

Covenant Connection

November 25, 2019 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 11-25
Monday Morning Bible Study
Elder Training
- 11-26
Stewardship & Finance Team
- 12-1
Blended Worship
Alpha Choir Practice (K-3rd grade)
Sunday School
Traditional Worship
Omega Choir (4th-7th grade)
Fellowship Team
- 12-2
Monday Morning Bible Study
Congregational Care Team
Facilities Team
Worship Team
- 12-5
Bell Choir Practice
Covenant Choir Practice
Elder Training
- 12-7
Hanging of the Greens
- 12-8
Blended Worship
Alpha Choir Practice (K-3rd grade)
Sunday School
Traditional Worship
Omega Choir (4th-7th grade)
Christian Education Team
Outreach Team
- 12-9
Monday Morning Bible Study
Elder Training
- 12-10
PW Executive Board Meeting
PW Circle Meeting
Preschool Team
Stewardship & Finance Team
- 12-11
TOW - Together on Wednesday
Gingerbread House Making

Connect with the Pastor ...



As I write this note, Thanksgiving is still a week away with its promise of good food shared with family and friends. It is a rare moment when we as a nation pause in the midst of all the other stuff going on to give thanks to God for our blessings – or do we? Is Thanksgiving for you a day to give thanks to God, or is God lost somewhere among the turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberries, football, and plans for Black Friday’s sales? I encourage you to make *giving thanks* a central part of your *Thanksgiving* celebration this year. Take some time sometime in the day – before you rise from your bed, at the table together, at the end of the day – and give thanks for the blessings you have received and enjoy from the hand of God!

Once the cleanup from the turkey and pumpkin pie are completed, new preparations immediately begin, for on the heels of Thanksgiving comes Advent and our anticipation of Jesus’ birth. This Sunday (December 1), just three days after Thanksgiving, is the first Sunday in Advent. It is a season to ponder the mystery of incarnation and the promise of Christ’s coming. It is a time to dust off the Advent wreath and light candles to mark our journey toward Bethlehem. To aid your journey, we have Advent devotionals for folks of every age; you can pick one up in the narthex of the church. During the Sunday School hour throughout Advent, we will have an elective for adults in which we will read Henry van Dyke’s *Story of the Other Wise Man* and look at the biblical passages that underlie that cherished tale. In the coming weeks,

**A Bible Verse to
Think About
2 Corinthians 4:15**

“All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.”

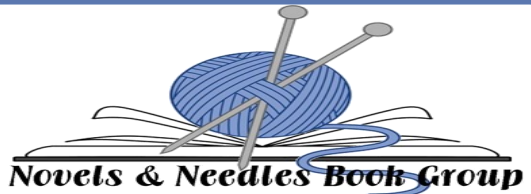
Monday Morning Bible Study



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, December 6th.**

Please email her at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



Novels & Needles Book Group is meeting on Friday, December 13th, at 10:00 AM at Joan Swift's home. The book for discussion is *Meet Me at the Museum* by Anne Youngson. Discussion will be led by Peggy Roberson. Bring your thoughts and your knitting or crocheting for an enjoyable morning!

***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)*

we will have opportunities for caroling, decorating the church with festive greens, constructing gingerbread houses and Christmas baskets, serving our neighbors, and worshiping together as we prepare not only our homes but also our hearts for Christmas. It is a most wonderful time of the year to share treasured time with one another – and with God – who is and should be at the center of it all!



Nursing Nook with Kathy Henderson, RN



“Monitor your blood pressure! Watch those numbers!” are refrains so often heard in health news that many of us (myself included) just ignore them. High blood pressure (which causes narrowing of various vital arteries) and fluctuating blood pressure (which indicates various cardiac pumping problems) have long been associated with stroke and heart failure.

A recent landmark study by the National Institute on Aging concluded that while controlling blood pressure may not actually prevent dementia, it does help enormously in preventing mild cognitive impairment. And yes, controlling blood pressure is a way to prevent stroke, a proven cause of vascular dementia, the second most common dementia (after Alzheimer’s).

