

Covenant Connection

December 9, 2019 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 12-9**
Monday Morning Bible Study
Elder Training
- 12-10**
PW Execute Board Meeting
PW Circle Meeting
Stewardship & Finance Team
- 12-11**
TOW-Together on Wednesday
Gingerbread House Assembly
- 12-12**
Executive Team
PW Christmas Basket Assembly
Bell Choir Practice
Covenant Choir Practice
- 12-13**
Novels & Needles Book Group
- 12-15**
Blended Worship
Alpha Choir Practice (K-3rd grade)
Sunday School
Traditional Worship
Omega Choir (4th-7th grade)
CareGivers Group
Christmas Caroling
YOUTH Open Table
STATED SESSION MEETING
- 12-16**
Monday Morning Bible Study
- 12-17**
Covenant Women's Monthly Luncheon
- 12-19**
Bell Choir Practice
Covenant Choir Practice
Elder Training
- 12-22**
Blended Worship
Alpha Choir Practice (K-3rd grade)
Sunday School
Traditional Worship
Omega Choir (4th-7th grade)
Christmas Potluck Lunch
YOUTH Christmas Party

Connect with the Pastor ...



*Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Advent is a season of much-loved music and favorite carols – *Silent Night; O Come, All Ye Faithful; Joy to the World; In the Bleak Midwinter!* We all have our favorites. Perhaps more than the decorations and gingerbread and cherished readings, it is the songs of the season that touch our hearts. In Christmas carols, we join our joyous strains to that of the angels and mountains and generations of Christians in celebrating the birth of the savior. While *Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer, Jingle Bells, and Dominic the Christmas Donkey* may dominate the shopping scene, the treasured carols and anthems of the church tell the real Christmas story and offer for us and to us words and melodies to celebrate God's coming into our midst in Bethlehem. Many of our memories and images of Christmas are shaped by those familiar songs and those with whom we sing them. Not only in worship each Sunday, but also in caroling caravans to our neighbors (Dec. 15), in a Christmas potluck (Dec. 22), and in family time at home with Advent devotions (available in the narthex) we recall the story of angels, shepherds, and a holy family gathered 'round the manger. Jesus' birth was not exactly like that told in any of those carols; they seek to describe that momentous event, not with

Continued on Page 3

A Bible Verse to Think About Romans 15:13

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and
peace in believing,
so that you may abound
in hope by the power of
the Holy Spirit.



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 540-885-2131 or
wlobb01@comcast.net.

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 20th.**

Please email her at:
covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



Monday Morning Bible Study
will not meet on
December 23 or 30th.



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! You are welcome
to bring a tasty Christmas goody to share!

Connect with the Pastor (cont'd)

historical specificity, but with the interpretive perspective of joyous, hope-filled faith! This Advent season, savor the music and offer your beautiful voice (or joyful noise) in singing the carols, but also take time to ponder the words. For, they tell a glorious story that is worth retelling again and again – in word, in song, and in music – the story of a savior who is Christ the Lord! *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*



The Ovation Singers and Orchestra

presenting their Twenty-Eighth performance of...

Messiah

December 15, 2019 3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church - Staunton
100 East Frederick St.

This year's "reunion" concert welcomes several Ovation members from the past joining with the current group. Admission is free, although donations will be accepted to benefit the First Presbyterian Church's Organ Fund. All are invited to share in this magnificent oratorio, presented as a Christmas gift to the community.

Presbyterian Women

December 10th is the next gathering of the women of the church. Fellowship in the Breezeway begins at 10:00AM and Bible study at 10:30. The focus is "Honor the Life-givers" based on "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 20:13)

The facilitator is Peggy Roberson. She is Presbyterian PK, has a heart for mission that goes back to her days in college, is a Ruling Elder, loves her family and basketball, and is an inspiring teacher. Jerry Lynn Shipplett is the hostess. A former co-moderator of the Presbyterian Women, Jerry Lynn's hospitality will insure that the fellowship is warm, friendly, and welcoming.

December 12th is a day for making and delivering Christmas arrangements to church family members who cannot be among us as often as we (or they) would like. Come to the Fellowship Hall at 9:00AM to help assemble the baskets. Dreama Anderson and Ellen Mullins are the leaders. At the PW meeting on December 10th, they will be seeking delivery drivers.

