesday

**2-9**

Novels & Needles Book Club

**2-11**

YOUTH Sunday  
Outreach Team  
Open Gym  
High School Coffeehouse

**2-12**

Monday Morning Bible Study  
Christian Education Team

**2-13**

PW Executive Board  
PW Circle Meeting  
Stewardship & Finance Team

**2-14**

TOW - Together on Wednesday  
Taize Service

**2-17**

CPR Training

**2-18**

STATED SESSION MEETING

## Connect with the Pastor . . .



**I**n an oddity of the liturgical calendar this year Ash Wednesday coincides with Valentine's Day on February 14. While the origins of Valentine's Day are somewhat obscure (it is not clear which St. Valentine is being honored by that day), it has been observed in Christian circles since 496 A.D. when Pope Gelasius I (yes, there was a Pope Gelasius II) recast a Roman fertility observance called Lupercalia as a Christian Feast Day. Since the 14<sup>th</sup> century Valentine's Day has been associated with romance and love, apparently as the result of a noted poem by Chaucer. While the Roman Catholic Church has since removed it from the list of official feast days (primarily because there was no clarity as to who St. Valentine was) Valentine's Day is still celebrated in many parts of the world, though not officially in the church. As you might expect, Ash Wednesday is also rooted in the church, being practiced since at least the 6<sup>th</sup> century. It marks the beginning of our 40 day journey through Lent to the cross and empty tomb. The mark of ashes is a sign of penitence (recall the biblical passages in which repentance is practiced with sackcloth and ashes) reminding us that we are sinful beings in need of God's

*Which will  
you celebrate  
this year?*

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Blanket Sunday - February 18

As we enter Lent hear  
the call of Jesus:

*"Repent, and believe the  
good news." — Mark 1:15*



### Connect with God

*Periodically the Connection newsletter  
will be high-lighting how our mem-  
bers have "connected" with God.*

*We need your stories!*

*You don't need to wait until the news-  
letter deadline to submit an article.*

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

*Please indicate if we can use your  
name. Thanks!*

It has been COLD and MISERABLE outside but we are well equipped with coats, hats, scarves, mittens . . . and a roof over our heads with warmth from heaters of all sorts. That is US! We are so very blessed!

California has been hit by mudslides just after the devastating wildfires. Texas is repairing itself from Hurricane Sandy. Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands have been on the news with Hurricanes Maria and Irma . . . so much destruction.

Along with the Red Cross, one of the "First Responders" is Church World Services which offers critical care to those in trauma situations . . . not only in our United States but all over the world. A blanket is crucial in time of need! It provides warmth, shelter and love to someone who has lost his/her home, family, and everything that tallies a lifetime of effort.

The Presbyterian Women are once again asking for the congregation's support on Sunday, February 18 when we will have a special offering for Church World Services for blankets and other life saving items!

Sunday, February 11 we will offer a "Minute for Mission" in both services to provide you with important information. Please join us in making a difference by lending a hand to our neighbors who are suffering. Your money and your prayers are needed.



Items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by **9:00am on Friday, February 16th.**

Please email her at:  
[covenantpcusastauton@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpcusastauton@gmail.com)

## Connect with the Pastor ... *Cont'd*

redeeming grace. Lent is a season for prayer, self-examination, and repentance and it begins with Ash Wednesday. Here at Covenant we will observe it with Taizé worship after TOW.

Which will you celebrate this year? Valentine's Day is certainly cheerier and sweeter as the plethora of candy and flower ads will attest, but Ash Wednesday is perhaps more necessary for us as sinful people. Perhaps we can celebrate both, remembering on Valentine's Day not only our love for one another, but also God's love for us, and remembering on Ash Wednesday the ways in which we have fallen short in our love for God and for one another. For ultimately, it is God's love for us and our love for God that makes this Lenten journey and Valentine's Day worth celebrating at all!



## And the winners are ...



The snow on Sunday, February 4th did not keep away those who were hungry for great chili, desserts and fellowship. Approximately eighty people braved the bad weather. There were nine chili and nine dessert entries.

