



# Covenant Connection

August 19, 2019 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

8-25

**60TH ANNIVERSARY  
WORSHIP & CELEBRATION**

9-1

**PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY  
PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT**

Blended Worship  
Fellowship in the Breezeway  
Traditional Worship  
Fellowship Team

9-12

**LABOR DAY —**

Church Office Closed

9-4

Environmental  
Stewardship Task Force

9-5

Bell Choir Practice  
Covenant Choir Practice

9-8

**COLLEGE MAIL SUNDAY  
YOUTH & RALLY SUNDAY**

Blended Worship  
Alpha Choir Practice (K-3rd grade)  
Sunday School  
Traditional Worship  
Omega Choir (4th-7th grade)  
Outreach Team  
Christian Education Team

## Connect with the Pastor ...

It is good to be home! While I enjoyed my sabbatical over the last several months – travel in Scotland, visits with friends and family, a wide variety of worship experiences, some good books – I am happy to be back at Covenant with all of you. I have missed you and missed worshipping and serving with you! My great thanks to Sarah for her leadership in my absence! I have heard nothing but rave reviews for her sermons, pastoral care, and joyful spirit throughout this summer, though I am interested to see the additions she indicates have been approved in my absence – a church dog park, zip line for Chris from the organ to piano, and Jacuzzi for the Associate Pastor’s office! Hmm...



Over the years we have had a lot of surprises and changes and celebrations as a Covenant community. What began as a gathering of folks in an auto body shop on North Augusta Street in 1959 has grown into this Covenant church with a vibrant ministry in Staunton and beyond. This Sunday (August 25) in worship at one service at 10:00 a.m. we will celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a church! With gratitude we will recall the vision and commitment of our charter members who laid the foundation literally and figuratively for this church. We will celebrate the joys of our past as we look with hope to the future. I hope that you will join us for this hallmark in our Covenant life together — 60 years of joyful, loving, hope-filled ministry — and counting!

# Presbyterian Women

## A Bible Verse to Think About Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NIV)

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

## Monday Morning Bible Study



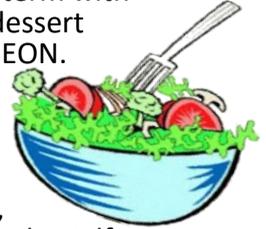
Starting on Monday, September 9th, join us for Bible study each Monday at 10:30 AM in the Conference Room (near the church offices). We will look at the text for the next Sunday's sermon. Dive a little deeper into God's word, share your insights, and get a head start on the next sermon. All are welcome!

## SAVE THE DATE!

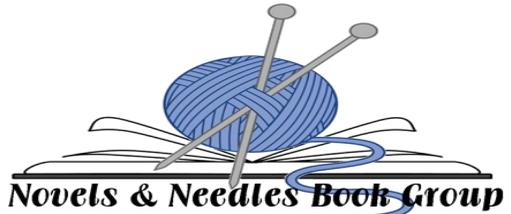
### THANK OFFERING LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 10, 2018 @ 11:30 AM

We begin our 2019-2020 term with our enjoyable salad and dessert THANK OFFERING LUNCHEON.

Introducing our new study, LOVE CARVED IN STONE: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments, by Eugenia Anne Gamble, will be "our own" Rev. Sarah Wolf.



You will not want to miss this wonderful time of fellowship and learning. Sign up in the Narthex on Sundays, September 1st and 8th. Please join us and mark your calendar for the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM in the Breezeway for our monthly Circle Meetings. Present board members and those being installed on September 10th will meet at Janet Guynn's home on August 27th at 11:00 AM.



**Novels & Needles Book Group**  
Novels & Needles Book Group is having their first meeting of the Fall session on Friday, September 13th, at 10:00 AM in the Breezeway. The book for discussion is *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. Discussion will be led by Anne Mitchell and Janie Ballurio. Bring your thoughts and your knitting or crocheting for an enjoyable morning!



