



Covenant Connection

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

3-21

Slips, Trips & Falls Class

Spring Egg Hunt

TOW - Together on Wednesday

Taize Service

3-25

PALM SUNDAY

Confirmation Class

Open Gym

High School Coffeehouse

3-26

Monday Morning Bible Study

3-29

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

4-1

EASTER

Confirmation Class

4-2

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Facilities Team

Connect with the Pastor . . .



This is a season when there are lots of surprises in store. Loyola-Chicago upsets Miami and Buffalo upsets Arizona in the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Colorful plastic eggs reveal unknown sweet treats to kids. Daffodils and forsythia begin to bloom and spring seems to be arriving, then a late snow paints everything white overnight. The dawn of Easter morning reveals, not a crucified body, but an empty tomb and risen Lord. And the surprises keep on coming!

What is perhaps most surprising as we near the end of these forty days of Lent and prepare to enter Holy Week, is that Jesus turns out to be a different kind of messiah than anyone expected. He is not the triumphant king riding into Jerusalem on a white steed; he is the humble king riding on the back of a donkey. He is not the powerful military man who will lead an insurrection, throw out the Romans, and claim the throne of Israel; he is the suffering servant who is arrested, beaten, and crucified. He rejects violence and promises peace. He embraces the last and the least, the outcasts and outlaws, the unclean and the unholy. There is a great temptation to enter Holy Week with its shouts of "Hosanna!" and then embrace

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(Continued on page 3)

Session Highlights

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

At its stated meeting on March 18, the Session took the following actions:

- ◆ Elected Jane Wimmer and Rebecca Allison as commissioners to the May meeting of Presbytery
- ◆ Approved support as a PCUSA Mission Partner with Tracey King-Ortega, a PCUSA Mission coworker in Nicaragua
- ◆ Approved support for the Baja Mission trip and a meal for Valley Mission
- ◆ Moved the April meeting of Session to April 22
- ◆ Approved use of the facilities for a DAR event
- ◆ Approved mission trips for youth

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Communion Service - March 29, 2018 - 7:00pm



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

Easter with its songs of "Alleluia!" and skip over Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with the cries of "Crucify him!" It is the temptation to take the surprise out of Easter and make Holy Week all rosy and bright.

But it is not! And so I urge you to allow yourself to be surprised by Easter's empty tomb by walking with Jesus to the cross – in your devotions, in your prayers, in your worship, in your sacred memory of this week ; remember his pain and death. And then, only then, celebrate his resurrection. For, his suffering and death are part of his story, part of the Easter story, part of our story as disciples of the risen – and crucified – Lord!



*Please keep in your prayers:
Rish Capps and her family
on the death of her sister,
Susie Techlin, on March 8th
after a long battle with cancer.*

*Judy Gardner and family
on the death of her husband,
Dr. Richard Gardner,
on March 14th.*

Condolences

Due to the church office being closed on Monday, April 2nd, items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by 9:00am on Thursday, March 29nd.

Please email her at:
covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



Special Update

The MoM Clinic at Lokoja continues to save lives! In addition to the pre-natal and obstetric services we offer free-of-charge, we also now have a top pediatric consultant seconded to us by the government. Some time ago, many of you joined me in praying for one of my teachers whose wife lost a child in childbirth (and it was not the first time). Your messages of condolence and comfort really touched their hearts during that difficult time.

Imagine my surprise and joy to return from furlough to meet their new baby girl, safely delivered at MoM Medical Center!

Join us in thanking God for this beautiful life and for those offering to be His hands and feet to

women in need of proper medical care. Please pray that the Lord will provide the funds need-

ed to continue offering these services to those most in need.



"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord"

Psalm 127:3a

— From Faith's heart



Taken from Crystal Gosnell's Newsletter

CAUTION!



Slips, Trips & Falls Class

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

Wednesday, March 21st

5:00 - 6:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Presbyterian Women of Shenandoah Presbytery

presents

The Annual Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 14, 2018



*"A Spring Cleaning of
the Heart and Soul"*

Massanetta Springs Conference Center

Harrisonburg, VA

Registration deadline is April 6, 2018

<http://shenpres.org/presbyterian-women/>



**8th Annual Mountain Mack
Virginia Liars Contest
Saturday, April 14, 2018
1:00pm - Free Admission
Good for ages: 9 to adult
Covenant Presbyterian's Great Hall**



This event continues the tradition of the tales of Davy Crockett, Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill. Come see 10 contestants who will have 8 minutes to spin the most entertaining and outrageous lie they can. The winner will take away the coveted Golden Shovel, a cash prize and all the bragging rights he/she can carry! If you're ready for a good laugh, this is the place to come!