Placing first were Kevin Griffith with his Firehouse Chorizo Chili and Sarah Brodie with her Juicy Lemon Cake. Other finishers were: Chili—Mike Fessier, 2nd place for venison chili and Mike Riddell, 3rd place for taco chili. Dessert—John Crawford, 2nd place for wine cake and Jean Wielage, 3rd place for lemon meringue pie. Dave Melvin presented the awards. The youth collected \$195 through the Souper Bowl of Caring collection to benefit the Valley Mission. Special thanks to organizer, Dave Melvin and volunteers, Debbie Melvin; Mike, Daniel and William Fessier; John Crawford; and Brandon Cline-Taskey.

**Are you connected to the church in all  
the ways you want to be?**



Contact Martha Pierce to be added to Covenant Opt-In emails and the church directory. If you have changed any of your contact information in the past year (email, phone, address), please double check with Martha that she has your new information. She can be reached at: [covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com) or 885-2138.



# Coat Drive A Huge Success

Our Christmas decorations are put away, the stores are selling Valentines, as well as St. Patrick's Day decorations and Easter candies, and our minds are turning toward planning summer vacations as we keep an eye out for that first crocus. But for some coming out of Middle River Regional Jail, they now have one less concern -- a warm coat and maybe a scarf to finish out the winter. That's one less thing for them to worry about as they try to start their lives off on the right track and hopefully make better choices in life that will lead them down a better road.

We at Covenant shared not only our good intentions, but also 153 coats and dozens of scarves in a space of three weeks! The donations that keep others' bodies warm, can make your heart warm knowing you have helped local individuals in need.

The folks at Middle River Regional Jail who work in Re-Entry, have been very grateful for your generosity and they send their heartfelt thanks.

It has been my pleasure to see the outpouring of helpfulness and sharing, and it makes me feel blessed that my family and I are members of Covenant and part of community that looks out for its fellow man.

— Laura Stahl

*From the desk of John Lilly, Program Director, Middle River Regional Jail:*

Thank you to everyone from Covenant Presbyterian Church who participated in the coat drive to help Middle River Regional Jail provide coats to inmates released recently during the cold weather.

It is not uncommon for people to be arrested during warm weather months but then to be released during cold weather months. Unfortunately, many of them do not have warm clothes to wear when they are released. Fortunately, there are people like you who have seen this need and have been willing to help. Because of your generosity, we have been able to provide a warm coat to all of the people being released who needed one.

Thank you for your generosity and assistance in this much needed area. It is greatly appreciated.



## SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, March 4, 4:00-6:00pm  
Skating at Funky's

Thursday, March 29, 7:00pm  
Maundy Thursday Service

Sunday, April 1, 8:30am and 10:30am  
Easter Worship Services



The Outreach Team reminds you  
"PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY"  
is the first Sunday of  
every month!  
Please bring a jar of peanut butter.

# What's Happening In the Community

**February 8—Coffee with the Curator** at the Woodrow Wilson Library and Research Center. The discussion for will be *American Impressionist: Art of Ellen Axson Wilson*. Join Curator Andrew Phillips for coffee and stimulating discussion at 10:30 am.

**February 9—VMI Cadet Parade @ 4:30pm.** Watch as the entire Virginia Military Institute Corps of Cadets march in full formation. It's an impressive sight and one you can't miss when in Lexington. The Virginia Military Institute Corps of Cadets march through Jackson Arch onto the Parade Ground in full dress uniform to the sound of fifes and drums and the Regimental Band.

**February 10—Very Valentine Celebration & Tea** from 2:00-4:00pm at the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum. For children ages 6-11. Cost is \$20 per child. Reservations required. There will be a storyteller, crafts, and a museum scavenger hunt. The event will conclude with a delicious afternoon tea. For more information, please contact Susan Laser at (540) 885-0897 ext. 110.

**February 10—An Evening of Jazz with Nadine Chase.** Nadine and her ensemble will be filling the air with the relaxing tunes from 5:00-7:00pm. No charge and kid friendly. Nu-Beginning Farm, 221 N. Lewis Street, Staunton.

