



Covenant Connection

August 3, 2020 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

Connect *with the* Pastor



This summer's sermon series, *I Love to Tell the Story*, recalls some favorite Bible stories that many of us have heard in one form or another since infancy. The Bible is full of such stories that describe God's relationship with humankind and God's hand at work in the lives of men and women, boys and girls, across the ages. The stories do not end with the last page of Revelation. New stories are being written every day in the lives of faithful Christians around the world. They are stories of great faith and faithfulness, stories of miracles and miraculous coincidences, stories of trials and temptations, stories of life as people of faith who have much more in common with the Biblical characters than we might want to admit.

Across media platforms there are stories of self-sacrifice, charity, creativity, courage, and love being told that encourage us to persevere in these strange days; there are also stories of selfishness, impatience, anger, and denial that reflect the continuing reality of sin in our midst. What stories will be told about you and how you faced this pandemic? What stories will you tell of what life was like for you and how you responded to the challenges of the virus? Will the stories be more triumph, tragedy, or comedy?

If we are to learn anything from the Biblical stories it is that God urges faith and faithfulness in the face of any adversity, temptation, or opportunity. Our excuses for something less are pretty lame in light of the challenges that others have faced, yet we may be comforted to know that not all of our ancestors in faith got it right all the time either. People made mistakes and chose unfaithful paths that resulted in great suffering; yet God still forgave them and welcomed them back, urging them to trust God's promises, to change their ways, and to follow more faithful paths. The great story line underlying all these stories, including our own, is the assurance of God's unending love and mercy. The intersection of that story line and the stories of our lives is where faith lives and grows for each of us. How then is that story being written in your life these days? Is it time for a change of plot toward a better story?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JA'.



Thanks to all those who have dropped off egg cartons over the years for use by the food bank. The food bank is no longer accepting egg cartons, so please find another good use for them!

Thank You!

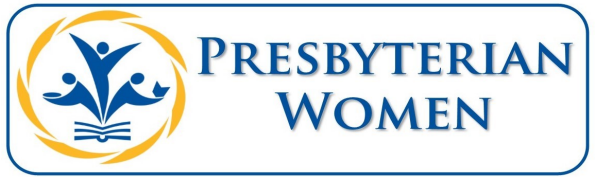
Dear Covenant Family, Thank you so much for all the prayers, calls, and cards during my recovery from Gallstone Pancreatitis. It was a difficult experience and I couldn't have gotten through without all your support. I am feeling much better and very blessed to have such a loving church. May God bless you all, Janie Ballurio

Nominating Committee

Many thanks from the Nominating Committee for the Elder Nomination suggestions. Please pray for the committee as we take the months of August and September to discern who might be called for the Elder class of 2023. We ask for your prayerful consideration should a member of the committee contact you.

Items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by **9:00 AM on Friday, August 14th.**

Please email her at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



The Presbyterian Women presented Carolyn Hensley, retiring moderator, a leather-bound NRSV Bible to honor her service. Members of the coordinating team that she led inscribed the Bible with messages of gratitude.

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. — Proverbs 31:25 -26



Thank you, Carolyn. You epitomize all that it means to be a Presbyterian Woman and leader. You have touched everyone with your faith, joy and kindness. Thank you!

Please keep in your prayers:

Amy Bussey and her family on the death of Amy's step-father, Daryl Baker, on July 23rd.

Jim Printy and his family on the death of Jim's brother, Mike Printy, in West Virginia on July 24th.

Candolences

Many thanks to Sarah Riddell, our fantastic videographer, who stepped in to help create and produce our virtual worship each week since its inception in March. Sarah also has been a beautiful soprano voice in our choir in that time and a lively, joyous presence in our midst. As she heads back to college for her senior year, we offer our prayers with gratitude for all her great gifts and her willingness to share them with us! Blessings!



NEED A MASK?

Thanks to our generous Covenant mask-makers, we now have a basketful of "COVID masks" in the glassed-in area by the church office. Please feel free to take one (or two or three). Both adult and youth sizes are available. If the supply is getting low, please call/ text or email Kathy Henderson (540-290-6396 or covenantnurse@gamil.com).


Facilities Team is celebrating the 25th anniversary of our essential team member Cleo Holly. He and his family have been our contract custodians extraordinaire.

Many of you know first hand the gracious kindness in which the Holly's care for all the elements of need that arise in and around the physical structures of Covenant Presbyterian Church. They are truly a gift. Please join us in showing our support to this family of friends with a card shower. Any anecdote of past experiences, acknowledgement or kind word shared, we are certain will be received with joy.

AND SHHH....It's a surprise!

Send cards to :
The Holly Family
P. O. Box 70
Lyndhust, VA 22952



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3 COMPASSION CAMP BEGINS (Virtual VBS) Covenant Connection Published 5:30 PM Congregational Care Team 7:00 PM Facilities Team 7:15 PM Worship Team	4 5:30 PM Children in Poverty Task Force via Zoom	5 7:00 PM COVID Task Force	6 8:30 AM Executive Team	7 9:00AM Items due for Newsletter	8
9 10:30 AM Live Stream Worship Service on Covenant's Facebook Page 4:00 PM Youth Meeting via Zoom	10 5:30 PM Preschool Team 8:00 PM Nominating Committee	11 7:30 PM Stewardship & Finance Team	12	13 8:30 AM Executive Team	14	15
16 10:30 AM Live Stream Worship Service on Covenant's Facebook Page 4:00 PM Youth Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM STATED SESSION MEETING	17 Covenant Connection Published	18	19	20	21	22

AUGUST 2020

BEGINS AUGUST 3rd

JOIN US FOR

AN AT-HOME/VIRTUAL VBS

Families:

It's not too late to join us for this self-guided, virtual VBS. You can choose to do the virtual camp all in one week, one day a week, or whatever schedule suits your family.

To obtain a Family Kit, please contact Sarah at revsarahwolf@gmail.com.



Worship Service at 10:30 am each Sunday

Live Streaming

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

OUTREACH CONTINUES

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. ***The hygiene items and nonperishable foods will always be useful, but we'd like to start collecting school supplies ... items such as backpacks, hand sanitizer, and binders ... to have on hand for students when they start back to school in a few weeks.*** Collection boxes are located at the church in the vestibule by the office.

Face Masks for a Local Church —

We would like to help First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro collect masks to distribute to the families they serve through their food pantry. If you are able to contribute, please drop masks off in the drop-off box located in the church office vestibule. Please let Kathy Henderson know or if you are able to help or if you have any questions! (covenantnurse@gmail.com).

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401

www.covenantpresstaunton.org

Office 540-885-2138 = Fax 540-885-4399

Office hours: Monday-Thursdays 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



2001 North Coalter Street
Staunton, VA 24401

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STAUNTON, VA
24401

*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.



It's time (again)!
Prayer Vigil for Dismantling Racism

Tuesday August 11
7:00 – 8:00

Gypsy Hill Park Bandstand, Staunton
Come together to learn ways
of moving forward, with faith
leaders making calls to action.

Show your love: wear your PPE mask



***RESCHEDULED FROM JULY 30TH**

We are excited to come together on
Tuesday, August 11, from 7:00-8:00 p.m.,
at the Gypsy Hill Park Bandstand!

Show your love of your neighbors by
wearing a mask and maintaining safe
distance to help keep our community
healthy.

Please park in the fairgrounds lot and
walk over to the bandstand. Bring a flash-
light or phone to use as a light during the
vigil. Feel free to bring a chair or a blan-
ket to sit comfortably.