

Theologian Karl Barth was once asked to sum up all of his theology in just a few words. Barth paused and then responded, "In the words of a song I learned at my mother's knee: 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.'" The Bible is filled with passages detailing God's great love for us. In Christian Education we explore the breadth and depth of that love.

Our faith journeys begin at the knees of our parents and continue in the church nursery and in our Toddler/ Pre-K Sunday school class when students sing, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." The journey continues through elementary school classes and youth groups as tweens and teens ask hard questions in a judgment-free environment. And yes, the journey continues into adulthood!

During the coming months, we encourage you to find an opportunity that speaks to you — one that will help you explore the many ways that God loves us and calls us to love one another. It might be a new Sunday school class, a Bible study, or helping to lead Children's Church. Try something that will help you affirm with Barth: "Jesus loves me, this I know!"

Sarah Wolf  
Associate Pastor

## NEW CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Following the children's sermon, children age 3 - 1st grade are invited to attend "Children's Church" in the new Children's Church Room to learn more about the topic of that morning's sermon. Children will spend their time learning about the Bible story, singing songs, playing games, reading books, and/or making crafts related to that morning's text. Our hope is that this time will give families a lot to talk about after worship!  
Location: Room 4

## TOGETHER ON TOW WEDNESDAY

Wednesdays, Oct. 2nd - Dec. 18th  
(No TOW on Nov. 27th)

Each evening begins in the Great Hall

6:00 PM - Circle time for sharing joys & concerns followed by a delicious dinner with a vegetarian option available.

Suggested donation: Adults \$5; Children \$2  
Childcare is available.

### **TOW FALL BIBLE STUDY: *The Stories of Creation*** (October 2, 9, 16, and 23 @ 7:00 PM following TOW)

In varied voices, Scripture tells of God's work in creation. What do these varied accounts tell us about God the Creator and our role in what God has made? How does science inform our reading of these texts? Join us as we explore a biblical perspective on the creation of all things great and small!

Location: Fellowship Hall Led by: John Peterson and Sarah Wolf

### **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AFTER TOW:**

Trunk or Treat - October 30th

Gingerbread House Decorating - December 18th

### SPECIAL CONTINUING ED EVENT

#### **"A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD"**

Join your Covenant family in December (*specific date to be determined*) for a viewing of the new Mister Rogers' movie, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood." At Fired-Up Fridays this fall, our kids will discuss what it means to be a neighbor and our adults will read, "Exactly As You Are: The Life and Faith of Mister Rogers." In celebration of our studies and our conversations, we will head to a theater to see Mister Rogers on the big screen. Stay tuned for more information!

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
2001 N Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401  
(540) 885-2138 — Fax (540) 885-4399  
[www.covenantpresstaunton.org](http://www.covenantpresstaunton.org)



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Fall 2019

*How much better to get wisdom than gold!  
To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.  
Proverbs 16:16*

## ADULTS

### SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 AM

**ADULT II** — We will read and discuss a new book written by Rev. F. Morgan Roberts, *A Beautiful View*. Rev. Roberts is Pastor Emeritus of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, PA. The central theme of his book is to encourage all of us to pursue a more joyful and friendlier Christianity as a way of life. Author Sarah Evans Barker states, "Rev. Roberts retells and reinterprets in a consumer-friendly fashion a sampling of time-honored biblical teachings, traditions, insights, and stories."

Location: Room 6 Led by: Richard & Donna Esther  
**CURRENT EVENTS WITH A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE** —

This class will begin the semester by reading *Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt* by Arthur C. Brooks. Join us for an open and respectful discussion each week.

Location: Fellowship Hall Led by: David Stahl

**THE WIRED WORD** — With a 24-hour news cycle, it can be difficult to process the week's events from a Christian perspective. Each week this class will examine a current news event through a Christian lens to seek to understand how our faith and the world intersect.

Location: Room 5 Led by: Church members  
**INQUIRERS CLASS (Sept 15, 22, and 29)**

"What is a Presbyterian? Who is Covenant? Is there a place for me here?" Explore the faith and practice of Presbyterians and bring your questions. This class is especially for those considering joining or who have recently joined Covenant.

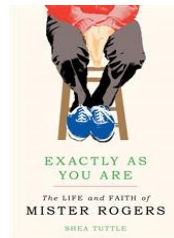
Location: Room 3 Led by: John Peterson  
**ADVENT SERIES (December 1, 8, 15, 22)** — Advent is a time for preparation of our hearts as well as our homes as we anticipate the birth of the Savior. Among all the familiar carols and treasured traditions there is still room for new perspective to light our way to the manger. Join us for that Advent journey.