**February 12—Knitting (Not Just) by the Book.** Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels bring projects and enjoy good company. 7:00-8:30pm, Staunton Public Library

**February 18—Carl Broman Series presents Gail Archer,** organist as she plays a mixed program of Baroque music, American women composers, and Russian pieces from her new CD, *A Russian Journey*, including Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain*. A reception will follow in McCracken Hall. Trinity Episcopal Church at 5:00pm. Free to the public.

**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. 12 — **The War of the Worlds** (1953) Gene Barry, Ann Robinson

Feb. 19 — **The Last Picture Show** (1971) Timothy Bottoms, Jeff Bridges

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

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

# 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](mailto:druffm@comcast.net) by 5:00pm on Tuesday, February 20th.*

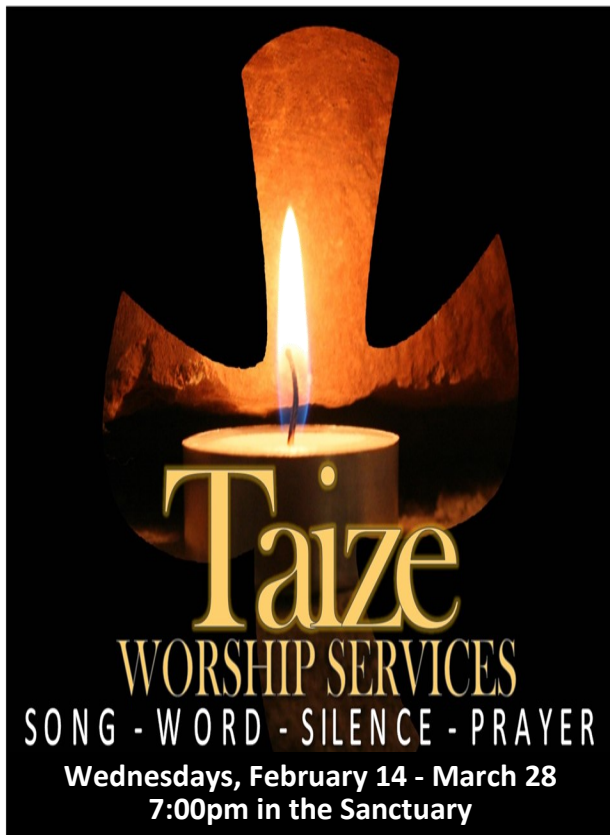
*We love  
because  
God  
first  
loved  
us.*

*1 John 4:19*



*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day  
from the  
staff of  
Covenant  
Presbyterian*





## 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.



## Calling all senior high youth!

Do you love to stay up late, meet new friends, serve others, and have a blast? The Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council Extraordinaire (SPYCE) invites you to join them at their

### **3rd Annual Massanetta Lock-In.**

**February 23rd** will be an unforgettable night of laughter, service that will gain you volunteer hours for school, joy, and fun surprises.

Maybe even a little sleep!

**Meet at the church**

**at 8:00pm on Friday night**

so we can go as a group.

**Concludes at 10am Saturday morning**

so you can enjoy the rest of your weekend.

RSVP to Laura Lawson by

Wednesday, February 21st.

**Bring your friends - ALL are welcome!**

## Lost Item

If anyone mistakenly picked up a man's camel-hair overcoat from the coat rack beside the sanctuary during Advent, please contact Sally Ludwig.

## Can You Find?

Be the first person to contact Martha at the church office on Friday, February 9th and let her know you've found the hidden **red question mark.**



Look closely....  
It will be very small.

The winner will be acknowledged in the next newsletter.