Thank You from the Covenant Bell Choir

The Covenant Bell Choir wishes to express its deepest appreciation to Mary Ann Stripling for her help in making slip covers for the choir's table cushions. We use the cushions to protect our bells from damage. During practice the table cushions have been covered by ugly, green, twin bed sheets which are not long enough. Those unlucky ringers, who happen to be where one sheet ends and another one begins, often wind up picking up the edge of the sheet along with their bell! This makes for awkward ringing positions and discordant sounds from the bells.

Mary Ann helped in determining how much fabric and Velcro were needed, went on the shopping trip to buy the fabric, bargained the store down in price for the fabric, found the web site to buy the Velcro at a discount, spent hours measuring, cutting, sewing, fitting the covers to the cushions, then sewing some more, and finally stuffing the cushions into their new covers.

If you get a chance, take a walk by the choir room and see the new, beautiful blue covers on our cushions. THANK YOU – Mary Ann Stripling. It couldn't have been done without you!

Join us as we celebrate the Risen Savior!

EASTER SUNDAY

April 1, 2018

8:30 am & 10:30 am



*The Lord is Risen!
He is Risen indeed!*

The Outreach Team Thanks You

The Outreach Team would like to thank those who contributed recently to the special drive for the Valley Mission. Those donated items helped restock the supply of tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfectant and paper towels that were so much needed during this flu season.



Facilities Team Facts

The Facilities Team recently rebuilt the boiler control system, re-finished a table in the Narthex, replaced a microphone on the lapel mic for the audio system, and arranged for floor re-finishing and other work! We're behind the scenes making things run smoothly!

Connect *with* Others

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will meet Tuesday, April 10 at 10:00am in the Breezeway. Study is Lesson 8, "In Community with the Household of Faith," led by Janet Guynn. Hostesses will be Debbie Smith and Jean Rexrode. With Spring in the air . . . won't you join us? Also, those attending are asked to bring items for CWS Hygiene Kits. The number we decided to send is thirty (30). If you need a reminder of your item or the amount you signed up for, please call Jerry Lynn Shipplett. The PW Executive Board will meet at 9:30am, just before the circle meeting.



At March's PW Circle meeting it was decided to send a monetary donation to Martha's Meals on Wheels, a 501(c)(3) non-profit in our area that manages to get by on local individual and Church donations. Circle members brought to the attention of the Exec. Team that, with NO FEDERAL or STATE funding, the coffer is low. It was suggested at Circle that the address be published in our church newsletter so more women of Covenant



may have the opportunity to help this organization who receives ONLY from their clients who are able to pay \$4.00 or partial payment of \$2.00 or clients with no money receive FREE meals. Ladies . . . another opportunity to serve our poor, our challenged and aged in our area. Checks to be written to: Martha's Meals on Wheels, PO Box 2354, Staunton, VA 24402-2354 Thank you for caring!

Easter Brunch

Join us on Sunday, April 1st at 9:30am in the Great Hall as the YOUth serve Easter Brunch.

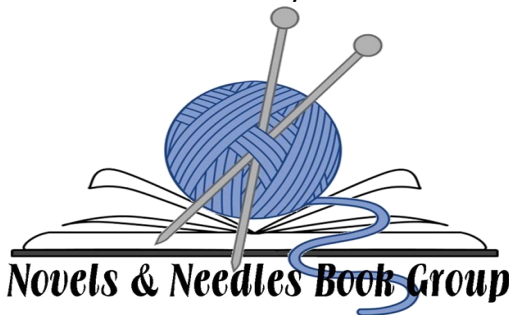
All are welcome!

(There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.)



