



Covenant Connection

May 25, 2020 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

Connect *with the* Pastor



In the window above the glass doors leading from the Breezeway to the Memorial Garden there is now a beautiful rainbow of hands large and small that marks our journey through these pandemic days. Written on those hands are messages of hope, inspiration, longing, and good humor. They are the hands of our Covenant family, joined together as symbols of our unity in the midst of our separation, our hope in the midst of this pandemic, and our trust in the One who is the *God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave...* Hope abounds!



We look forward to that day when we will be able to join hands in person again – or at least toe tap one another – within the walls of the church. That day has not yet arrived. While the governor has permitted gatherings for worship again, the parameters to do so safely according to all the experts are pretty limiting. We could have at most 60-65 people in worship at a time. There would be no congregational singing, no children's programming, no communion, and no choir. Pews would be emptied of all Bibles and hymnals. All those attending would be required to wear a face covering and to maintain the recommended six feet of social distancing. There could be no

fellowship time before or after the service, and the flow of foot traffic in and out of the sanctuary would be strictly limited. Any service would be short (no complaints there I am sure) so that restrooms would be less likely to be used. Pews and all touch surfaces would have to be disinfected before and after the service.

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Connect *with the* Pastor (*continued*)

As a result, Session has decided to continue the online worship services but continue to suspend in-person worship through at least June 21. In the meantime we will be looking at how we might worship together within those parameters as well as gleaning new insights into what more we can do together safely. Session will be guided by recommendations from the Worship Team and a newly formed Covid-19 Task Force that will distill the insights that science, medicine, and data for our area can offer to inform our decisions. We appreciate your patience as we weather this viral storm; for now, worshiping apart is how we best care for one another. We trust that God is with us, each and every one, accepting our offerings of praise and hearing our prayers in our virtual worship as we look forward to that day when we will offer those prayers and praise together in one space – under a rainbow of Covenant hands.



Items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by **9:00 AM on Friday, June 5th.**

Please email her at:
covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



**Congratulations to Ron Ramsey,
who was recently elected to
the Staunton School Board.
Thanks for your service!**

Please keep in your prayers:

Shirley Worrell, Tammy McCray, and their family on the death of Shirley's first cousin, Jay Hardy, in North Carolina, the morning of May 19 after years of multiple health challenges.

Valerie Locklear Rohr and her family, on the death of her mom, Janet Locklear, on May 21 from complications following surgery. Janet was a former elder at Covenant and had recently moved from Sunnyside to Legacy in Staunton.

The family of Jane Shaffer, a Covenant member who passed away on May 19th after a long battle with cancer. She was a proud graduate of the College of Wooster!

Condolences

Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Women now enters a season of hiatus and will resume Bible study and fellowship in September. This has been a fruitful year

in spite of COVID-19.

Moderator Carolyn Hensley, a person of abiding faith, has led wisely and well. Secretary Sue Morley and Treasurer Dee Norris have kept our group in good order and our records straight.

Kathleen Wilkers and Mary Ann Strippling, co-circle leaders, arranged for teachers and hostesses at each meeting. Both our souls and our tummies were fed. Thank you to all who facilitated our Bible study and to those who prepared delicious refreshments. The loving and faithful women who are part of PW make it extraordinary. Sadly, we lost one of those loving and faithful members when Louise Slovensky died. Louise uplifted those around her with her joy for life. She did many tasks around the church without fanfare or recognition. She made newcomers welcome. This New Testament passage says it well:

I have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7 Common (CEB)

And now, as the song says:

Bye-bye, so long, farewell

See you in September

See you when the summer's through.

Session Highlights

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

1. Approved the following Foundational Principles with regard to our response and planning to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Safety of our people is our first priority
 - Follow the science utilizing CDC, VDH, Governor's Office recommendations
 - Just because we CAN do something does not mean we SHOULD do something
 - Resume activities slowly with an eye toward any resurgence of the virus or other factors which might mitigate proceeding more quickly or more slowly
 - Utilize testing and tracing as available
 - The work of the church continues outside the walls of the church through intentional, creative, non-traditional engagement
2. Suspended in-person worship through June 21
3. Cancelled in-person Sunday School through the summer (through at least September 6)
4. Cancelled the first preschool camp scheduled for June
5. Moved the June Session meeting to June 14 at 6:00 p.m. at which time further decisions will be made with regard to Preschool Camp 2 (July), Helping Hands, and worship services post-June 21
6. Continued payment of nursery workers as regularly scheduled through June 30
7. Approved an alternate procedure for receiving faith statements from confirmands this year
8. Approved a youth fundraiser
9. Approved a Task Force to advise on Covid-19 issues: Rebecca Allison, Melissa Hostetter, Thom Jennings, John Sayers, Kristin Siegel, Kathy Henderson

GIVE US A HAND

Can you help us out with a project? Trace your hand on a piece of colorful paper (any color will do!), cut it out, and write a message on it. It can be a favorite Bible verse or prayer. It can be a message of hope for our congregation or our world. It can be a picture or a poem. Write whatever you would like! Then, mail us your hands or leave them in the vestibule and we will create a mosaic of colorful hands. We are hoping that this project will be a great way for us to create something together. We will preserve these hands for a permanent display as a reminder of this unique time for our community.



TOGETHER ON WEDNESDAY . . . AT HOME!



Dig out your *Favorite Flavors for our 50th* cook book and get inspired to try some new dishes. Each week we will try a new recipe and share the results with you. The first dinner, cooked by the Campbell Family, was Sherried Chicken by Beth Spencer and Squash Casserole by Beth Lobb. Both were crowd pleasers with the entire family — even our picky eater enjoyed them! Helpful hint: for the Sherried Chicken try using chicken tenderloins they were easier to cook and took less time

Don't have a copy of Covenant cookbook? Drop by the church and pick one up. Join the fun. Try a recipe, snap a picture, and share with us! We want to know what you're cooking!