# Read the Bible in a Year

## FEBRUARY

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Ex. 25-26	Ps. 14	Matt. 23
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Ex. 27-28	Prov. 14	Matt. 24
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Ex. 29-30	Ps. 15	Matt. 25
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Ex. 31-32	Prov. 15	Matt. 26
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<i>Reflect on God as Lord of All</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Ex. 33-34	Ps. 16	Matt. 27
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Ex. 35-36	Prov. 16	Matt. 28
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Ex. 37-38	Ps. 17	Mark 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Ex. 39-40	Prov. 17	Mark 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Lev. 1-3	Ps. 18	Mark 3-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Lev. 4-5	Prov. 18	Mark 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	<i>Reflect on God as Counselor</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Lev. 6-7	Ps. 19	Mark 6
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Lev. 8-10	Prov. 19	Mark 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Lev. 11-12	Ps. 20	Mark 8
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Lev. 13-15	Prov. 20	Mark 9
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Lev. 16-17	Ps. 21	Mark 10
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Lev. 18-20	Prov. 21	Mark 11
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	<i>Reflect on God as Faithful</i>		
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	<i>Reflect on God as Author</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Num. 10-12	Ps. 25	Luke 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Num. 13-15	Prov. 25	Luke 3

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

## Monday Morning Bible Study



Please join us for the Bible study on Monday mornings at 10:30am in the Conference Room (near the church offices). This study, led by John Peterson, looks at the text for the next Sunday's sermon. Come and dive a little deeper into the text, share your insights, and get a head start on the next sermon. All are welcome!

**World Day of Prayer**  
**March 2**  
**2018**

**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.*

## Help Keep the Church Clean

Recognizing that many folks are now taking beverages (water, coffee, tea) with them into the sanctuary during worship, Session is asking for your help in saving the carpet from stains and keeping our sanctuary clean. Please use a container with a lid to protect against spills (lids for paper coffee cups are now available in the breezeway) and remember to take your container with you after worship (along with any tissues, candy wrappers, or other miscellaneous items that may have been stuffed in a pew rack). The Facilities Team and church mice who so generously give of their time to tidy up the sanctuary each week will be most grateful!



If you'd like to read more, please come by my office. I have copies of several studies.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	<b>2</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>3</b>
<b>4 COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> <b>PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY</b> <b>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 CHILI COOK-OFF/DESSERT BAKE-OFF 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 12:00pm Confirmation Class 12:00pm Fellowship Team 6:30pm Youth Group	<b>5</b> 10:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Congregational Care Team 7:00pm Facilities Team 7:15pm Worship Team  Covenant Connection Published	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:00pm TOW	<b>8</b> 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	<b>9</b> 10:00am Novels & Needles Book Club 12:30pm Preschool Monthly Staff Meeting	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Youth Sunday</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 Outreach Team 3:00pm Open Gym 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse	<b>12</b> 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Christian Education Team	<b>13</b> 9:30am PW Executive Board 10:00am PW Circle Meeting 5:30pm Preschool Team 7:15pm Stewardship & Finance Team	<b>14 ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 6:00pm TOW 7:00pm Taize Worship Service	<b>15</b> 8:30am Executive Team 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	<b>16</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:50pm Confirmation Class @ Temple House of Israel	<b>17</b> 9:00am CPR Training
<b>18 PW Blanket Sunday</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 Confirmation Class 7:00pm STATED SESSION MEETING	<b>19</b> 10:30am Bible Study  Covenant Connection Published	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:00pm TOW 7:00pm Taize Worship Service	<b>22</b> 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25 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 12:00pm Confirmation Class 3:00pm Open Gym 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse	<b>26</b> 10:30am Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:00pm TOW 7:00pm Taize Worship Service			

# FEBRUARY 2018

**FAMILY & FRIENDS®**



**CARDIOPLUMONARY RESUSCITATION  
T R A I N I N G**

Are you prepared if a family member or friend  
has a cardiac emergency?

Learn what to do at the  
free Family & Friends CPR Training.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17**  
**9:00am to 12:00pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
**Childcare Available**



Reservations are required. A sign-up sheet is posted  
on the Covenant Nurse's Office door.  
Or you can email: [covenantnurse@gmail.com](mailto:covenantnurse@gmail.com).

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**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**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).





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Worshipping with Joy, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love*

We're on the web!  
[covenantpresstaunton.org](http://covenantpresstaunton.org)

# Let Us Know

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## 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

*Vegetarian options will be available at all meals.*

**February 14**  
*Lenten Soups*

**February 21**  
*Lenten Soups*

TOGETHER ON  
**TOW**  
WEDNESDAY