Even scarier: You don’t have to be geriatric to worry! The damage begins early – and silently.

Fellow Covenanters of all ages: Please don’t wait for your annual check-up to learn your numbers. Come by my office any Sunday morning, or to the Senior High room before TOW to have your blood pressure checked. I’m also in my office most Tuesdays (call my cell to check) and I am more than happy to drop by your house.

Presbyterian Women

Christmas Basket Assembly Thursday, December 12th 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall

Presbyterian Women are in the midst of planning their annual Christmas project. Approximately 30 evergreen arrangements will be delivered to Covenant Presbyterian Church members who are unable to be among our church family in worship. Dreama Anderson and Ellen Mullins are leading the effort. They are glad to field questions about the project. The arrangements are made in small basket with various evergreens, and each is topped with a bow. The arrangements will be assembled and delivered on December 12th. People are needed to help with assembling the arrangements and with delivering them. The festive baskets and the visits brighten the Christmas season for church family members. Please contact Dreama or Ellen if you can help; plan to join the fun!

Also, join us on Tuesday, December 10 at 10:00 AM for Circle Meeting. 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!

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 9:30AM, we will need willing hands to help decorate. Come join us and enjoy the fellowship AND Christmas cookies and hot chocolate!





Ushers Needed!

Looking for some volunteers to help usher!
First, we need one more volunteer for December. No experience needed!
Second, we need

some new volunteers to serve for a month and some to be available to be a substitute (or both). Pay is good — all the coffee you can drink and you get to wear an usher badge! This is a great opportunity for new members to meet more members. Age requirements — none. Male, female, short or tall. Do not miss this opportunity! Please contact Bill Lobb at wlobb01@comcast.net or 540-885-2131.



Christmas Eve Services

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

* FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE *

4:00 PM

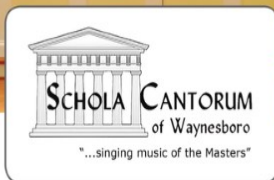
* CANDLELIGHT SERVICE *

7:30 PM

Session Highlights

At its stated meeting on November 17, the Session took the following actions:

- ◆ Received an update on the 2020 Stewardship campaign
- ◆ Approved a giving tree project with the Boys and Girls Club



This will be Schola Cantorum's debut concert at The Wayne Theatre and will include Christmas classics and carols. The Latin term Schola Cantorum means "Singing School." True to that description, Schola Cantorum of Waynesboro provides a unique choral singing experience for members and audiences alike by "singing the Music of the Masters." The repertoire includes major works by Brahms, Beethoven, Handel, Bach, and others, as well as more contemporary compositions. The volunteer chorus, under the direction of Jeffrey Ryman, is supported in performance by piano or orchestral accompaniment and featured soloists.

TICKETS: \$18 ADULT / \$12 STUDENTS

Tickets ON SALE NOW at:

www.waynetheatre.org • (540) 943-9999

521 W. Main Street, Waynesboro, VA 22980

Congratulations

Camden Kurtz recently received his white coat in a ceremony at Virginia Tech's Medical School in Roanoke. Camden is the son of Troy Kurtz and Jackie Kurtz, and grandson of Conrad and Jo Ann Kurtz.

2019 Advent Devotions

This Advent season, count down the days until Christmas with one of our Advent devotionals. We have a family-friendly option as well as one that is geared towards adults, both of which are inspired by the journey of the Holy Family to the manger on Christmas Day.


Our family-friendly option is written by Taylor Lewis Guthrie Hartman and the artwork is created by her husband, Blair. In this devotional, families are encouraged to slowly move Mary and Joseph toward the manger, day by day, as the devotion is read. This is a re-print from a previous year, and is a family favorite!

Our adult option is "Moving Toward the Manger: Reflections on the Writings of Frederick Buechner" by Martin E. Marty. Buechner, a theologian, author, and Presbyterian minister, is known for his colloquial style and thought-provoking quotations. In this devotional, Marty pairs Scripture readings with Buechner quotations as we move slowly throughout the season toward the manger.