# SEMINARY FOR A DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

EARLY CENTER, RICHMOND CAMPUS  
3401 BROOK ROAD, RICHMOND, VA

## LEARN WITH OUR SEMINARY FACULTY

Seminary for a Day is an excellent opportunity to engage important and relevant theological topics with Seminary faculty. Participants will gather for two keynote addresses over the course of the day and select one morning and one afternoon workshop to attend.

Cost is \$25 (includes lunch).

To register, please visit -  
[www.eiseverywhere.com/semforaday](http://www.eiseverywhere.com/semforaday)

## MORNING SESSION

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

**What Does the Lord Require?** – *Rodney S. Sadler Jr., Associate Professor of Bible*

### WORKSHOPS:

**When the Bible Becomes a Pop-Up Book: Finding Feet for Religious Leadership in the Midst of the Ferguson Freedom Movement** – *Deborah Krause, Professor of New Testament, Eden Theological Seminary (guest speaker)*

**Preaching to Teach: Rethinking the Image of the Teacher for Preaching in Our Time** – *Professor Richard W. Voelz*

**Images of Jesus in Other World Religions** – *Professor John T. Carroll*

**Mission and Missionaries in Film and Fiction** – *Professor Stanley H. Skreslet*

**Womanist Theology & Ethics** – *Melanie Jones, new to faculty as Instructor of Ethics, Theology, and Culture and Director of the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership*

**The Dynamic Power of Anger in Conflicted Relationships** – *Professor Kenneth J. McFayden*

## AFTERNOON SESSION

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

**Toward a Monumental Reading of the Gospel of Mark: Design, Performance, and Formation for the Empire of God** – *Deborah Krause, Professor of New Testament, Eden Theological Seminary (guest speaker)*

### WORKSHOPS:

**The Role of the Church in Racism and Reconciliation** – *Professor Rodney S. Sadler Jr.*

**Judaism and Christianity on the Arabian Peninsula on the Eve of Islam** – *Professor Christine Marquis Luckritz*

**Jesus Was a Mammal: Reading the Gospel of John Ecologically** – *Professor Frances Taylor Gench*

**Modern Missions at the Margins** – *Professor James Elisha Taneti*

**Living Faithfully in an Era of Hate** – *Professor Rachel Beard, new to faculty as Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics*

**The Book of Order as a Mission Manual** – *Adjunct Instructor Carson Rhyne*

## News from the Nursery Team

The Sunday Nursery team would like to thank the following super supporters for their help with the smallest of our Covenant members!!!!

***Julia Bussey, Jane Maxton, Janey Terry, Hayden Terry, Bonnie Rose, Dave Melvin, Joan Sayers, and Emma Shuey.***

We are currently looking for volunteers for Fall who could join us for the 10:30 AM service and who would love to giggle with some of the most fun members of our congregation.

We promise you will leave with your heart full and joyful. Please call Susie Oberg at 885-6832 if you are able to join us the first Sunday of any upcoming month.



## NOMINATIONS FOR ELDERS

Our Book of Order tells us this about the office of Elder:

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in governing and ministry. Ruling Elders are chosen by the people. Together with Teaching Elders (Ministers of the Word and Sacrament), they exercise leadership, governance, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibility for the life of a congregation, as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. They serve faithfully as members of the Session and should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world. Additionally, the church makes provision for youth who may be called to serve as youth elders to serve a one-year term, if so called.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Nominating Committee is seeking names to be considered for Elder. If you know of someone you feel would be qualified to serve, please write his or her name below and turn in this form either by dropping it in the offering plate during Sunday worship or at the church office by August 26.

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### **ELDER NOMINATIONS**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



## ALL ABOUT EQUAL EXCHANGE

The Outreach Team would like to highlight one of the indigenous coops Equal Exchange continues partnering with in Honduras, helping to bring a measure of hope, stability, and a brighter future.

COMSA is a coffee producer society based in Marcala, La Paz, Honduras that proposes economic, social, and environmental objectives as a strategy to reduce poverty and to promote sustainable development. Founded in 2001 with 7000 lempiras (300 US\$) of social capital, COMSA grew out of an initiative of the Rural Business Development Foundation (FUNDER). Sixty producers in Marcala (12 women, 48 men) came together as the founding members of COMSA with the goal of directly exporting their coffee production.