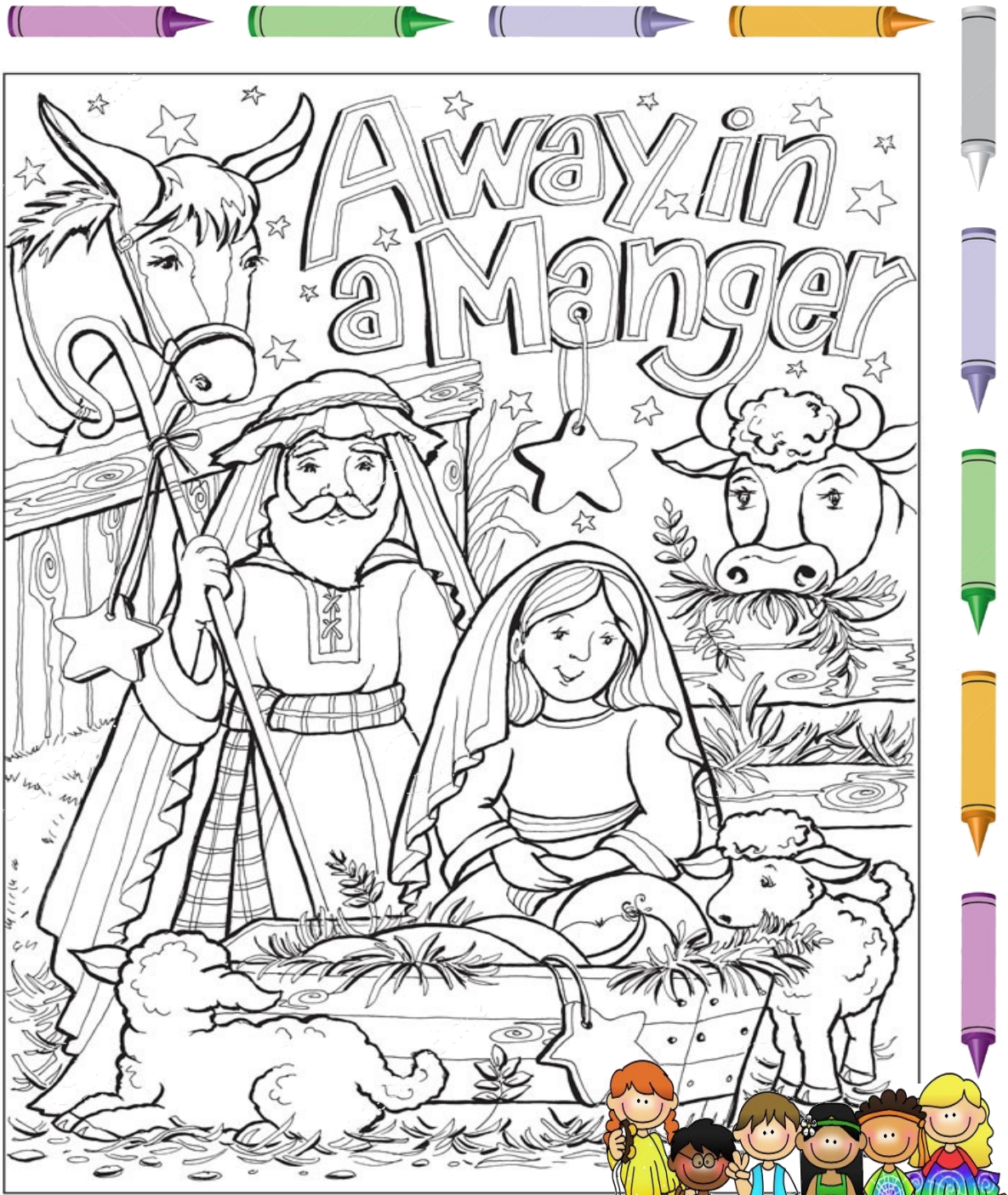
Please join us for one or both activities. You are sure to enjoy the fellowship, the food, and the spirit of Christmas!

Covenant Women's Monthly Luncheon

Join with women of Covenant for lunch and fellowship at 11:45 AM on Tuesday, December 17th, 2019.

We will meet at the Hometown Grill off Sanger's Lane across from Mrs. Rowe's Family Restaurant. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Sherry Woodland at 703-403-0965 or Sue Morley at 540-887-0085.





Children's Corner



YOUTH DECEMBER CALENDAR

15th

OPEN TABLE

Youth meet at 4:30 PM to make dinner together and enjoy gathering around the table for a family meal and good discussion.

Pick-up time is 6:30 PM.

Please RSVP to Laura Lawson by Wednesday, December 11th so we can plan for food.

22nd

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wear your tackiest Christmas get up and gather at 6:00 PM for two hours of fun! Bring a white elephant gift from the back of your closet that you thought would never see the light of day again. We will snack, elephant "gift," and play games. Bring a friend!

RSVP to Laura Lawson by Sunday, December 15th.




