



Covenant Connection

March 18, 2019 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 3-18**
Monday Morning Bible Study
- 3-20**
TOW-Together on Wednesday
Lenten Taize Service
- 3-21**
Bell Choir Rehearsal
Covenant Choir Rehearsal
- 3-24**
Blended Worship
Alpha Choir Practice (K-3rd)
Sunday School
Traditional Worship
Omega Choir Practice (4th-7th)
Open Gym
Wrestling Through Faith (youth)
- 3-25**
Monday Morning Bible Study
- 3-27**
TOW-Together on Wednesday
Lenten Taize Service
- 3-28**
Bell Choir Rehearsal
Covenant Choir Rehearsal
- 3-31**
Blended Worship
Alpha Choir Practice (K-3rd)
Sunday School
Traditional Worship
Omega Choir Practice (4th-7th)
Fifth Sunday Event—
Roller Skating at Funky's
- 4-1**
Monday Morning Bible Study
Community Nursing Steering Comm.
Congregational Care Team
Facilities Team
Worship Team

Connect with the Pastor ...



*When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awakening cries:
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"*

How do your mornings begin? When the alarm goes off, and you rub the sleep from your eyes, do you rise with a groan or first scroll through your phone? Are you unsuitable for company or conversation until you've had your morning cup of coffee – or your 2nd or your 3rd? Do you jump out of bed eager for the day, or dive under the covers hoping it is just a bad dream, or linger there awhile to gather yourself or force yourself to get up and get going? An old friend in Richmond told me that he started each day by saying out loud as he rose from his bed, "Good morning, Lord!" It was a reminder that God had been with him through the night and was right there by his side as he rose for the day. Do you have such an awareness of God's presence with you each morning? I used to run three miles or so every morning at sunrise, and more times than I can count the brilliance of the sky over the Blue Ridge would move me to murmur (not sing out loud out of respect for the dogs in the neighborhood), "*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning, our song shall rise to thee!*" Does a song or prayer escape your lips with gratitude for the gift of

Continued on Page 3

A Bible Verse to Think About Mark 10:27

“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With mortals it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.’”

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. Dive a little deeper into God's word, share your insights, and get a head start on the next sermon. All are welcome!

Items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by **9:00 AM on Friday, March 29th.**

Please email her at:
Covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



Let's ROLL

SKATING at FUNKY'S SKATE CENTER
100 MILLER CIRCLE, HARRISONBURG
SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 4:00 - 6:00 PM
COST - \$1 FOR REGULAR SKATES
\$3 FOR INLINE SKATES
FELLOWSHIP TEAM COVERS ADMISSION.
RINK RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THIS EVENT.
WATER WILL BE PROVIDED.
PLEASE BRING A SNACK TO SHARE.
CONCESSION STAND WILL BE OPEN.
JOIN US TO SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS
OR JUST TO WATCH!
OPEN TO CHURCH MEMBERS,
FAMILY AND FRIENDS
CONTACT ROBYN SOMMERFIELD WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

How Can You Help??

The Congregational Care Team is looking for volunteers to help with:

- Signing up appointments for pictures
- Helping with transportation
- Knitting prayer shawls
- Delivering a meal
- Tutoring at the Boys & Girls Club
- Visiting with members
- Scheduling respite care
- Sending cards
- Joining the Women of the Church Circle

Please contact Janie Ballurio, Congregational Care Team Leader, if you are willing to help or need more information.

Connect the Pastor ... *Cont'd*

another day? Do devotions orient your day at daybreak, or do you hit the ground running through your mental to-do list? Do you get up on the "right side of the bed" or the "wrong side"? How do your mornings begin?

Consider beginning your day with God on your mind this Lenten season. Take a moment at the dawn of the day to utter a brief prayer or soak in the sunrise or ponder a reading (a handful of Lenten devotionals are still available in the narthex) or simply say with my friend, "Good morning, Lord!" With God by your side and on your mind, embrace the day – for each day is a gift from God!