In 2018, COMSA has grown to have more than 1200 farmer members. COMSA members produce coffee using organic practices and the technical team shares a suite of best practices to improve on farm productivity to insure consistent generation of farm income. The organization promotes diversification of production and asks its members to consider their farms as an integrated productive unit where all family members have the opportunity to participate and benefit from the production process.



Photo Courtesy of Equal Exchange

***“Thanks to COMSA we began the process of diversification and now we have integrated farms and more income. We have our health because everything that we do is organic and we love this because every day we can innovate, observe, and analyze.”***

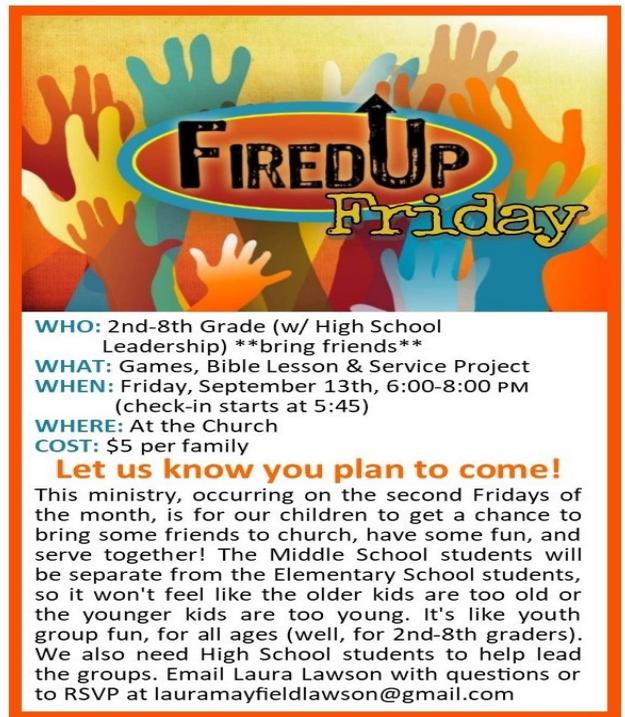
***— Alba Rosa Claros, member of COMSA. Las Brisas Farm. La Victoria, Marcala, Honduras***



# College Mail Sunday

To: College Student  
From: You

Help us send some love and encouragement to our students during their time in college. Pre-addressed cards will be available in the Breezeway on Sunday, September 8th for you to pick up. Select one or several, then write a few cheerful words and put the card in the mail. During the week pray for the student of the card(s) selected.



## FIRED UP Friday

**WHO:** 2nd-8th Grade (w/ High School Leadership) \*\*bring friends\*\*  
**WHAT:** Games, Bible Lesson & Service Project  
**WHEN:** Friday, September 13th, 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 second 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](mailto:lauramayfieldlawson@gmail.com)

# The Big Event

## ATTENTION PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!

The Big Event will be held on Saturday, September 14th from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center. The Big Event offers worship, music, a mission fair, and workshops to interest adults, youth and children as we celebrate our oneness in Christ. For more information or to register, go to <http://shenpres.org/big-event/>



Come celebrate the beginning of another year of Christian Education at Covenant! **SEPTEMBER 8TH AT 9:30 AM,**

we'll gather in the Great Hall to sing, dance, and meet our Sunday school teachers.

We'll cheer the children and youth off to their classes and then we'll have an adult ministry fair during which you can discover all of the great opportunities for learning at Covenant.

Refreshments and fun will be provided!

## Children, Come & Sing

Youth choir rehearsals will begin on September 8th. Children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade are invited to sing with the Alpha Choir. We will practice on Sunday, before Sunday School at 9:10 AM in the Choir Room. The Omega Choir, for those in 4th grade and above, will practice in the Choir Room after the last worship service until 12:30 PM. Please mark your calendars, and come and sing with us.



The Caregivers Group will meet on **Sunday, September 15th** (after the 10:30 AM service) in Room 5. Anyone caring for a loved one who would like to talk with others in similar situations is invited to come. If you would like additional information, contact Joan Sayers.