Novels & Needles Book Group

Novels & Needles Book Group will meet Friday, April 13 at 10:00am in the Breezeway. The April book is ***Pachinko*** by Min Jin Lee. Bring your thoughts and your knitting or crocheting for an enjoyable morning! If you want to get a head start, May's book group selection is ***Love and Other Consolation Prizes*** by Jamie Ford.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir Practice 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30am Omega Choir Practice 11:45am Caregivers Group 12:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse 7:00pm STATED SESSION MEETING	19 Covenant Connection Published	20	21 5:00pm Slips, Trips & Falls Class 5:00pm Spring Egg Hunt 6:00pm TOW 7:00pm Taize Worship Service	22 9:00am Verona Food Pantry Bell Choir 5:45pm 7:00pm Covenant Choir	23	24
25 - PALM SUNDAY 4 Cents a Meal 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	29 9:00am Newsletter Items Due 9:00am Verona Food Pantry Bell Choir 5:45pm 7:00pm Covenant Choir 7:00pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	30	31
APRIL 1 – EASTER One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Peanut Butter Sunday 8:30am Blended Worship 9:30am Easter Brunch 10:30am Traditional Worship	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Facilities Team Covenant Connection Published	3	4	5 9:00am Verona Food Pantry Bell Choir 5:45pm 7:00pm Covenant Choir	6	7
8 Presbyterian Coffee Project 8:30am Blended Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 12:00pm Confirmation Class 12:00pm Fellowship Team 12:00pm Outreach Team 3:00pm Open Gym 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse	9 5:30pm Congregational Care Team 7:00pm Christian Education Team 7:15pm Worship Team	10 9:30am PW Executive Board Meeting 10:00am PW Circle Meeting 5:30pm Preschool Team	11 6:30pm Visitation Training	12 9:00am Verona Food Pantry Bell Choir 5:45pm 7:00pm Covenant Choir	13 9:00am Newsletter Items Due 10:00am Novels & Needles Book Grp.	14

MARCH - APRIL 2018

What's Happening In the Community

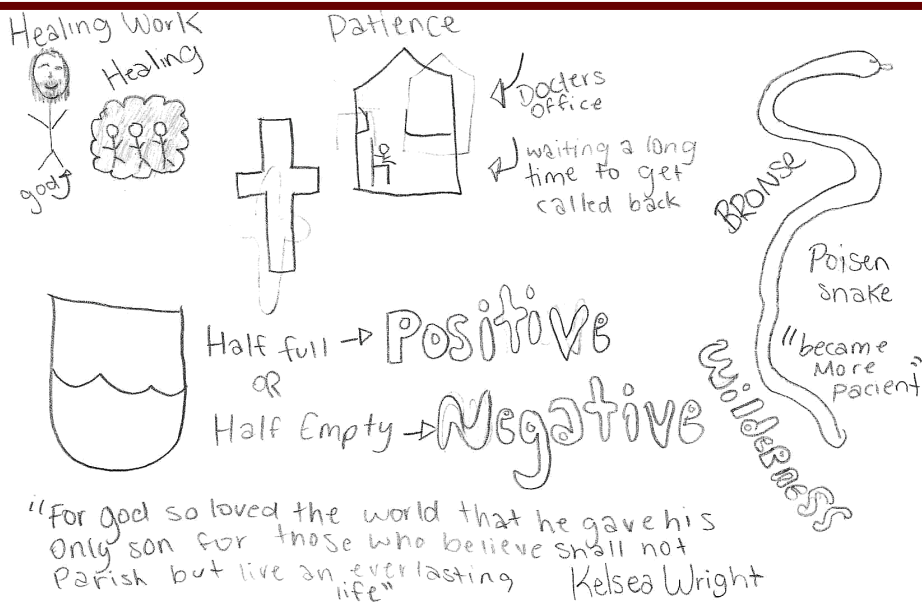
March 22 & 23 — A *cappella* music mania continues! Seize your opportunity to hear JMU's amazing *a cappella* groups as they return to the Forbes Center for this joyful, annual concert! This year's **Sing Out!** also features *a cappella* groups from Harrisonburg High School and Rockingham County Public Schools. **Two shows - Thursday and Friday at 8:00pm.** JMU Forbes Center Concert Hall. Tickets are: \$15/\$17/\$18.

March 26 — Phenomenal Korean pianist **Dasol Kim** has appeared with numerous orchestras throughout the world. This young man has won numerous awards for his musical abilities. He will be performing works by Beethoven, Ravel, Schumann and Kapustin at Mary Baldwin University's Francis Auditorium. Monday at 7:30pm. Tickets are: \$20/\$25.

