

# Covenant Connection

November 11, 2019 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

11-11

Monday Morning Bible Study

11-12

PW Executive Board Meeting

PW Circle Meeting

Preschool Team

Stewardship & Finance Team

11-13

Health Talk on Dementia

TOW - Together on Wednesday

Bean Soup Packaging

11-14

Executive Team

Bell Choir Practice

Covenant Choir Practice

11-16

FALL CLEAN-UP

11-17

Blended Worship

Confirmation Class—Orthodox Church

Alpha Choir Practice (K-3rd grade)

Sunday School

Traditional Worship

Called Congregational Meeting

Omega Choir (4th-7th grade)

YOUTH Open Table

STATED SESSION MEETING

11-8

Monday Morning Bible Study

11-19

STATED SESSION @ Opequon

11-20

TOW - Together on Wednesday

Bean Soup Packaging

11-21

Bell Choir Practice

Covenant Choir Practice

## Connect with the Pastor ...



One of our children posed a question to me last week: Is Donald Trump a Christian? The same might be asked of any of us: Is he/she a Christian? The starting point for any response is that God alone knows our hearts, knows what we really believe and how we really live, for it is not enough to say, "I am a Christian" or "I believe in Jesus," if our lives do not reflect the values Jesus taught. In his book *How My Mind Has Changed* Stanley Hauerwas tells this story:

*A team of evangelical Christians invaded Shipshewana, IN, to bring the lost of Shipshewana to Christ. In front of Yoder's dry goods store, one of these earnest souls confronted a Mennonite farmer with the challenge, "Brother, are you saved?" The farmer was stunned by the question. All his years of attending the Peach Bloom Mennonite congregation had not prepared him for such a question, particularly in front of Yoder's. Wanting not to offend, as well as believing that the person posing the question was of good will, he seriously considered how he might answer. After a long pause, the farmer asked his questioner for a pencil and paper and proceeded to list the names of ten people he believed knew him well. Most, he explained, were his friends, but some were less than that and might even be enemies. He suggested that the evangelist ask these people whether they thought him saved since he certainly would not presume to answer such a question on his own behalf.*

Is he/she a Christian? What might others – friends and less than friends – say about us or about Donald Trump or about any other candidate with regard to that question? Do we live as Christ calls



The Caregivers Group will meet on  
**Sunday, November 17th**  
(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. For more information, contact Joan Sayers.

## Monday Morning Bible Study



Join us for Bible study each Monday at 10:30AM 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, November 22th.**

Please email her at:  
[covenantpcusastanton@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpcusastanton@gmail.com)



## ATTENTION!!!

Position starting in January 7, 2020!  
We are looking for a new teacher! Spread the word!

### **Preschool Assistant Teacher - 1/2 day program**

Covenant Preschool is looking for an Assistant Preschool Teacher to work with our two year olds. Half-day program (4 mornings each week) with summer off. We are looking for someone who loves children with a nurturing personality! A college degree and/or experience is preferred. EOE.

Please send cover letter and resumes to:

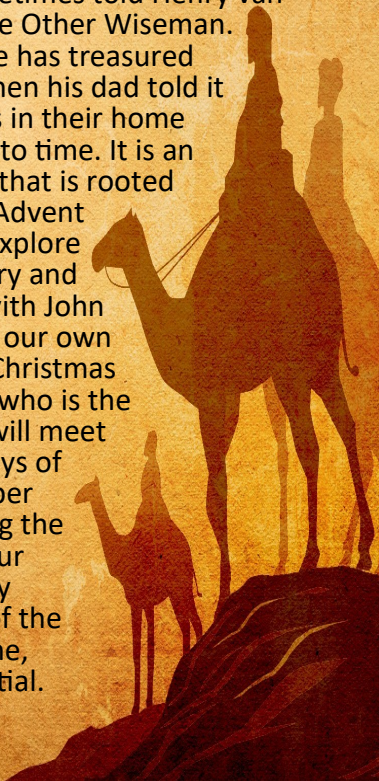
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Attention: Mitzi White  
2001 North Coalter Street  
Staunton, VA 24401

Resumes will be accepted until November 22, 2019.



