

Covenant Connection

January 7, 2018 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

1-7

Monday Morning Bible Study
Congregational Care Team
Facility Team

1-8

PW Executive Board
PW Circle Meeting

1-10

Bell Choir Rehearsal
Covenant Choir Rehearsal

1-11

Novels & Needles Book Group

1-12

SESSION RETREAT

1-13

Outreach Team
Wrestling Through Faith (youth)

1-14

Monday Morning Bible Study

1-16

TOW-Together on Wednesday
Yankee Gift Swap

1-17

Executive Team
Bell Choir Rehearsal
Financial Peace University
Covenant Choir Rehearsal

1-18

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

1-19

Memorial Service for
Virginia Wetzel

1-20

Wrestling Through Faith (youth)
STATED SESSION MEETING

Connect with the Pastor ...



It is a new year and with a new year come a host of New Year's resolutions. If your list is anything like mine over these last years, the resolutions tend to look a lot alike with a tweak here or there, but nothing startlingly new. Might we need a new approach to those resolutions? This year, our daughter Emily suggested setting some **goals** for the year, rather than yet another list of things to resolve to do. The means toward meeting the goals might ebb, flow, and change over the year, based on experience or circumstance, but the goals would remain the same. Assessment and reassessment would provide opportunity for course corrections and fresh starts. There is thus a little more grace in living into those goals along the way this way.

In thinking about her suggestion, I wondered: What might happen if a New Year's resolution for each of us here at Covenant was **"be a better disciple of Jesus"**? What directions might that lead us – individually and as a community of Christ? It might mean reengagement with the Bible for some and engagement with those in need for others. It might mean a rethinking of priorities or a reimagining of possibilities. Perhaps a starting point would be to consider Jesus' expectations for his disciples and then assess what needs to change in your life to meet those expectations. Such a resolution would not be a laundry list of holy things to do, but rather a holistic approach to faithful living –

Continued on Page 3

A Bible Verse to Think About Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Please keep in your prayers:

Steve Henderson and his family on the sudden death of his brother, David Henderson, as a result of injuries suffered when he was struck by a car.

Janie Ballurio on the passing of her mother shortly before Christmas.

Marjorie Chittum on the death of her sister-in-law, Virginia Whitesell, at the age of 98.

Condolences

Monday Morning Bible Study



Please join us for Bible study on Mondays at 10:30 AM in the Conference Room (near the church offices). We will look at the text for the next Sunday's sermon. Come and dive a little deeper into God's word, share your insights, and get a head start on the next sermon. All are welcome!

NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED

Adults or families are needed to help in the nursery during the 10:30 AM worship service on January 13th and March 10th. If you can help, please contact Susie Oberg at 885-6832.



Items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by **9:00 AM on Friday, January 18th.**

Please email her at:
Covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



ANSWERS TO NEW YEAR'S TRIVIA QUIZ

1. a - 1908
2. a - To coincide with elections of the two highest ranking Republic positions
3. b - actor Frank Langella
4. b - Robert Burns
5. a - Mandatory licenses required for driving engine-powered vehicles
6. b - The Beatles

Connect the Pastor ... *Cont'd*

as disciples of Jesus Christ. What would make you a better disciple of Jesus in 2019? How then might you pursue that goal in January of this new year?



Presbyterian Women

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8 @ 10:00 AM
COVENANT BREEZEWAY**

Our first meeting of the new year will be Tuesday, January 8, at 10:00 AM in the Breezeway. We have lots of exciting activities planned for this new year. Please join us and enjoy this time of fellowship and learning. Carol Poulson will lead our study, "God with Us When We're Powerless." Emma Jordan and Bobbye D'Orsi will provide refreshments. We'll discuss Blanket Sunday, which is sponsored by Presbyterian Women in February and make plans for its success. Come to our meetings whenever you can. We would love to have you!

PW Board Meeting will also be held on January 8, 9:30 AM in the Breezeway.

Thanks from the Rotary Club

The Staunton Rotary Club is very grateful to Covenant Presbyterian Church for allowing us to have our Rotary Christmas Children's Party in your wonderful facility. With your assistance and cooperation, our event on Dec. 15 was a great success. We presented gifts for 250 children from 127 families in the Staunton-Waynesboro-Augusta County area. We appreciate the efforts of several church members who shopped for children, especially the Covenant Youth who shopped and wrapped for 10 kids! Only with the support of community members such as you are we able to accomplish this project. Thank you very much. — Steve Owen, Rotary President

Inquirers Class to Begin Soon

Each Sunday in January during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:15), John Peterson will offer an Inquirers Class for those who are interested in joining the church or learning more about Covenant and the Presbyterian Church (USA). While the class will cover basics of Reformed theology, biblical interpretation, worship, and Presbyterian polity, it is really intended to address questions about who we are as Presbyterians among all the other churches out there. The class will meet in Room 5, and all are welcome.