Worship Service at 10:30 am each Sunday

**Live
Streaming**

www.facebook.com/pg/Covenant-Presbyterian-Church-163891301309/videos/



"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." - Isaiah



We have been consumed with living in the wilderness and wasteland of COVID-19. We are bummed about the celebratory rituals for rites of passage that we are missing out on. Usually we get to celebrate our graduating high school seniors with a presentation of Bibles during Sunday morning worship. Yet one more let down - we cannot celebrate in the way we usually do. Let us choose to see these experiences as making a way in the wilderness. The seniors will be presented their Bibles at their homes. What a testament that the Bible, and our faith, doesn't stay within the walls of the church, but follows us to our homes, and everywhere else that we are! It isn't about what happens inside the church, but where we take "the church" with us. May the presentation of Bibles this year be a stream in the wasteland. Please join me in celebrating our seniors this year!

Please pray for these students as they all go on to higher education. They will be making their way through the wilderness for a while. Never before have so many students begun college in the height of a pandemic. Pray that God will open their eyes to perceive the new things God is doing. Pray that the streams in the wasteland be aplenty. This class is full of resilient, flexible, open-minded young adults. The world may be in a crazy predicament, but these graduates are equipped with characteristics to succeed!

If you would like to send cards to them, their addresses can be found in the church directory.

Blessings!

Laura Lawson, Youth Director

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 Covenant Connection Published		27 7:00 PM COVID-19 Task Force in Fellowship Hall			
31 10:30 AM Live Stream Worship Service on Covenant's Facebook Page 4:00 PM Youth Meeting via Zoom	June 1 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom 5:30 PM Congregational Care Team in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Worship Team in Fellowship Hall				5 9:00AM Items due for Newsletter	
7 10:30 AM Live Stream Worship Service on Covenant's Facebook Page 4:00 PM Youth Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM Outreach Team in Fellowship Hall	8 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom Covenant Connection Published	9 7:30 PM Stewardship & Finance Team		11 8:30 AM Executive Team		

MAY - JUNE 2020

Find and circle all of the summer words that are hidden in the grid.
 The remaining letters spell an additional summer item.

J U N E S T S S S S Y K S E U L B M
 U S M E A U Y E O U H I K I N G S A
 S M W E E A N L U B N W A S E Y R E
 U T W I R R S G I C A B L N A R E R
 N S H V M T C C L T E A U D T V L C
 T Y U G I M Y S E A D B I R S S K E
 A G L C I C I R N N S L R R N D N C
 N R E U L F M N A U O S E A R G I I
 O E A E J E R S G H S W E A B N R C
 S E D A L B R E L L O R O S R I P R
 C N A O F L O G T L T B T E E T S E
 H G N I H S I F F A E O A E E A H C
 O R C A M P I N G T W T H B Z O C C
 O A C I N C I P A W A S P S E B A O
 L S F L I E S K M O S Q U I T O E S
 T S U G U A S I L L A B E S A B B O
 G N I N E D R A G S U N S H I N E N

ANTS
 AUGUST
 BARBECUE
 BASEBALL
 BEACH
 BEES
 BICYCLE
 BLUE SKY
 BOATING
 BREEZE
 CAMPING

FISHING
 FLIES
 FLOWERS
 GARDENING
 GOLF
 GREEN GRASS
 HAT
 HIKING
 HOLIDAYS
 HOT
 ICE CREAM

JULY
 JUNE
 MOSQUITOES
 NO SCHOOL
 PICNIC
 ROLLER BLADES
 SANDALS
 SKATEBOARD
 SOCCER
 SOLSTICE
 SPRINKLERS

SUNBURN
 SUNGLASSES
 SUNSCREEN
 SUNSHINE
 SUNTAN
 SWEAT
 SWIMMING
 U V RAYS
 WASPS
 WATER FIGHTS
 WATERMELON

Did you enjoy this puzzle? Visit: <http://www.puzzles.ca/wordsearch.html>





Children's Corner

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Project Grows —

Working hard to ensure food security for our community during COVID-19, they have experienced an excess of available remote volunteer work for college students who have free time. If you are interested in helping Project Grows while building your resume, they would love to have you. Information regarding those opportunities can be found here: www.projectgrows.org/get-involved/internships-jobs/. Should you have any questions regarding those volunteer opportunities, contact Nichole Barrows at nichole@projectgrows.org. Project Grows also is helping bring local purveyors and our community together by selling online. To shop Project Grows produce and those they support, go to: projectgrows.luluslocalfood.com.

Boys and Girls Club —

We continue to participate in the Nextrex Program, collecting plastic bags for a park bench. 500 pounds = 1 bench. Should you wish to help, collect at home to turn in when the church is open, or weigh your bags, report the weight to Robyn at robynsommerfield@gmail.com, and take them to your local Food Lion.

Shelburne Project —

We continue to collect toiletry items and non-perishable food items for Shelburne Middle School families. Collection boxes are located at the church in the vestibule by the office. Questions? Contact Ron Ramsey at baylor422@yahoo.com.

Face Masks for Our Community —

As elective surgeries are resuming, Augusta Health Hospital has an immediate need for masks. Contact Kathy Henderson at covenantnurse@gmail.com, if you have questions about how to make a mask or arrange for drop off and/or pick up of donations! Information on how to make a face mask can also be found here: patchworkplus-quilting.com/facemasks.

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.

COVENANT



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



The Outreach Team
reminds you
"PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY"
is the first Sunday of every month!
You can drop off your jar of
peanut butter in the covered
area just outside of the
church office.

