



Covenant Connection

April 16, 2018 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

4-17

Stewardship & Finance Team

4-19

Executive Team

Bell Choir Practice

Covenant Choir Practice

4-20

Fired-Up Friday (2nd-8th graders)

4-22

Confirmation Class

Open Gym

High School Coffeehouse

STATED SESSION MEETING

4-26

Bell Choir Practice

Covenant Choir Practice

4-29

Children's Sunday

(one service only - 10:30am)

Fifth Sunday - Potluck

Confirmation Class

High School Coffeehouse

4-30

Morning Bible Study

High School Coffeehouse

Connect with the Director of Youth ...



What are your “family musts?” Going to school, eating vegetables, going to church, using manners, caring for those in need...? What do you and your family claim as non-negotiable? The Ten Commandments have been a topic of conversation for the YOUTH as of late. This month at YOUTH Group, we discussed this Cardversations question: “You have been invited to join an elite traveling sports team that will give you the chance to compete against the best young athletes in the country and to be noticed by college scouts. Unfortunately, playing on the team would mean being on the road every weekend and missing Sunday worship and any youth retreats. What should you do?” Wow! We wrestled with an answer to this question. God calls us to respect the Sabbath and keep it holy. Based on this commandment, the above question should be an easy one to answer. And 20, 30, 40 years ago the question would not even have been presented; society ran with a respect for the Christian church. Today, this question is not an easy one to answer.

**What do you
and your family
claim as
non-negotiable?**

(Continued on page 3)

*Seek first the kingdom
of God and God's
righteousness, and all
these things will
be given to you as well.*

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Monday Morning Bible Study



STUDIES BEGIN AGAIN ON MONDAY, APRIL 30th.

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!

Thank You

Dear Covenant Family:

What a joy and privilege it was to get time to fellowship with you all again during our time in the states! Thank you so much for your generous support of the Lord's work in Nigeria and your abundant love, expressed through prayers and practical actions, toward me and my family (which has grown by 3—a set of twins, and a German volunteer).

Tom and I are in a strange place of transition right now as we both get settled back in, while at the same time try to prepare for the changes ahead. We covet your prayers.

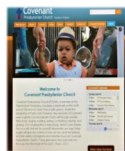
In Him, Crystal Gosnell

Are you connected to Covenant Presbyterian Church? There are many ways you can get information on what is going on at the church.



Sign up for emails by contacting Martha Pierce at:
covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/Covenant-Presbyterian-Church-163891301309/



Visit our webpage at:
www.covenantpresstaunton.org

Items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by
**9:00am on
Friday, April 28th.**



Please email her at:
covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com

Connect with the Director of Youth ... *Cont'd*

Times have changed. Christians are having to make the religious choices that Jews, Muslims, and many other religious sects have had to make for a long time now. Faith is no longer a convenience, but a tough choice. Tough choices are when the “family musts” come in: “You don’t like vegetables, but we must eat what is good for our bodies;” “You don’t want to go to school, but we must get an education;” “You don’t want to go to church, but we must worship with our faith community.”

Respecting the Sabbath is an increasingly tough choice. While the priority of sports appeals to the youth, we can insert any number of things in its place. Perhaps: “I worked hard all week and just want one day where I don’t have anything to do;” “I can’t sit still for an hour service;” “I want to have the freedom to read my book or check my phone;” “I don’t want to fight this battle with my kids every week;” “I won’t enjoy the service with all the commotion in the pew behind me.” Perhaps your tough choice is something else.

Equipping ourselves and others to make tough choices is part of being and raising the next generation of free-thinkers. When pushed from many directions, we cling to our “musts” to make wise decisions. Families, both intentionally and unintentionally, instill a set of values that form the “musts” in their children’s lives. What do you think of the “family musts” you grew up with? What intentional “musts” are you living? What unintentional “musts” may need a bit of attention? My prayer during this season of Easter is that our “musts” will align with God’s “musts,” bringing love, joy, and hope first to God, then to our lives and the lives of those we touch. Shalom,

Laura

It’s always the
right time to
take control of
your health!



