

Covenant Connection

September 2, 2019 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

9-9

Covenant Community Nursing
Steering Committee
Congregational Care Team
Facilities Team
Worship Team

9-10

PW Thank Offering Luncheon
Preschool Team
Children's Subcommittee
Stewardship & Finance Team

9-12

Executive Team
Bell Choir
Covenant Choir

9-13

Novels & Needles Book Club
Fired-Up Friday

Connect with the Pastor...

With the arrival of Labor Day we begin a new season of Sunday School and Bible studies here at Covenant. There is something for everyone – something for all ages and stages of faith journeys. There are new books to read together, discussion groups to connect our faith and world, and Bible studies to dive more deeply into God's word. Unlike our public schools and colleges there is no final graduation from Christian Education; it is a lifelong journey in which we continue to wrestle with questions of faith in light of new circumstances and challenges. We trust that the Holy Spirit inspires new insights into Scripture, our faith, and our world – but it requires that we engage in that study and conversation together. And by our participation, we set an example for the next generation about the importance of nurturing faith across a lifetime!



This Sunday between worship services led by our youth, we will gather in the Great Hall at 9:30 AM to kick off our new season of Christian Education – there will be information about the opportunities available and good food to share in fellowship together. Come with your friends and family and neighbors, for who knows what new thing God may be doing in your life in this coming year!

A Bible Verse to Think About Job 2:11 (NIV)

When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him.

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

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

COVENANT'S GREAT HALL

"Then when you call upon me, and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me if you seek me with all your heart." — Jeremiah 29: 12-13

GOD HEEDS OUR CALL

is the theme for our THANK OFFERING LUNCHEON. This will begin our 2019-2020 term. We'll have wonderful fellowship time, installation of our new officers, hear information concerning our THANK OFFERING and have an introduction of our new study book, which will be available for \$10.00.



The THANK OFFERING originated in the late 1800s by Presbyterian Women of North America. Mary Ann Stripling will give an overview of our offering which includes eighteen recipients chosen for funding. Twelve of the projects serve people in the USA and six are international. More than 40 percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries; 60 percent is used for such needs as elder care and literacy.

Rev. Sarah Wolf will introduce our new study, *LOVE CARVED IN STONE: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Anne Gamble, and present Lesson 1, "I Am Your God; You Shall Have No Others."

Primary scripture is from Exodus 20:2-6 and Matthew 22:34-37.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS HAPPY TIME OF FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, AND LEARNING.

To help determine how many tables to set, **please sign up in the Narthex on September 8th** before or after each worship service. If you wish, please bring your last year's study book for distribution to Equipping the Saints.



Session Highlights

At its stated meeting on August 18, the Session took the following actions:

- ◆ Approved requests for use of the church facilities
- ◆ Approved \$2200 toward the purchase of a vehicle for Crystal Gosnell and \$250 for Presbyterians Children's Home of the Highlands in celebration of their 100th anniversary
- ◆ Appointed John Sayers, Jane Wimmer, and Brandan Sommerfield to the Memorial Garden Committee
- ◆ Approved a request for a memorial plaque
- ◆ Approved a mission statement for the Task Force on Children in Poverty
- ◆ Approved a Memo of Understanding with the Staunton Church of the Brethren for use of their facility by the preschool in the event of an emergency
- ◆ Approved conducting an earth care audit provided by the PCUSA
- ◆ Approved trying coffee mugs in the breezeway for fellowship times on Sunday mornings



SALT 2019 November 8-10 Massanetta Springs

*SALT stands for
"Serving And Learning Together."*

Each fall high school students, college students, and adults gather for a conference focused on discipleship (learning how to better live out our faith in the world).

This year's theme draws upon Luke 10:25-37, the story of the good Samaritan. Attendees will explore the topic of "interfaith friendship" through keynotes, music, workshops, and small group discussions.

The keynote speaker, Matt Hartley, leads the Interfaith Center at University of North Florida in Jacksonville, and will be bringing his wealth of experience and insight to this conference! Who is your neighbor? What does being a good neighbor mean?