## *The Story of the Other Wise Man: An Advent Bible Study*

On Christmas Eve here at Covenant, John Peterson has sometimes told Henry van Dyke's story of The Other Wiseman. It is a story that he has treasured since his youth when his dad told it on Christmas Eves in their home church from time to time. It is an imaginative story that is rooted in Scripture. This Advent we invite you to explore this cherished story and its biblical roots with John as we prepare for our own journeys toward Christmas to meet the child who is the Savior. The class will meet on the four Sundays of Advent in December (1, 8, 15, 22) during the Sunday School hour (9:30AM). You may purchase a copy of the story ahead of time, but it is not essential.



## Connect with the Pastor *(cont'd)*

us to live? Do we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God? Do we extend hospitality to strangers? Do we boast that we are better than others, or do we pray, "Lord, have mercy on me a sinner?" Do we humble ourselves and seek to be the servants of all? Do we love God with all that we are and love our neighbors – all our neighbors – as ourselves? We may not be able to answer the question as to who is or is not a Christian, but God knows! We can only assess whether one lives like a Christian and acts like a Christian and speaks like a Christian, based upon who Christ calls us to be. By that measure, what might others say about you?



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Susan Odom and Jim McClary



Susan was born in Nashville, TN, and was an active member of First Presbyterian Church Nashville her entire life. She graduated from Vanderbilt University and has

two grown children. Susan has been a substitute bell ringer for the Covenant Ringers for three years.

Jim was born into a Navy family in Virginia Beach, then moved all over the country and world. He graduated from UVA and then lived in Alexandria, VA, for 25 years. Jim has 22-year-old twins.

Jim and Susan met when they were 17, but it took them 35 years to find each other again and make a life together. They moved to Staunton from the Eastern Shore of Maryland in 2015, and have recently completed a two-year renovation of a late-1800's farm house.

## Presbyterian Women

### **PW Circle Meeting on Tuesday, November 12th, at 10:00 AM in the Breezeway**

Presbyterian Women will meet for fellowship and conversation about Sabbath. Led by Mary Ann Stripling, there will be a time of sharing ways in which Sabbath was observed, or not, in our youth and how Sabbath observances have changed or evolved over time. What does Sabbath mean for God's people? The Old Testament calls us to remember Sabbath and keep it holy. Remembering invites us think about the story of God's creative activity in the world and in our lives and is rooted in God's creation and celebration of the gift of life itself. We remember and live Sabbath mindful of God's cycle of creating, resting, and creating again.

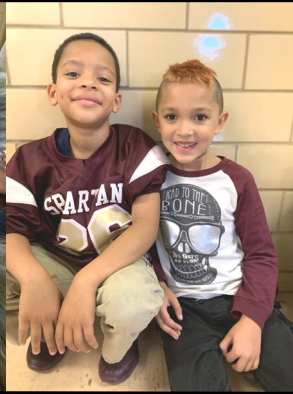
#### **MARK YOUR DECEMBER CALENDAR:**

**Circle Meeting on Tuesday, December 10 at 10:00 AM.** There will be fellowship followed by conversation about "Honor your father and your mother so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you." [Exodus 20:12] Peggy Roberson is the facilitator. All women are welcome!  
**Christmas Basket Assembly on Thursday, December 12 at 9:00 AM.**

*Please keep in your prayers:*

Please keep in your prayers  
Guy Didawick, David Didawick and  
the entire family on the passing of  
Guy's wife and David's mother,  
Doady Didawick,  
on Sunday, November 3rd.

*Condolences*



**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all of those who helped make the **Covenant Task Force Boys and Girls Club First Friday** a success! The kids finished hanging their star ornaments, learned about immersion cooking, heard stories of Thanksgiving family traditions, decorated cookies, and celebrated with a feast attended by parents, siblings, staff, and volunteers! Thank you for donating items and volunteering your time to help the wonderful Boys and Girls Club kids! We couldn't have done it without you!



## Open Table

Youth, plan on joining us on Sunday, November 17th, from 4:30-6:30 PM.

We will gather together in the Great Hall Kitchen to make dinner.

Then, we will eat and talk about faith and life together.



Please RSVP Laura Lawson at [lauramayfieldlawson@gmail.com](mailto:lauramayfieldlawson@gmail.com)

Middle and High School youth come together the fourth Sunday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in the YOUth Room for games, snacks, and some Bible studying.