Live Well, Virginia! Chronic Disease Self-Management Program Workshop

Yes, you can take control of your health, do the things you want to do and have a better quality of life, even with an ongoing or chronic health condition. Caregivers, family members and significant others are also welcome to attend!

**REGISTER TODAY BY CALLING
WANZA ORGAN AT 540-849-0019**

WHERE: Ebenezer Baptist Church
415 N. Augusta Street,
Staunton

WHEN: Thursday evenings,
April 19 - May 24
6:00 - 8:00pm



Participants will learn:

- New ways to deal with symptoms such as fatigue, pain, stress, depression and frustration
- Appropriate exercise and nutrition
- Managing medication
- Working with health care providers
- Helpful tips from other workshop participants and much more!

Connect ^{with} Others

Presbyterian Women

The April PW Circle met for Bible study and a fun service on Tuesday, April 10. The Circle put together 33 Personal Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. It was such fun “doing for total strangers” . . . being busy together helping another in his/her time of need.

“Show and Tell” — that’s what we’ll be doing at the Presbyterian Women Birthday Celebration on May 8th in the Great Hall. Come at 5:30pm for a great time of fellowship. Dinner and program begin at 6:00pm. All women are invited because all Covenant women are Presbyterian Women! You are asked to bring a salad — fruit, veggie, pasta or meat (think chicken, tuna, taco, etc.). The program “Show and Tell” will be a time of sharing your story by “showing” a memento or something special to you that you are willing to tell about around your table. You will be sharing with five other people so bring something that is important to you and that will give your dinner companions a chance to know you even better than they already do. You can sign up to attend on Sunday, April 29 or Sunday, May 6, at the table outside the sanctuary either after the early worship service or after the later worship service. This promises to be a fine event. Plan to join the fun!

Novels & Needles

Novels and Needles Book Group will meet in the breezeway on Friday, May 11 at 10:00am. ***Love and Other Consolation Prizes*** by Jamie Ford will be discussed. Come with your crocheting or knitting ready to share your opinion!



Adult Sunday School

Questions Class



Can't commit to a Sunday School class every week?

This is a drop-in class dealing with questions/ concepts of our faith journeys. Class meets at

9:30 am on Sundays in

the Breezeway. Join us for the upcoming topics of discussion:

April 22 - Can you be a Christian and live outside a Christian community? What is a Christian community?

April 29 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 6 - What does it mean to say that we are a Christian nation? How is that in keeping with our history? How does it make non-Christian Americans feel?

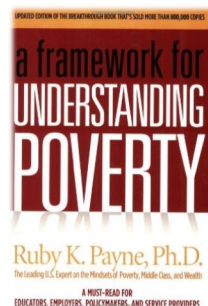
May 13 - What is more important: being a Christian or acting like one? Does it really take being a Christian to be Christlike?

May 20 - Why is the Christian Church declining in the US and western world?

Current Events with a Christian Perspective Class

The Current Events with a Christian Perspective Class invites all inquirers to bring questions and reflections on the implications and dynamics of trying to help children and their families who are coping with poverty. The first question being: Who wants to be called poor?

We have several copies of Ruby K. Payne's text: *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, 4th edition. Feel free to order your own copy online, or contact David Stahl to have one ordered for you. Our discussion is held during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. It's not too late to join!





WHO: 2nd-8th Grade (w/ High School Leadership) **bring friends**

WHAT: Games, Bible Lesson & Service Project

WHEN: Friday, April 20th, 6:00-8:00pm
(check-in starts at 5:45)

WHERE: At the Church

COST: \$5 per family

Let us know you plan to come!

This ministry, occurring on the third Fridays of the month, is for our children to get a chance to bring some friends to church, have some fun, and serve together! The Middle School students will be separate from the Elementary School students, so it won't feel like the older kids are too old or the younger kids are too young. It's like youth group fun, for all ages (well, for 2nd-8th graders). We also need High School students to help lead the groups. Email Laura Lawson with questions or to RSVP at lauramayfieldlawson@gmail.com

*Please keep in your prayers:
The family of Torrence Harman
(sister of Kathy Henderson),
whose husband, Julian "Buff" Harman,
passed away on Thursday, April 12th.*

Condolences

Facts from Facilities Team

We hope you have enjoyed seeing the red berries on the Holly trees as well as the Yellow Stick dogwoods by the Memorial Garden and the Red Stick dogwoods by the north wall throughout the winter. Half of the 65+ box-wood bushes have been pruned by hand to allow the sun into the inner sections. Please take notice of our lovely landscaping and enjoy!



A SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF CHURCH WOMEN UNITED MAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON

WHEN: Friday, May 4, 2018

Registration - 10:45am

Program - 11:00am

Lunch - 12:00pm

WHERE: Emmanuel Episcopal Church

300 West Frederick Street, Staunton

THEME: Childhood Hunger in Staunton
and August County

SPEAKER: Carrie Covey, Associate Director of
Development of the Blue Ridge Area
Food Bank

RESERVATIONS: Required by May 1st,

louisewhipple1@gmail.com or
540-885-6767

COST: Luncheon is free. A collection for CWU will be taken. Also, we are collecting gently-used sneakers (men and women) for the inmates at Middle River Regional Jail.



Sunday, April 29th @ 10:30am
Children's Day Worship Service
Covenant's Great Hall



Presented by the Covenant Youth
Based on the book by
Dottie Rambo & Dave Huntsinger
Script by Bridget Kane
Directed by Joan Swift
Produced by Seth Ward

Join us For
**a POT Luck
Lunch**

Bring your best
crowd-pleasing creation!

Sunday, April 29th
immediately after the
10:30am service
in the Great Hall

The Fellowship Team will
provide fried chicken.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 Covenant Connection Published	3	4	5 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 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 3:00pm Open Gym 6:30pm YOUTH Group	9 5:30pm Congregational Care Team 7:00pm Christian Education Team 7:15pm Worship Team	10 9:30am PW Executive Board 10:00am PW Circle Meeting 5:30pm Preschool Team	11 6:30pm Visitation Training	12 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	13 9:00am Newsletter Items Due 10:00am Novels & Needles Book Grp.	14
15 8:15am Confirmation Class 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir (K-3rd) 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30am Omega Choir (4th-7th) 11:45am Caregivers Group 12:00pm Outreach Team 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse	16 Covenant Connection Published	17 7:15pm Stewardship & Finance Team	18	19 8:30am Executive Team 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	20 5:45pm Fired Up Friday (2nd-8th graders)	21
22 8:30am Blended Worship 9:10am Alpha Choir (K-3rd) 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30am Omega Choir (4th-7th) 12:00pm Confirmation Class 3:00pm Open Gym 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse 7:00pm STATED SESSION MEETING	23	24	25	26 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	27 9:00am Newsletter Items Due	28
29 4 Cents a Meal Children's Sunday 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Children's Sunday Worship 11:30am Fifth Sunday - Potluck 12:00pm Confirmation Class 6:00pm High School Coffeehouse	30 Covenant Connection Published 10:30am Morning Bible Study	MAY 1	2 6:30pm Visitation Training	3 9:00am Verona Food Pantry 5:45pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Covenant Choir	4	5

APRIL – MAY 2018

What's Happening In the Community

April 18 – 22 — Spring Book Sale at Staunton Public Library — most items \$.25 to \$2.00

Wednesday, April 18 & Thursday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fill a bag for \$3. After 1 p.m., books are free to students, teachers, and non-profits.

Sunday, April 22 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Fill a bag for \$1. Books are free to students, teachers, and non-profits.

April 20 — Reserve your spot at the **4th Annual Dogwoods & Daffodils Garden Party** at the **Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library** for an evening of fun and friendship in the historic gardens. There will be a silent and live auction, and the event will be catered by Mike Lund Food. **The event begins at 6:00pm.** \$70.00 for members and \$75.00 for non-members. Reservations are required by April 13th and can be made at by calling (540) 885-0897 ext. 115.