Open Gym is back!
Starting March 24th,
come out every other Sunday
from 3:00-5:00 PM. There will be
no Open Gym on April 21st
(Easter) or May 5th.
Contact Bill Terry with questions.

Presbyterian Women Recap

EMMANUEL or GOD WITH US means peace and justice. "We praise you, Emmanuel, for you came to dwell among us, the WORD made flesh. So great is your love for us, you are willing to do whatever it takes to be with us." This reality was emphasized last week in Jerry Lynn Shipplett's lesson. Delicious cookies, fruit, and lemon pound cake provided by Ellen Mullins and Martha Ware were enjoyed during our study and fellowship time.

If you were unable to be with us, WE MISSED YOU and hope you will join us for our next Circle Meeting on April 9th at 10:00 AM in the Breezeway. Mary Ann Stripling will lead our lesson, "GOD WITH US AS THE HOLY SPIRIT." Dee Norris and Jean Rexrode are our hostesses. SEE YOU THERE!

SAVE THE DATES!

- Saturday, April 6, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, for our **WOMEN IN COMMUNITY** Conference at Massanetta Springs
- Tuesday, May 14, 5:30 PM, for our **BIRTHDAY OFFERING DINNER** in Covenant's Great Hall

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE FUN ACTIVITIES, TIME OF FELLOWSHIP, AND LEARNING DESIGNED TO GIVE YOU HAPPINESS!

Thank You!

We are very thankful to our congregation for donations to the **BLANKET FUND!** These gifts



of love will be used by those devastated by wild fires, mudslides, floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes. **BLANKET FUND ENVELOPES** are in the pew racks. If you have not done so already, please consider a donation to this worthy cause. Each one who receives a blanket after they have lost everything is so thankful for your gift.

Nursing Nook with Kathy Henderson, RN



The house seems to be getting bigger, the yard ever weedier, and you've begun to consider a less labor-intensive lifestyle. Now what? Hunker down and "senior-proof" your house? Hope the kids will build an "in-law" apartment? Find a "retirement community" that offers independent living – but maybe not the services needed if your health declines? Perhaps you should explore "continuing care" communities that allow you access to increasing levels of care? What is the difference between "retirement" and "active living" communities? And let us not forget costs, which *average* almost \$48,000 a year in Virginia? The Staunton-Waynesboro-Harrisonburg area offers dozens of senior living options, but how do you decide which best fit your needs – or if they're affordable?

It's an overwhelming subject, on so many levels. Luckily, help is at hand. Michelle Bradley, community sales director at Brightview Senior Living, will be at Covenant April 10th to help us "Explore Senior Living." Armed with a helpful book of checklists and unbiased suggestions, Michelle will help us learn the vocabulary we need to evaluate senior living options objectively. This is a talk for parents and their adult children.

To help prepare, check out the following websites and bring your questions:

The Virginia-specific website, www.seniornavigator.org is a good place to start. The Chesterfield-based, not-for-profit outfit offers comprehensive information about general issues of interest to older people, as well as specific information about scores of senior living facilities, organized by zip code.

AARP's website, www.aarp.org, offers good, basic information, although its focus is national.

Also very interesting is the "Senior Score" section of www.senioradvice.com. From the home page of the website, click the "Resources" button, select "Senior Score," and learn how various facilities and communities rate statistically. **A word of caution:** If you submit a "send me information" form, you will be inundated with calls and emails!

"Explore Senior Living"
5:00 PM, Wednesday, April 10th
Senior High Room
(just off the Great Hall)

MEN'S CONFERENCE
MASSANETTA SPRINGS
CONFERENCE CENTER
HARRISONBURG, VA

July 19-21, 2019

"Here am I Lord, Send Me"
Isaiah 6:8



Register On-Line: www.midatlanticmen.org / PayPal Available

Covenant's Annual

SPRING EGG HUNT

Fun for children of all ages!



Saturday, April 13, 2019
10:00 AM to Noon

Meet in the Great Hall
for Crafts, Egg Hunt &
Light Refreshments!