RSVP TO LAURA AT lauramayfieldlawson@gmail.com



Christmas Eve Services

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
* FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE *
4:00 PM

* CANDLELIGHT SERVICE *
7:30 PM

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	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 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 & Noodles Book Group 	14
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 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 11:45AM Christmas Caroling 4:30PM YOUTH Open Table 7:00PM STATED SESSION	16 10:30AM Morning Bible Study	17 11:45AM Covenant Women's Monthly Luncheon	18 NO TOW	19 5:45PM Bell Choir 7:00PM Covenant Choir 7:00PM Elder Training	20 9:00AM Items due for Newsletter	21
22 4th Sunday of Advent 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 Christmas Potluck 6:00PM YOUTH Christmas Party	23 Covenant Connection Published	24 4:00PM Family Christmas Eve Service 7:30PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 Church Office Closed	27	28 9:00AM Ice Skating for All @ Generations Park, Bridgewater
						

DECEMBER 2019

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 9th.

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.

And, we're expecting a visit from the Jolly Guy in Red himself!



Nursing Nook with Kathy Henderson, RN



An important reminder for this time of year as colds and sniffles hit!

"Sneezes are mini hurricanes.

A typical sneeze exits the body at approximately 200 miles per hour, and sends about 40,000 droplets into the surrounding space." Cover those sneezes and stay healthy!

Volunteers needed to assist with the Potluck Lunch on December 22nd.

If you can help, please email Laura Stahl at (goshengirl1960@yahoo.com) or come to the Great Hall that morning.

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!**

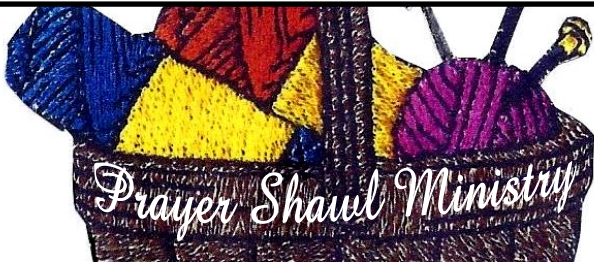
**Please RSVP to the church office
(885-2138) by Monday, December 23rd.**

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.



Merry
Christmas



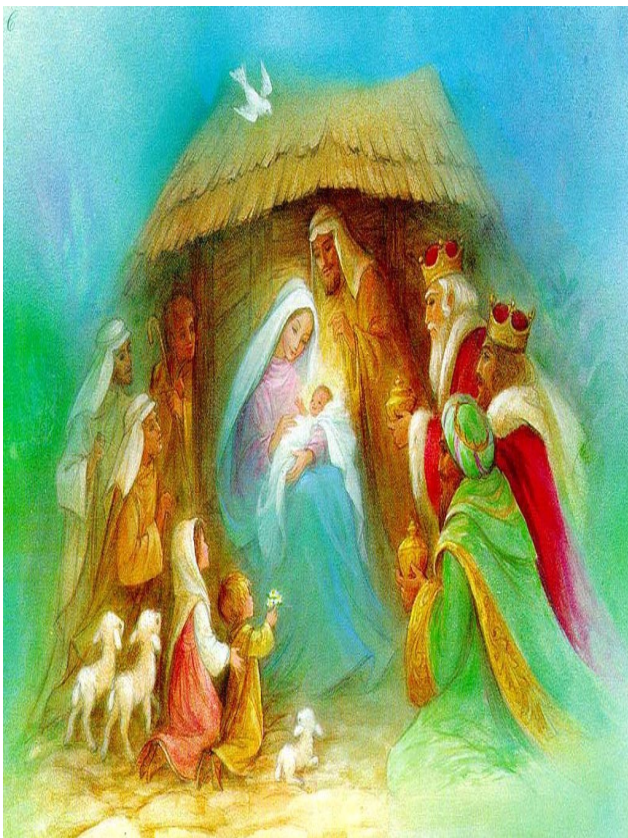
Prayer Shawl Ministry

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.

Note of Thanks

To the members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry: Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl you sent to me. I am at Shenandoah Nursing Home and the shawl will really help to keep the chill off this winter. Thank you for your labor of love!

— Hazel Tankesley



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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-19-2014

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT
SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM

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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.



2001 North Coalter Street
Staunton, VA 24401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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24401

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

We're on the web!
covenantpresstaunton.org



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



December 11 @ 6:00 PM

LITTLE MARIA'S PIZZA
& SALAD

*Vegetarian options are
available at all meals.*

*Join us after TOW:
Gingerbread House Making
(Be sure to RSVP so we have
enough supplies for all)*

THIS IS THE LAST TOW UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN ON JANUARY 15.