New Sunday School Class

A new Sunday school class begins this January! Throughout the month of January (and again after Easter!), we will be using "The Wired Word" curriculum which takes a current event from the news and examines it from a theological perspective. We may discuss such topics as opioid addiction or the wildfires in California or even termite mounds in Brazil! Our aim for this class will be that it is little to no prep work for the attendees. However, if you would like to skim the news article before the class, we will send it to you in an email on Thursday. If you would like to receive the news article ahead of time, please email Sarah Wolf (revsarahwolf@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list.



ANNUAL EVENT

2019 COVENANT CHILI COOK-OFF & DESSERT BAKE-OFF

Those not wishing to compete
are encouraged to
bring cornbread to share!

FEBRUARY

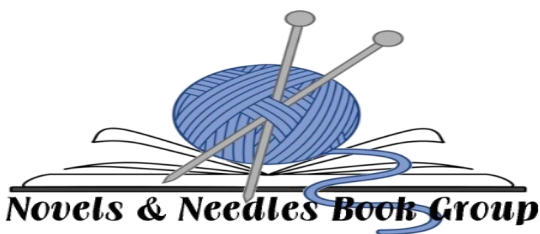
Begins at **11:30 AM**

3RD

**#1
Best
Award**



The Fellowship Team will supply beverages, cheese, oyster crackers, & sour cream.
Peanut butter & jelly sandwiches will be available for children.
Entries can be brought to the Great Hall between services.
If you have questions, please contact Dave Melvin.



Novels & Needles Book Club will meet at 10:00 AM on Friday, January 11th in the church Breezeway. *Educated* by Tara Westover will be discussed. Members are encouraged to bring their knitting or crocheting which could benefit the Covenant Prayer Shawl Ministry. Please join us!

Note of Thanks

The Allen family would like to thank the Covenant Congregation for all the support, prayers, meals, cards and visits during Clarice's long illness and passing.

We especially want to thank John and Sarah for conducting a beautiful service celebrating her life. We realized that many people would be traveling for the holidays who would have liked to attend but with three college grandchildren having finals the prior week, this seemed to be the best time.

We are thankful to God for Clarice's life, for your love and kindness.

— Stu Allen & Family

New Year's Trivia Game *(answers are at the bottom of page 2)*

1. The first ball to be dropped in New York's Times Square happened in what year?
 - a. 1908
 - b. 1925
 - c. 1938
 - d. 1962
2. The first time that January 1st was celebrated as the beginning of a new year was in 153 B.C. when the Romans moved the first month of their calendar back to January. For what reason did the Romans do this?
 - a. To coincide with elections of the two highest ranking Republic positions
 - b. To honor the god, Janus, god of beginnings and transitions
 - c. More sacred sheep were born in January than in February
 - d. To honor Tobasco, god of hang-over relief
3. What famous Frank was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, January 1, 1938?
 - a. entertainer Frank Sinatra, Jr.
 - b. actor Frank Langella
 - c. football player and coach, Frank Beamer
 - d. Head of the barley cereal syndicate crime family, Frankenberry.
4. The lyrics of the now-traditional New Years song, "Auld Lang Syne" began as a poem set to the tune of a much older Scot folk ballad. Who wrote the poem?
 - a. John Keats
 - b. Robert Burns
 - c. Lord Byron
 - d. Dr. Seuss
5. On January 1, 1906 the government of the Netherlands made what law?
 - a. Mandatory licenses required for driving engine-powered vehicles
 - b. A national census
 - c. Recognition of Dutch as the National language
 - d. Prohibition on the wearing of lamp shades as hats
6. On January 1, 1962 who failed to pass an audition for Decca Records?
 - a. Liberace
 - b. The Beatles
 - c. Comedian George Carlin
 - d. The Jackson Five

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
13 College Mail Sunday 8:30 AM Blended Worship 9:10 AM Alpha Choir (K-3rd) 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 11:30 AM Omega Choir (4th-7th) 11:45 AM Outreach Team 12:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:00 PM Wrestling Through Faith (youth)	7 10:30 AM Morning Bible Study 5:30 PM Congregational Care Team 7:00 PM Facility Team Covenant Connection Published	8 9:30 AM PW Executive Board 10:00 AM PW Circle Meeting	9	10 9:00 AM Verona Food Pantry 5:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Covenant Choir	11 10:00 AM Novels & Needles Book Group	12 8:30 AM SESSION Retreat
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JANUARY 2019

Nursing Nook

with Kathy Henderson, RN



New year, new flu season. Although technically “flu season” begins in November, this part of the world tends to see this viral ailment roar into its own community during the Christmas holidays.

To the right is a reminder chart to help you decide whether it’s the flu or “just” a cold that is making you feel so terrible. If you haven’t yet gotten a flu shot, *please* do so as soon as possible, if for no other reason than to protect the most vulnerable (very young, very old, immune-compromised) among us. Always cover your coughs and sneezes. *And wash your hands often!*



Many of you enjoyed Christmas cards from friends and family over the Christmas holidays.

Please consider donating the fronts of the cards (no envelopes, no messages) for use by the Boys and Girls Club. Look for a box in the narthex and one next to the church office marked "Christmas Cards" for you to deposit the card fronts. Thank you for providing these supplies for a project for next fall!