March 27 — **Apollo's Fire** (The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra) will perform the music of Johann Sebastian Bach and his contemporaries in an evening featuring Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Bach's Concerto in D Minor for Two Violins, selections from Telemann's *Burlesque de Quixotte*, as well as works by Handel and Vivaldi. **Tuesday at 8:00pm** in the JMU Forbes Center Concert Hall. Tickets are: \$38/\$41.

April 8 — **Schola Cantorum Spring Concert—Tapestry Mass.** Director Jeff Ryman has selected a program made up of excerpts from our centuries of great masses. The Gloria from Bach's B Minor mass, the Credo from Mozart's Coronation Mass, the Sanctus from the Rutter Requiem and Randall Thompson's Alleluia are among the featured works. The program will conclude with Worthy is the Lamb from Handel's Messiah. **Covenant Choir members Ruth Arnold, Lou Dolive and Mike Gabel are Schola singers. Sunday at 3:00pm,** First Baptist Church, Waynesboro. Free admission, donations accepted.

On Sunday, March 11th, the youth sat together in the back pew during worship. Youth Director Laura Lawson asked them to illustrate that morning's sermon, *Tempted to Be Impatient.* The winner received a bag of candy! The illustration to the right won. Congratulations to Kelsea Wright.



Read the Bible in a Year

Mar. 26 Reflect on God as Messiah				
<input type="checkbox"/>	27	Duet. 31-32	Ps. 37	John 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	28	Duet. 33-34	Eccl. 3:9-22	John 3
<input type="checkbox"/>	29	Joshua 1-2	Ps. 38	John 4
<input type="checkbox"/>	30	Joshua 3-4	Eccl. 4:1-6	John 5
<input type="checkbox"/>	31	Joshua 5-6	Ps. 29	John 6
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Joshua 7-8	Eccl. 4:7-16	John 7
Apr. 2 Reflect on God as Friend				
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Joshua 9-10	Ps. 40	John 8
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Joshua 11-12	Eccl. 5:1-9	John 9
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Joshua 13-14	Ps. 41	John 10
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Joshua 15-16	Eccl. 5:10-20	John 11
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Joshua 17-18	Ps. 42	John 12
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Joshua 19-20	Eccl. 6:1-6	John 13
Apr. 9 Reflect on God as Peace				
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Joshua 21-22	Ps. 43	John 14
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Joshua 23-24	Eccl. 6:7-12	John 15
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Judges 1-3	Ps. 44	John 16
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Judges 4-6	Eccl. 7:1-13	John 17
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Judges 7-9	Ps. 45	John 18
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	Judges 10-12	Eccl. 7:14-29	John 19

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

Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta

The Outreach Team in collaboration with Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta would like to work on a spring project. The tentative date is Saturday, April 28th. The type of project will depend on the number of volunteers we have. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome. You can commit to the entire day or part of it. The need is great! If your home is safe, warm, dry and accessible, perhaps you can appreciate what many in our community lack. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, please contact Rick Fauerbach at 540-421-4527 or rickfauerbach@gmail.com



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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MINISTERIAL & PROGRAM STAFF

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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.

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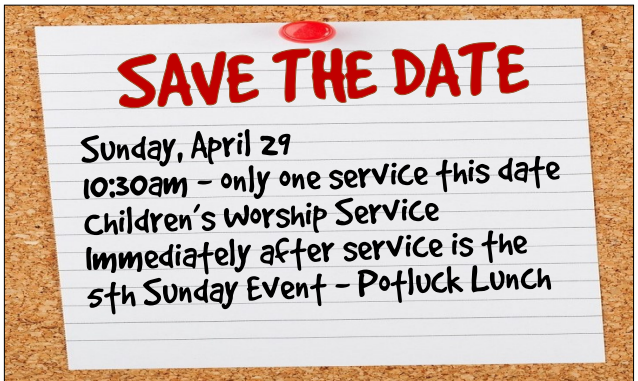
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*Striving to be Faithful Disciples of Christ:
Worshiping with Joy, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love*



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



SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, April 29
10:30am - only one service this date
Children's Worship Service
Immediately after service is the
5th Sunday Event - Potluck Lunch

Fill the  bucket

FOR THOSE IN NEED