Register at <https://cwngui.campwise.com/Apps/OnlineReg/Pages/Login.html>

It's Sunday Morning!

By the Worship Team

It's so familiar and comfortably predictable—we walk through one of the several entrances to Covenant, say hello to neighbors, friends and others. We grab a cup of coffee, take a bulletin and find our way to a seat in the sanctuary (perhaps the same one each Sunday), anticipating a meaningful time of worship, praise and reassurance.

Who enables these Sunday mornings to occur? There are, of course, the obvious people: the preacher, the choir director, the organist/pianist—all part of the church staff. Sunday mornings would not happen without them. Then there are those who give their time and talents on Sunday mornings: the choir, the ushers, the greeters, the liturgists. These volunteers help make worship a pleasant and enjoyable experience. Beyond them, there are other important volunteers who we might not readily identify: the communion preparers, the communion clean-up crew, the flower organizers, the banner artists, the “church mice” who tidy the pews, those who fold the bulletins, the opener who unlocked the doors and turned on the lights. These folks give of their time and talents behind the scenes.

Next Sunday as you worship in that familiar and predictably comfortable Covenant sanctuary, take time to offer a prayer of thanks for all those people, staff and volunteers, who make each Covenant Sunday morning a meaningful worship experience. Also, consider whether you might be called to volunteer your time and talents to Sunday mornings at Covenant. There are lots of opportunities.

— Thom Jennings

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!



**Renewing
Homes**
of Greater Augusta

Renewing homes and lives for people in need

RHGA works year-round to provide low-income, elderly or disabled homeowners with no-cost, critical home repairs. A Covenant/Renewing Homes work project is being organized for either Saturday, October 12 or Saturday, October 19. Anyone interested in participating is requested to contact Rick Fauerbach at 540-421-4527 or rickfauerbach@gmail.com.

Thank You!

The Church Directory Update is finished, although we will continue to update it as we add new friends and family or information changes. *If you have additional changes, please send them to the church office at covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com.*

Thank you to everyone who agreed to get their picture taken and updated their contact information. Big thanks go to those who helped with the update including Jack Ballurio, Janie Ballurio, Anne Bell, Amanda Campbell, Savannah Faith Clark, Frances Craig, Christy Davis, Mandy Drumheller, Becky Earhart, Troy Lawson, Kay King, Abby Kiracofe, Debbie Melvin, Grace Melvin, Henry Melvin, Dee Norris, Mike Norris, Martha Pierce, Beverly Riddell, and Janey Terry.

Gala 60th Anniversary Celebrated Charter Members

On August 25th many members, friends and charter members celebrated the 60th anniversary of Covenant with song, story, pictures, memorabilia, and food. If you missed it, pictures will be available soon on the church website. There are many highlights of the day and many hands that went into making this event a success. At the risk of leaving out the name of any helper the following contributed to the success of the event:

Janie Ballurio, Sarah Brodie, Tom Books, Covenant Choir, Charlotte Downing, Becky Earhart, Chris Earhart, Karen Edwards, Carolyn Hensley, Carol Jennings, Bill Jennings, Laura Lawson, Debbie Metz, Dee Norris, Mike Norris, Martha Pierce, Carol Poulson, Rev. John Peterson, Mike Riddell, Dave Shue, Brandan Sommerfield, Robyn Sommerfield, Mary Ann Stripling, Joan Swift, Jane Wimmer, Rev. Sarah Wolf

Many thanks extended to those who gave of their time and talent to create a memorable event for the life of Covenant ... past, present, and future.



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

NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED

The Nursery Team is looking for adults and families who would enjoy playing with our youngest members during the 10:30 AM service. Volunteers are needed the first Sunday of the month. If you would like to come join the fun, please contact Susie Oberg at 885-6832.



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/>

Did You Know . . . Covenant has a Meals on Wheels Team?

The second and fourth Monday
of each month you will find
Covenant volunteers
delivering meals. Thank you
to our dependable drivers:
Melissa Druff and Joan Swift;
Jim and Linda Britton; C.K.
and Susan Polly; and Fred
and Bonnie Powell.