Location: Room 3 Led by: John Peterson & Sarah Wolf  
**ONE BOOK, ONE CHURCH (Sundays in November)** —

From Amazon - "Fred Rogers fiercely believed that all people deserve love. This conviction wasn't simply sentimental: it came directly from his Christian faith. God, he insisted, loves us just the way we are. In *Exactly as You Are*, Shea Tuttle looks at Fred Roger's life, the people and places that made him who he was, and his work through *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. She pays particular attention to his faith — because Fred Rogers was a deeply spiritual person, ordained by his church with a one-of-a-kind charge: to minister to children and families through television. Tuttle explores this kind, influential, sometimes surprising man: the neighborhood he came from, the neighborhood he built, and the kind of neighbor he, by his example, calls all of us to be. Throughout, Tuttle shows how he was guided by his core belief: that God loves children, and everyone else, exactly as they are."

**Note:** This book will be published on October 22nd, so pre-ordering is recommended!

Location: Room 3 Led by: Sarah Wolf



## CHILDREN

### SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 AM

This year, we will be using Animate Faith curriculum from Sparkhouse Publishing. This curriculum provides age-appropriate activities and lessons which follow the salvation story beginning with the Old Testament in the fall and moving to the New Testament during winter and spring.

#### **Toddler and Pre-K (Blue Room)**

Led by: Joan Sayers, Katie Campbell, Susie Oberg, Rebecca Allison

#### **K and 1st Grade (Yellow Room)**

Led by: Kristin Siegel, Elissa McDonald, Mandy Drumheller, Ellen Lucius

#### **2nd and 3rd Grade (Green Room)**

Led by: Anne Bell, Amanda Campbell, Kristen Lambert  
*Special Class in September and October — Worship 101: this class will explore the different elements of worship.*

#### **4th and 5th Grade (Room 2-Upstairs)**

Led by: Diana Bohart, Kevin & Kathlynn Luebke-Brown, Clayton Brooks

## INFANTS

Nursery is provided for babies through 18-month-olds during the Sunday School hour by Nursery Caregivers and Huggers & Helpers. Contact Sarah Wolf (revsarahwolf@gmail.com) for more information.

## ALPHA CHOIR

The Alpha Choir is for children in kindergarten through 3rd grade. The choir offers an opportunity for children to participate in worship through song, singing traditional favorites as well as new songs. They learn the basics of dynamics, rhythms, and notation for music as well as the pleasure of singing with others to offer praise to God. The choir practices each Sunday from 9:10AM to 9:30AM and sings the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Location: Choir Room Led by: Joan Swift & Mike Riddell

## OMEGA CHOIR

All youth who are in 4th grade and up are invited to participate in the Omega Choir. The choir practices each Sunday after the 10:30AM worship service until 12:30PM. The children sing music written for youth; it is mostly two-part singing. The choir sings the 4th Sunday of each month for the worship service.

Location: Choir Room Led by: Joan Swift & Bonnie Powell

## WOMEN

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE

**Second Tuesday of the month @ 10:00 AM**

Join the Presbyterian Women each month for refreshments and fellowship, followed by Bible study which was written specifically for the women of our denomination. This year's study is called, "*Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*." Each month, we'll explore one of the Ten Commandments and their implications for our lives.

Location: Breezeway Led by: Mary Ann Stripling & Kathleen Wilkers

## YOUTH

### SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 AM

#### **6TH-9TH GRADE CLASS (YOUTH ROOM)**

The class will be using Rebecca Kirkpatrick's book, *100 Things Every Child Should Know Before Confirmation*, as a guide for lessons and discussions. Some questions to be discussed will be:

- ◆ What does it mean to be a peacemaker at school?
- ◆ How can we love those who intentionally hurt us?
- ◆ What will it be like when Jesus comes again?

Led by: Craig Whitacre, Tom & Vicky Bellamy, Darlene Schneck

#### **10TH-12TH GRADE CLASS (LAURA LAWSON'S OFFICE)**

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. Students will meet to discuss tough questions in a judgement-free zone.

Led by: Laura Lawson

## FIRED UP FRIDAYS

**(2nd - 8th graders w/High School leaders)**

WHAT: Bible Study, Service Project, and Games

WHEN: 2nd Fridays, 6:00PM to 8:00PM  
 (check-in begins at 5:45PM)

WHERE: Check-in outside of the Great Hall

WHY: Gettin' fired up about faith!

WHO: Middle Schoolers — Bring some friends to church to have some fun, talk about God, and serve together.  
 High Schoolers — We need your leadership for the younger group going through!

## OPEN TABLE

**(Middle and High School youth)**

Bonding happens in the kitchen and at the dinner table with Open Table. Every 3rd Sunday, from 4:30PM to 6:30PM, we join together to prepare a meal, eat, and talk about faith and life.

Location: Great Hall Kitchen Led by: Laura Lawson

## YOUTH GROUP

**(Middle and High School youth)**

Middle and High School youth come together every 4th Sunday of the month from 6:00PM to 8:00PM for games, snacks, and some Bible studying.

Location: YOUth Room Led by: Laura Lawson & Ma Druff