Copies of both devotionals can be found in the Narthex.



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	25 10:30AM Morning Bible Study 7:00PM Elder Training Covenant Connection Published	26 7:15PM Stewardship & Finance Team	27 NO TOW - Together on Wednesday	28 THANKSGIVING Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30
						

Dec. 1 1st Sunday of Advent Peanut Butter Sunday Presbyterian Coffee Project 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 Fellowship Team	2 10:30AM Morning Bible Study 4:30PM Congregational Care Team 7:00PM Facilities Team 7:15PM Worship Team	3	4 6:00PM TOW - Together on Wednesday	5 5:45PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Covenant Choir 7:00PM Elder Training	6 9:00AM Items due for Newsletter	7 9:30AM Hanging of the Greens 
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8 2nd Sunday of Advent College Mail Sunday 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 Outreach Team 11:45AM Christian Education Team	9 10:30AM Morning Bible Study 7:00PM Elder Training Covenant Connection Published	10 9:30AM PW Executive Board Meeting 10:00AM PW Circle Meeting 5:30PM Preschool Team 7:15PM Stewardship & Finance Team	11 6:00PM TOW - Together on Wednesday 7:00PM Gingerbread House Making	12 8:30AM Executive Team 9:00AM PW Christmas Basket Assembly 5:45PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Covenant Choir	13 10:00AM Novels & Needs Book Group	14
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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2019

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.



**Christmas
Caroling**
Sunday, December 15th
immediately following
the 10:30 service.

*Help us spread holiday cheer as we visit
our Covenant family and friends. Enjoy
lunch and then hop on the bus for an
afternoon of caroling.*

*To ensure we have enough pizza for lunch, please RSVP to the
church office (885-2138) by Monday, December 2nd.*

Christmas Potluck



Join us for great food, caroling, and merriment! Wear your best Ugly Christmas Sweater -- there will be an Ugly Christmas Sweater contest/fashion show with a prize for the sweater getting the most votes.

Lace up and hit the ice for a morning of
Ice Skating
& fun with your Covenant family!



*You can skate or just observe,
everyone is welcome!*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH
9:00-10:30AM

Generations Park
412 N. Main St., Bridgewater

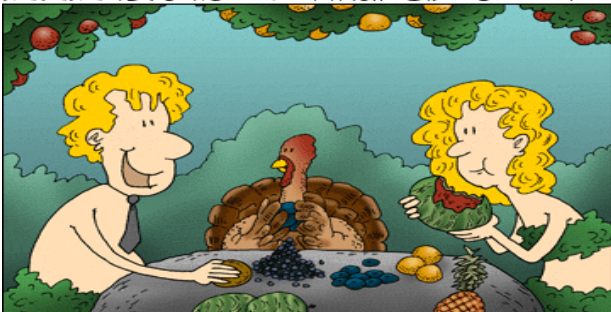
**The Fellowship Team will provide donuts,
so bring your thermos of cocoa!**
Please RSVP to the church office
(885-2138) by Monday, December 23rd.

Preschool Sunday School Made King David Crowns



The Prayer Shawl Ministry is in need of more knitted or crocheted prayer shawls. All colors, styles, and sizes are welcome. We have yarn, needles, hooks, and patterns if you need them. Contact Joan Sayers with any questions.

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(See Genesis 3) 11-21-2011

I'D LIKE TO GIVE THANKS FOR THE FOOD,
FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD, AND THAT TURKEY
IS ALWAYS ABLE TO JOIN US ON
THANKSGIVING

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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 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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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

Please let us know you are coming!

Together on Wednesday
GOOD FOOD | GREAT FELLOWSHIP

December 4 @ 6:00 PM
QUICHE
(VEGETARIAN & NON-VEGETARIAN)
ROASTED POTATOES, FRUIT,
GARDEN SALAD,
ASSORTED MUFFINS

December 11 @ 6:00 PM
LITTLE MARIA'S PIZZA
& SALAD

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:
December 11th - Gingerbread House Making*