Be sure to bring a basket
and invite your friends!

Candy Needed for Spring Egg Hunt

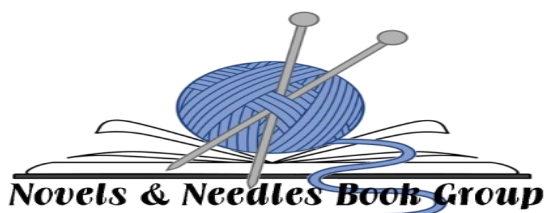
Please drop your donation in the box
outside the church office
by Sunday, April 7.



Help Is Needed VOLUNTEER TODAY

The Combined Task Force is gearing up for its FINAL First Friday program of the Spring at the Boys & Girls Club on April 5th, 2:30 - 6:30 pm! For the past three months, we have held monthly programs on the first Fridays of the month, emphasizing nutritious food sources and preparation. This final program will allow the kids to participate in making a final celebratory meal, which will hopefully be shared with their parents and the Boys & Girls Club volunteers. We need volunteers to help! If you are able to attend, we could use your assistance to work with the kids. Group leaders have already been assigned so all you have to do is show up? Can't make it to the celebration? Volunteer to donate the needed supplies beforehand! Supplies can be dropped off at the Covenant Office anytime on or before April 4th.

To sign up, go to: www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4AAAAE2BA6F94-april



Novels & Needles Book Group






Novels & Needles Book Club
will meet at 10:00 AM on
Friday, April 12th
in the church Breezeway.

Vox

by Christine Dalcher
will be discussed.

Members are encouraged to
bring their knitting or crocheting
which could benefit the
Covenant Prayer Shawl Ministry.
Please join us!

SPRING

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 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) 6:00 PM Wrestling Through Faith (Youth)	18 10:30 AM Morning Bible Study Covenant Connection Published	19	20 6:00 pm TOW Together on Wednesday 7:00 pm Lenten Taize Worship Service	21 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Covenant Choir	22	23
31 4 Cents a Meal 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) 4:00 PM Fifth Sunday Event - Skating at Funky's 	April 1 10:30 AM Morning Bible Study 4:30 PM Community Nursing Steering Committee 5:30 PM Congregational Care Team 7:00 PM Facilities Team 7:15 PM Worship Team Covenant Connection	2	3 6:00 PM TOW Together on Wednesday 7:00 pm Lenten Taize Worship Service	4 5:45 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Covenant Choir 	5	6 9:00 AM Spring Clean-Up 
7 Peanut Butter Sunday Presbyterian Coffee Project 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 Christian Education Team 11:45 AM Outreach Team 3:00 PM Open Gym 6:30 PM Youth Group	8 10:30 AM Morning Bible Study COME JOIN OUR BIBLE Study 	9 9:30 AM PW Executive Board 10:00 AM PW Circle Meeting 5:30 PM Preschool Team 7:15 PM Stewardship & Finance Team	10 5:00 pm Senior Living Options 6:00 PM TOW Together on Wednesday 7:00 pm Lenten Taize Worship Service	11 8:30 AM Executive Team 5:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Covenant Choir	12 9:00 AM Items due for News-letter 10:00 AM Novels & Needles Book Group	13 9:00 AM Renewing Homes Project 10:00 AM Spring Egg Hunt 

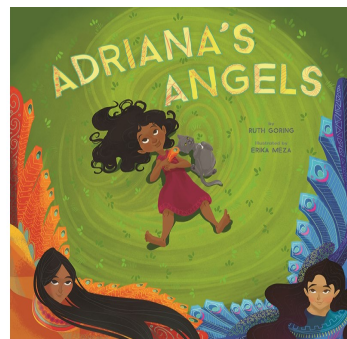
MARCH - APRIL 2019

New in our
Children's
Library

ADRIANA'S ANGELS

Written by Ruth Goring
Illustrated by Erika Meza

This picture book by Ruth Goring tells the story of a little girl, Adriana, who come to America with her family seeking asylum. She is accompanied by two angels, Milagros (Miracles) and Alegria (Joy). Through the difficult times and the everyday times, Adriana's angels whisper messages of God's love and presence. This book was inspired by the experiences of a real family who left Columbia to start a new life in Chicago.