FLU vs. COLD

Signs & Symptoms	Flu	Cold
Symptom Onset	Abrupt	Gradual
Fever	Usual; lasts 3-4 days	Rare
Aches	Usual; often severe	Slight
Chills	Fairly Common	Uncommon
Fatigue, weakness	Usual	Sometimes
Sneezing	Sometimes	Common
Stuffy nose	Sometimes	Common
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common
Chest discomfort, cough	Common; can be severe	Mild to moderate; hacking cough
Headache	Common	Rare
Vomiting, diarrhea	Sometimes	No

Charity Bingo

to benefit

Martha's Meals on Wheels



**Monday,
January 14
7:00 - 9:00 pm
at**

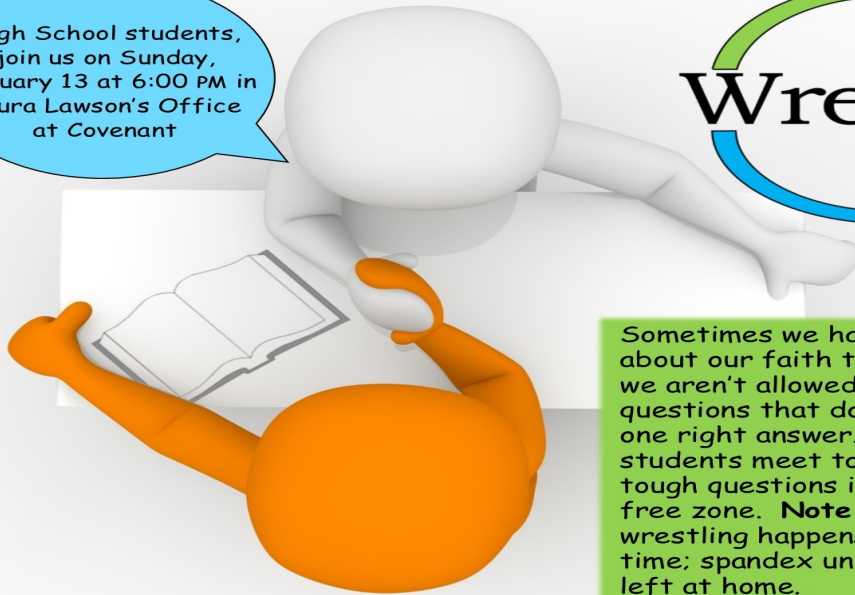
Bedlam Brewing
in the former Comcast Shopping
Center (Next to Terry Court)

Cards \$5 for 5 games

Prizes Valued \$25-\$75:

Gift Baskets, Blackfriars Tickets,
Gift Certificates, and More

High School students,
join us on Sunday,
January 13 at 6:00 PM in
Laura Lawson's Office
at Covenant



Sometimes we have questions about our faith that we feel like we aren't allowed to ask — questions that don't always have one right answer. High School students meet to discuss these tough questions in a judgment-free zone. **Note:** no physical wrestling happens during this time; spandex unitards are best left at home.



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

WHAT: Games, Bible Lesson & Service Project

WHEN: Friday, January 18th, 6:00-8:00 PM
(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



Join the millions who
never worry about money!

Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts will teach you how to beat debt and build wealth with the most powerful tool there is . . . your income.

For the new year,
join the 1.5 million people
who have benefited from
FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY.

Give yourself the gift of financial
peace. **Sign up today!**

This 9-week class begins on
Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 6:30 PM
in Covenant's Fellowship Hall.

Go to fpu.com/1078059 to register
and secure materials.

If you have any questions, email Whit or
Sharon Menefee at wmenefee@yahoo.com

*Do you have a gift from Christmas
that's not quite 'you'... an extra whatever ...
that odd thing from your Aunt Agnes?*

*Each participant should bring a
wrapped, unmarked gift.*

*The gift you bring should be something you
would be happy to receive.*



Yankee Gift Swap

Wednesday, January 16th immediately following
TOW—Together on Wednesday.

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01-02-2012

**SERIOUSLY, JOHN, YOU NEED TO DITCH
THAT CAMEL HAIR AND TRY SHEEP**

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.covenantpresstaunton.org

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Office hours: Monday-Thursday 8:15AM-3:15PM,
Friday 8:15AM-12:15PM



MINISTERIAL & PROGRAM STAFF

John C. Peterson

Pastor

Sarah Wolf

Associate Pastor

Laura Lawson

Director of Youth 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.

The newsletter is published bi-weekly to inform
members and friends of church programs, news
and events. The Connection newsletter is online
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*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 ask that you **RSVP by 12:00 PM (noon) on Monday, January 14th.**

You may do this by:

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

January 16 @ 6:00 PM
**Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes,
Lima Beans, Baked Fruit, Rolls,
and Dessert**

*Join us after the meal
for the Yankee Gift Swap*

*Vegetarian options are
available at all meals.*

TOGETHER ON
TOW
WEDNESDAY