And thanks to our always willing substitutes:
Bobbie D'Orsi, Bebe Wills, Mary Huppuch,
Sue Morley, Bill and Jane Lobb, Bill and Carol
Jennings, and Janie Ballurio.

Robyn Sommerfield also delivers for Meals on
Wheels each month.

If you would like to be a part of Covenant's
Meals on Wheels team, please call Jane Lobb
at 885-2131. If you would like to volunteer at
Meals on Wheels, contact Sally Cricker at 886-
1219. ***Many hands make light work!***

Children, Come & Sing

Youth choir rehearsals will begin on Septem-
ber 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.



Instant Church Directory

The updated Church Directory is now available for use. Please log in and check your information to insure correctness. If you find something that needs corrected or changed, please contact Martha at covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com.


For those **new** to using Instant Church Directory, there are several ways to access the directory:

- Online via the Instant Church Directory website:
 1. Go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com
 2. Click on the “create login” button under: First time signing in?
 3. Enter your email address as it is listed in the directory.
 4. Create a password. The password must be 8 characters long and contain at least two of the following special characters: capital letters, numbers or symbols.
 5. Retype the password to confirm it and click “Request Login.”
 6. Check your email inbox for an email from Instant Church Directory.
 7. To complete the sign-up process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email.
 8. Once you confirm your email, you may sign into Instant Church Directory. Your sign-in information will work on all the Instant Church Directory apps on any device.
- iPhone, iPad and any IOS Device Mobil App Instructions:
 1. Download the app from the App Store. Search for “Instant Church Directory” and look for the icon above.
 2. Open the app and click on the “create login” button.
 3. Follow steps 3 through 8 as above.
- Android and Kindle Device Mobil App Instructions:
 1. Download the app from the App Store. Search for “Instant Church Directory” and look for the icon above.
 2. Open the app and click on the “create login” button.
 3. Follow steps 3 through 8 as above.

If you have been able to access the directory previously, but forgot your personal member password, click on the **Forgot Password?** link to receive a link to your email to reset your password. Please know that passwords are private and not known by any of the church staff.

Still need assistance, contact Martha via her email above or drop by the office.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Covenant Connection Published	3 11:30 AM PW/Thank Offering Luncheon 5:30 PM Preschool Team 6:30 PM Children's Subcommittee 7:15 PM Stewardship & Finance Team	4 6:30 PM Environmental Stewardship Task Force	5 5:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Covenant Choir	6 9:00 AM Items due for Newsletter 10:00 AM Novels & Needles Book Group 5:45 PM Fired-Up Friday (2nd-8th graders)	7	
8 COLLEGE MAIL SUNDAY YOUTH SUNDAY/ RALLY SUNDAY 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	9 10:30 AM Morning Bible Study 5:30 PM Congregational Care Team 7:00 PM Facilities Team 7:15 PM Worship Team	10 11:30 AM PW/Thank Offering Luncheon 5:30 PM Preschool Team 6:30 PM Children's Subcommittee 7:15 PM Stewardship & Finance Team	11	12 8:30 AM Executive Team 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 Fired-Up Friday (2nd-8th graders)	14
15 8:30 AM Blended Worship 9:30 AM Fellowship in the Breezeway 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 11:45 AM Omega Choir Practice (4th-7th gr) 11:45 AM Outreach Team 7:45 PM STATED SESSION MEETING	16 10:30 AM Morning Bible Study Covenant Connection Published	17	18	19 5:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Covenant Choir	20	21
22 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 Children in Poverty Task Force	23	24 9:30 AM Presbytery Meeting @ Moorfield Church	25	26 5:45 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Covenant Choir	27 9:00 AM Items due for Newsletter	28

AUG-SEPT 2019

Items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by **9:00 AM on Friday, September 13th.**

Please email her at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



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!

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WE'RE PLAYING FOLLOW THE LEADER AND YOU'RE THE PASTOR SO I GUESS YOU GOT THE JOB

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COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Friday 8:15AM-12:15PM



MINISTERIAL & PROGRAM STAFF

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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.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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.