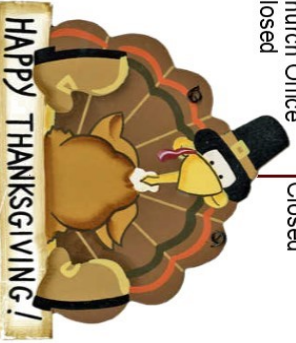
Our next meeting is Sunday, November 24

# YOUth Group

*Bring your friends!*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>11</b> 10:30AM Morning Bible Study  Covenant Connection Published	<b>12</b> 9:30AM PW Executive Team 10:00AM PW Circle Meeting 5:30PM Preschool Team 7:15PM Stewardship & Finance Team	<b>13</b> 5:00PM Health Talk on Dementia  6:00PM TOW - Together on Wednesday 7:00PM Bean Soup Packaging	<b>14</b> 8:30AM Executive Team 5:45PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Covenant Choir	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00AM Fall Clean-Up  
<b>17</b> 8:30AM Confirmation Class 8:30AM Blended Worship 9:10AM Alpha Choir Practice (K-3rd graders) 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30AM Traditional Worship 11:45AM Omega Choir Practice (4th-7th gr) 11:45AM Caregivers Group 4:30PM YOUTH Open Table 7:00PM STATED SESSION	<b>18</b> 10:30AM Morning Bible Study	<b>19</b> 9:30AM STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING @ Opequon 11:45AM Covenant Women's Monthly Lunch @ Hometown Grill	<b>20</b> 6:00PM TOW - Together on Wednesday 7:00PM College Care Kit Assembly	<b>21</b> 5:45PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Covenant Choir	<b>22</b> 9:00AM Items due for Newsletter	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>4 Cents a Meal</b> 8:00AM Confirmation Class 8:30AM Blended Worship 9:10AM Alpha Choir Practice (K-3rd graders) 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30AM Traditional Worship 11:45AM Omega Choir Practice (4th-7th gr) 6:00PM YOUTH Group	<b>25</b> 10:30AM Morning Bible Study  Covenant Connection Published	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> THANKSGIVING Church Office Closed	<b>29</b> Church Office Closed	<b>30</b>

# NOVEMBER 2019





On Wednesday, October 30th, despite the rainy, windy weather, the church was full of over 100 trick or treaters, big and small. Rooms were decorated with displays ranging from Jonah and the Whale, Wholly Ghosts, Peanuts Halloween, Bobbing for Candy, the Wizard of Oz, to name a few. There was even a pirate ship under the portico! Children participated in a scavenger hunt and voted for the best display which was won by Christy Davis for the Pirate Ship. Thank you to all who created displays, supplied candy, and enjoyed Covenant's first Trunk or Treat! It was a night to remember!  
*More pictures can be found on the church website.*



# Christmas Poinsettias

As Advent begins December 1st, we are preparing to decorate for the coming joyous season. We need monies for greenery, trees and poinsettias. The poinsettias are \$10.50 each for a 6 1/2" pot. Poinsettias may be given in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. Please make your check payable to "Covenant," designate "Christmas Greenery and/or Poinsettias" on your check. Place your order form and payment in the offering plate or take it to the church office **no later than Monday, November 25th**, if you wish to have your name mentioned in the Poinsettia and Greenery Gift booklet. **Please do not return form without payment.**

## ORDER FORM (Please print in black ink)

Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's phone number \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

I am ordering \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias at a total cost of \_\_\_\_\_. (poinsettias are \$10.50 each)

I will pick up ordered poinsettias the night of the Christmas Eve Service.

Please take my poinsettia(s) to an area assisted-living facilities.

*Poinsettias should be picked up the night of the Christmas Eve Service.*

## Hanging of the Greens



A tradition at Covenant is the "hanging of the greens" as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent season. On Saturday, December 7th at 9:30 AM, we will need willing hands to help decorate. Come join us and enjoy the fellowship AND Christmas cookies and hot chocolate!



## COLLEGE CARE KITS

Come join us after TOW on Wednesday, November 20th to make exam care kits for our college students as they face their first semester exams. We will be making trail mix and cards, as well as a few other surprises. Come be a part of the fun!



# Nursing Nook with Kathy Henderson, RN



## Quick quiz: *How do we know winter is actually here?*

Sit in our sanctuary any Sunday morning and listen for the multi-tonal chorus of stifled coughs and sniffles punctuating hymns, prayers and John's sermons. It begins quietly in mid-October, tends to reach its crescendo in mid-February, and fades quietly into allergy season in late spring.