## Sustainability Effort

In January, the Session adopted a goal of becoming better environmental stewards. An Environmental Stewardship Task Force is beginning the work of looking for ways to expand our church's environmentally responsible choices.

We have begun with glass cups at communion and are looking ahead to reduce paper and plastic waste even further by using our own dishes, which requires the use of our church dishwasher. At a screaming speed of 90 seconds per wash, it is a quick opportunity for service in the church. If you are willing to give a small amount of time to help us be better environmental stewards and would like to learn how to use the dishwasher, please call the church at or send an email to Laura Lawson at [lauramayfieldlawson@gmail.com](mailto:lauramayfieldlawson@gmail.com) by Friday, August 30th. Learning how to use the dishwasher does not commit you to washing church dishes until Christ comes again; it is simply to empower many to share in the good work of responsible and sustainable earth care.

  
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED  
2019 Human Rights Day

THE  
TIME IS  
NOW!  
"Unite to Serve"

Women of Covenant Presbyterian are invited to the Church Women United of Staunton's Annual Meeting.

**Friday, September 6, 2018**

Third Presbyterian Church  
1313 Barterbrook Road, Staunton  
Registration & refreshments at 9:30 AM  
Program & Worship begins at 10:00 AM  
We will celebrate Human Rights Day  
and learn how to share God's love  
in our community.

For more information, please email  
Connie Birch at [cwbirch@verizon.net](mailto:cwbirch@verizon.net)

## From the Facilities Team

The Facilities Team hopes you have noticed the professional cleaning in the church: shiny tiled floors and clean carpet. Help us keep it looking great! If you spill something, clean it up right away. And please, use extra care with any drinks that you take into the Sanctuary.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>25 4 CENTS A MEAL</b> 10:00 AM <b>60th Anniversary Worship &amp; Celebration</b> 	<b>19</b> Covenant Connection Published	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00 AM <b>60th Anniversary Worship &amp; Celebration</b>	<b>26</b> Covenant Connection Published	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 AM Items due for Newsletter	<b>31</b>
<b>Sept. 1</b> <b>PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY</b> <b>PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT</b> 8:30 AM Blended Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship in the Breezeway 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 11:45 AM Fellowship Team	<b>2</b>  <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> Covenant Connection Published	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30 PM Environmental Stewardship Task Force	<b>5</b> 5:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Covenant Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>COLLEGE MAIL SUNDAY</b> <b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b> <b>RALLY SUNDAY</b> 8:30 AM Blended Worship 9:10 AM Alpha Choir Practice (K-3rd graders) 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 11:45 AM Omega Choir Practice (4th-7th gr) 11:45 AM Outreach Team 11:45 AM Christian Education Team	<b>9</b> 10:30 AM Morning Bible Study 5:30 PM Congregational Care Team 7:00 PM Facilities Team 7:15 PM Worship Team	<b>10</b> 11:30 AM PW/Thank Offering Luncheon 5:30 PM Preschool Team 6:30 PM Children's Subcommittee 7:15 PM Stewardship & Finance Team	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 5:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Covenant Choir	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Items due for Newsletter 10:00 AM Novels & Needles Book Group 5:45 PM Fired-Up Friday (2nd-8th graders)	<b>14</b>

# AUG-SEPT 2019

Items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by 9:00 AM on Friday, August 30th.



Please email her at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com

What was the average cost of a new car in 1959?

- A. \$5,000
- B. \$2,200
- C. \$4,000
- D. None of these



(look through the newsletter to find the answer.)

Remember Covenant's 60th Anniversary on August 25th @ 10:00 AM

## COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401

[www.covenantpresstaunton.org](http://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](http://www.covenantpresstaunton.org).



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Staunton, VA 24401

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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](http://covenantpresstaunton.org)

*From our past . . .*



Sunday,  
August 25th

@

10:00 AM  
WORSHIP  
&  
RECEPTION

*to our present!*

Join us Sunday, August 25th  
for fun & fellowship – Tales  
of treasured memories with  
storytelling by Joan Swift,  
scrapbooks of past celebra-  
tions and church news,  
opportunity to view a slide  
show of the start of the  
church to current activities,  
cake and coffee.