



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 worshiping 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 60th 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!

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!

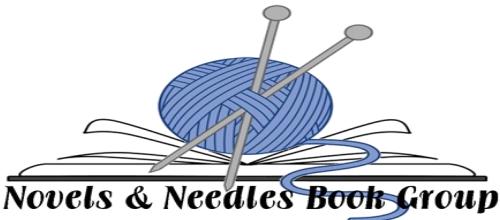
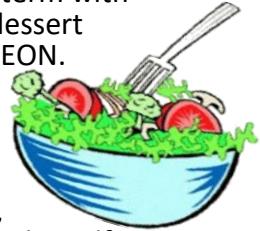
Presbyterian Women

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

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 Baard, 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.

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.

“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



Photo Courtesy of Equal Exchange

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

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/>

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.



Youth & Rally Sunday

Join us for a fun time!

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!



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 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



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

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.

AUG-SEPT 2019

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

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
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 D olive

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

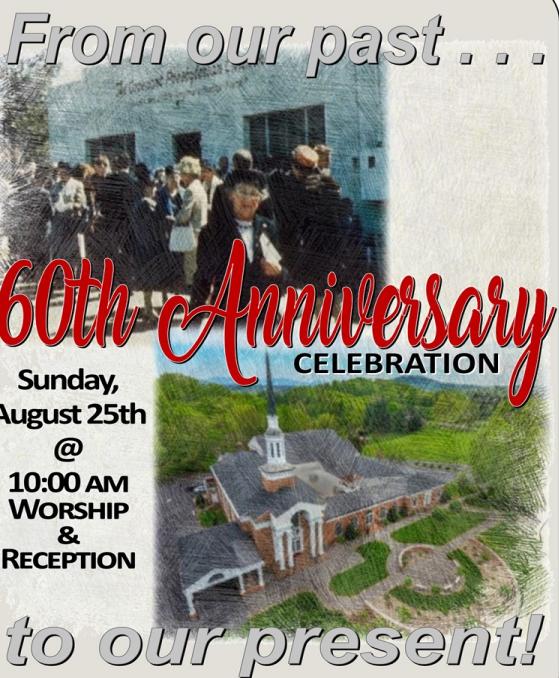
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

We're on the web!
covenantpresstaunton.org

From our past . . .



60th Anniversary CELEBRATION

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 celebrations and church news, opportunity to view a slide show of the start of the church to current activities, cake and coffee.