TOW SOUP SIGN-UP REMINDER



MARCH 20	MARCH 27
Ashley Kane	Woodlands
Joe Anne Bradley	Seth Ward
Karen Peterson	Sarah Splaun
Whitacres	Martha Ware
Katie Campbell (vegetarian)	James Harris (vegetarian)



Join us for the

1st Annual Baja Benefit Gala



To support the 2019 Shenandoah

Presbytery Baja Mission Trip

Saturday, May 18, 2019

6:00 to 9:30 PM

Frontier Culture Museum

\$50 per person

Included: Beer/wine, appetizers,
Cinco de Mayo Dinner & Dessert,
Silent Auction

Special Performance by
The Findells

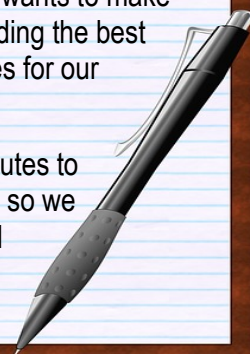
For tickets, contact
Robyn Sommerfield at
robynsommerfield@gmail.com



The Fellowship Team Needs Your Input

The Fellowship Team wants to make sure that we are providing the best fellowship opportunities for our Covenant family.

Please take a few minutes to answer a short survey so we can get your input and ideas.



TAKE THE SURVEY AT:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D7576PH>

Spring Clean Up

Saturday, April 6

9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

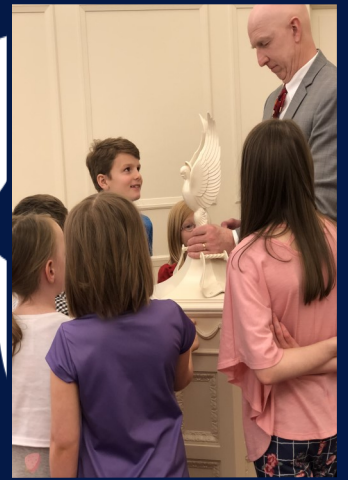
Come celebrate Linda Heatwole's
Annual Spring Clean Up.

There will be cleaning fun in
little jobs and big jobs to brighten the
church for the season. Fresh donuts -
Tasty Treats - Beverages will be served.
Linda's devotion to Covenant is a legacy
of care and cleaning! Please join us to
remember her, to share and celebrate the
gift of a beautiful place to worship.



Covenant Presbyterian Church

First Grade Sacraments Class



The class
learning
about the
sacrament of
Baptism.




Outreach Opportunity



Covenant will be working with Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta on Saturday, April 13th. We will be helping a local neighbor in need of critical home repairs. If this sort of activity is in your comfort zone, your assistance

would be welcome. We're looking to expand our pool of assistance in our church community. We need more people to improve our impact. The need is great! An appropriate project will be selected based on the response of the congregation. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, please contact Rick Fauerbach at 540-421-4527 or rickfauerbach@gmail.com



Taize
WORSHIP SERVICES
SONG - WORD - SILENCE - PRAYER
WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 6 THRU APRIL 10, 7:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401

www.covenantpresstaunton.org

Office 540-885-2138 = Fax 540-885-4399

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 at www.covenantpresstaunton.org.



2001 North Coalter Street
Staunton, VA 24401

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #188
STAUNTON, VA
24401

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 the Monday prior to 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

**March 20th
@ 6:00 PM
LENTEN SOUPS**

**March 27th @ 6:00 PM
LENTEN SOUPS**

*Please join us after each TOW
at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary
for a special time of worship Taizé style.*

*Vegetarian options are
available at all meals.*

**TOGETHER ON
TOW
WEDNESDAY**