

Covenant Connection

October 12, 2020 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

Connect *with the* Pastor



Following last Sunday's virtual worship service someone asked, "What was that black box behind the baptismal font? Was that part of the improved sound system?" It may have looked like a speaker (and we are glad that the sound is much improved for our virtual services), but that black box is an air purifier that uses ultraviolet light to help purify the air in the sanctuary. Another sits in the choir loft and yet another is being used in our preschool area. Along with a boatload of hand sanitizer, disposable masks, cleaners, and touchless thermometers, these air purifiers are part of the new reality of being a church in the midst of a pandemic. The same might be said for the technology we now use to broadcast the worship service on Facebook Live and to meet for Bible Study and youth activities via Zoom. Over these past months, we have had to find new ways of doing things in order to continue ministry in the midst of COVID-19.

Across the centuries, churches have had to adapt to a host of new realities. Some of those adaptations are technical (like air purifiers) and some of them are theological (hence the Reformation) and some of them are ecclesiastical as together we try to be relevant and faithful as the church in the cultural context in which we live. The Reformers described us as being "a church Reformed and always being reformed" by the Spirit. That is to say, we are rooted in our Reformed heritage, but we must grow and change as the Spirit leads us. That change is often not easy, especially among Presbyterians! There is a reason that the response to "How many Presbyterians does it take to change a light bulb?" is "None. My grandmother gave us that light bulb!" But some light bulbs need changing, and if we are to be faithful to God's call, then we must be open to change, to the new things God is doing in our midst!

In this unusual, viral stewardship season consider all the changes in your life? How has God been at work in the midst of it all? This Sunday in worship, three of our folks will share their perspectives on where they have seen God in the midst of this pandemic in their lives. Perhaps their stories will inspire you to recognize God's active presence in your life too. For God is here with us not only to support and strengthen us, but also to lead us on some new paths in new ways to be the faithful disciples that God calls us all to be!

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

Monday Morning Bible Study



Join us each Monday
at 10:30 am
via Zoom online.
A link to the meeting is
sent out each Sunday
via opt-in email

VOLUNTEER

- ◆ DISTRIBUTE FOOD to local families at VCFP: SOCIALLY DISTANCED volunteering on Mon, Wed, and Thurs, 8:30 to 11:00 AM; and Tues, 4:00 to 5:45 PM. Contact Cecil Wright or Ike Moore at 540-430-2844 or just show up to help!
- ◆ Join Feeding America by contacting your legislator for SNAP credit support for your local food pantries at:
https://www.feedingamerica.org/take-action/raise-your-voice?mc_cid=0424190280&mc_eid=d431e1b2e2
Contact Cliff Gilcrest for more information.
- ◆ DISTRIBUTE LEARNING PACKETS to McSwain/Bessie Weller students. Drop off/Pick up packets once a week in a socially distanced manner to student homes. Contact Karen Peterson to sign up!
- ◆ TUTOR at Boys and Girls Club, Monday thru Friday, from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM, in a socially distanced manner for homework and literacy support. Contact Robyn Sommerfield if you would like to help!



Parenting in a Pandemic

meets via Zoom on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM, hosted by Sarah Wolf and Laura Lawson. This is an informal virtual gathering for parents to discuss the highs, the lows, and the questions of parenting during a pandemic. If you would like the Zoom link for this meeting, please email Sarah to register. (revsarahwolf@gmail.com)



Thank you to Frances Craig, Sue Morley, and Janie Ballurio who all so graciously gave up their free time to handle the church office while I was on vacation in Virginia Beach with my husband, grown daughters, and five grandchildren. We had a wonderful time that was made even better by the confidence I had knowing these women were doing excellent work in my absence. I am so thankful for volunteers that will step in when they are needed.