April 21 — Join us in celebrating **Earth Day** with fun made for the whole family! Enjoy hands-on exhibits & activities, native plant sales, free saplings, live native wildlife programs by the Wildlife Center of Virginia, face painting and more! Solar panels, and a solar telescope for viewing our local star, will be on-site. See a live bee hive! Touch a local fish! Meet a bat! This event is located at the **Gypsy Hill Park Bandstand**. Rain location is the Gypsy Hill Park Gym. Admission is free! Food vendors will be on hand. **10:00am to 2:00pm.**

April 22 — Mahler's Resurrection Symphony, 4:00pm, JMU's Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, Concert Hall. The choirs, orchestras and vocal soloists of the JMU Symphony Orchestra and Chorale join forces with students from the Governor's School of the Arts in Norfolk, Virginia, will perform. Mahler created this powerful and philosophical work out of a profound sense of grief and loss, but transcends that darkness in a magnificent summation of renewed hope. Mahler's mighty work is brought to life in a rare performance by nearly 300 young musicians! Tickets: \$18.00

April 24-25, 27-29 — Stained Glass, 4:00pm, JMU's Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, Main Stage Theater. Jewels, a preacher's daughter, returns to New Jersey for her father's funeral in the middle of a hurricane. But the treacherous storm has other plans, washing ashore skeletons, avocado trees, and an oddball cast of characters from Moses to the Little Mermaid. They join Jewels as she journeys through the ruins of past and present, fantasy and truth, looking to find the family she lost and the faith she thought she knew. *Contains adult content and language.* April 24, 25, 27, 28 at 8:00pm; April 29 at 2:00pm. Tickets: \$15.00

April 28 — Waynesboro Riverfest, 10:00am — 4:30pm, Constitution Park.

This FREE family friendly annual event takes place river-side. Activities include a Stream Safari, Fish and Fun Rodeo, Canoe Rides, Kids Arts & Crafts, Stream Electro-fishing, and presentations by the Wildlife Center of Virginia, Virginia Herpetological Society, The Save Lucy Campaign, and Reptile World. The day is capped off by the Great South River Duck Race!

Read the Bible in a Year

Apr. 16	Reflect on God as Love		
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Judges 13-5	Ps46	John 20
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Judges 16-18	Eccl. 8:1-9	John 21
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Judges 19-21	Ps. 47	Acts 1
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Ruth 1-2	Eccl. 8:10-17	Acts 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Ruth 3-4	Ps. 48	Acts 3
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	1 Sam. 1-3	Eccl. 9:1-10	Acts 4
Apr. 23	Reflect on God as Capable		
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	1 Sam. 4-6	Ps. 49	Acts 5
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	1 Sam. 7-9	Eccl. 9:11-18	Acts 6
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	1 Sam. 10-12	Ps. 50	Acts 7
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	1 Sam. 13-15	Eccl. 10:1-11	Acts 8
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	1 Sam. 16-18	Ps. 51	Acts 9
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	1 Sam. 19-21	Eccl. 10:12-20	Acts 10
Apr. 30	Reflect on God as Strength		
<input type="checkbox"/> ^{May} 1	1 Sam. 22-24	Ps. 52	Acts 11
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	1 Sam. 25-27	Eccl. 11:1-5	Acts 12
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	1 Sam. 28-29	Ps. 53	Acts 13
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	2 Sam. 1-2	Eccl. 11:6-10	Acts 14
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	2 Sam. 3-4	Ps. 54	Acts 15
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	2 Sam. 5-6	Eccl. 12:1-8	Acts 16

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

Massanetta Swings Fundraiser

On April 18th, Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center needs your help to raise funds for a new swing set. A generous couple has agreed to match every donation up to \$4,000 on that day. This means a \$25 gift becomes a \$50 gift, \$100 becomes \$200, and so on. The Massanetta Swings Fundraiser is a part of a larger giving day sponsored by the local Community Foundation's #greatcommunitygive. So, to take advantage of the matching funds, each gift must be given:

- ♦ on April 18th between 6:30am—8:00pm
- ♦ through the link for the Great Community Give that will be supplied by Massanetta Springs as the giving window opens (look for it on the Massanetta Springs Facebook page.)

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.

COVENANT



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

We're on the web!
covenantpresstaunton.org



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

Fill the bucket



FOR THOSE IN NEED