Thus, the annual reminder to "Cover That Cough!" "Sneeze into a tissue!" "Wash your hands more often than you think necessary!" "Use the hand sanitizer just outside the sanctuary doors!" And please, please stay at home if you are not feeling well.

Almost 43 million people got sick during the 2018-2019 flu season; 61,200 people died and 647,000 were hospitalized, the CDC reports. Although the CDC considers that an "average" flu-cold season, many are predicting a nastier-than usual season this year.

A few preventative steps can go far in helping calm that congregational cough:

- ◆ Be aware that colds and flu can be confused in their early stages, so;
- ◆ Please get your flu shot **now**;
- ◆ Stay hydrated;
- ◆ Remember that anything that comes in contact with (or close to) a person's mouth can transfer germs. (Unwashed hands are a frequent culprit.) Clean your phones, door knobs and children's toys, change toothbrushes often and be wary of sharing scarves. (Both cold and flu viruses survive for many hours on non-porous surfaces.)
- ◆ Wash your hands as soon as possible after blowing your nose; cough into a tissue or your elbow, or – even more effective – down your shirt!

## FLU vs. COLD

Signs & Symptoms	Flu	Cold
Symptom Onset	Abrupt	Gradual
Fever	Usual; lasts 3-4 days	Rare
Aches	Usual; often severe	Slight
Chills	Fairly Common	Uncommon
Fatigue, weakness	Usual	Sometimes
Sneezing	Sometimes	Common
Stuffy nose	Sometimes	Common
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common
Chest discomfort, cough	Common; can be severe	Mild to moderate; hacking cough
Headache	Common	Rare
Vomiting, diarrhea	Sometimes	No

## gingerbread house Making

Come out for a fun, family event on Wednesday, December 11th following the TOW dinner in the Great Hall.

Please call the church office at 885-2138 by December 9th to RSVP.



Candy donations are being accepted. Please drop the candy in the box outside the church office by Sunday, Dec. 8th.



# Bean Soup Mix Bagging

The Outreach Team invites you to join us at TOW—Together on Wednesday, November 13th at 6:00 PM. Our annual Bean Bagging

## Five Bean Soup for the Body & Soul

Contents: black beans, black-eyed peas,  
kidney beans, lentils, split peas  
Spice Packet Contents: basil, bay leaf, black  
pepper, crushed red  
pepper, marjoram,  
rosemary, salt



Created with Love  
by Covenant  
Presbyterian Church  
2001 North Coalter Street  
Staunton, Virginia



activity for the Verona Community Food Pantry will follow the meal, which will include a variety of homemade soups for your dining pleasure! And this year, Kes (Rev) Amena, President of the Illubabor Bethel Synod, will join us for dinner and bring greetings from our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia.

# From Faith's Heart - Nigeria

While we are hard at work formalizing our plans for the community development centers and dialoging with experts in the various fields that are relevant to our proposed work, we also keep our hearts open to opportunities the Lord brings our way to serve others and share the Gospel right where we're at.

At the end of September, Crystal was asked to help train teachers at a Montessori school here in Abuja. She was later invited to offer a similar training for a church that runs three different schools in the capital, one of which is for disadvantaged children. Many schools are in need of such trainings for their teachers, but cannot afford facilitator fees. We are happy that we can offer this service to them free.

On a daily basis, Raph is out in the community—whether interacting with customers in his bustling office or hanging out at the mechanic shop with our car, he is afforded many opportunities to share the Gospel and to confront many of the false and harmful doctrines being preached in many Nigerian churches. He often comes home with stories of the conversations he's had and the seeds he's planted.

Please pray for us to be faithful and bold to take each opportunity God sends our way.

# 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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*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)

*Please let us know you are coming!*

**TOGETHER ON  
★ TOW ★  
WEDNESDAY**

**November 13 @ 6:00 PM**  
VARIETY OF  
HOMEMADE SOUPS PROVIDED  
BY THE OUTREACH TEAM

**November 20 @ 6:00 PM**  
BAKED ZITI, MEATBALLS,  
SALAD AND ROLLS

*Vegetarian options are  
available at all meals.*

In order to prepare the correct quantity of food, we ask that you **RSVP by noon on the Monday** before the TOW you will be attending.

**Two options to RSVP:**  
sign the Friendship Register in the pew on Sunday  
**OR**  
call the church office at 885-2138

*Join us after TOW:  
November 13th - Bean Soup Packaging  
November 20th - College Kit Assembly*