— Martha Pierce

*On Sunday, November 1st,
we will observe All Saints' Day in our
worship service as we remember in prayer
those in our church family and those related to
our church family who have died this past year.
Below are the names of those we know. If you know
of others to be remembered, please contact the church office by
October 26th. We hope this will be a meaningful service for all.*

Doady Didawick
Mary Almquist
Joanna Gerringer
Earl and Janet Locklear
Jane Shaffer
Sarah Knorr
Louise Slovensky
Dennis Avery
Bobbye D'Orsi

Bill Cason—brother of Helen Ramsey and uncle of Ron Ramsey
Daniel Belch—grandson of Don Netschke and Bobbye Kimbrough
Dave Ursin—step-father of Bob Kane
Steve Golladay—brother of Kay Menk and husband of Lucy Anich
Vincent J. Ryan—uncle of Ellen Lucius and
great uncle of Emma Lucius-Milliman
Joanna Jennings Blythe—sister of Bill Jennings
Minnie Popes—aunt of Bonnie Powell
Carrol Stroop—uncle of Jeff Ryman
Hilda Higgs—sister of Ellen Mullins
Ruth Huppuch—aunt of Charlie Huppuch
Sharon Johnson—sister of Scott Cassell
Nancy Summers—former Covenant Preschool Director
Mike Hanna—brother of Bill Hanna
Jay Hardy—first cousin of Shirley Worrell
John Michael Surratt—son of David Surratt
Joe Goodpasture—uncle of Brent Bussey
Cosette Parker—grandmother of Amy Bussey
Kitty Farrier—former Covenant Member
Daryl Baker—stepfather of Amy Bussey
Mike Printy—brother of Jim Printy
Theresa May Taylor—sister of Cleo Holly
Raymond Diehl—brother of Charlotte Lotts
Jack Todd—nephew of John Todd
Helen Dalton—grandmother of Diana Bohart,
great-grandmother of
Dalton & Chloe

Annual Spaghetti Fundraiser – October 18TH!

This month, Martha's Meals on Wheels (MMOW) will be having a modified version of our annual MMOW Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser!

This year's dinner, scheduled for October 18th from 4-6 pm at Verona Moose Lodge, will be a drive-thru, take-out event. What can you expect this year? All MMOW volunteers will be wearing masks and gloves, and those who participate will enjoy contact-less service. When you arrive, you will be directed to our delivery station. Simply give your name if you participated in pre-sale or tell us how many meals you would like to purchase (checks or cash payment can be placed in buckets that will be provided), and our volunteers will place meals in your car!

All proceeds will directly support the MMOW program, bringing meals to area residents in need since 1973! Wish to purchase pre-sale tickets? Contact Jane Lobb and she will take your order! (janemlobb@gmail.com) If you are unable to participate in our pre-sale, meals will also be available for purchase at the door. MMOW is thankful for all the Covenant Community support!



Prayer shawls are available to share God's love and comfort for yourself or for you to share with a family member or friend. Call Joan Sayers (540-255-6273) to help choose one or to help with delivery.

Reserve Your Spot at the Oct. 14th Congregational Meeting

There will be a called Congregational Meeting on Wednesday, October 14th, at 6:45 pm, to elect seven elders to the Class of 2023, one elder to the Class of 2022, and two members to the Nominating Committee. Participation in the meeting may be in-person or via Zoom, but reservations must be made by noon on Monday, October 12. You can reserve your spot by calling the church at 540-885-2138 or emailing Martha at covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com.

Items for the next newsletter are due to Martha by **9:00 AM on Friday, October 23rd.**



Please email her at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com

REMINDER: Sign-Up for Mid-Week Worship




To provide an opportunity for safe in-person worship, we will offer a service of prayer, Scripture, reflection, and instrumental music in the Sanctuary each Wednesday evening beginning at 6:00 pm. The service will be about a half hour in length. There will be no congregational singing or choir as current evidence indicates those have the greatest potential for spreading the virus. Masks and social distancing will be required, which means we will be limited to about 60 people in the sanctuary for each service. Those who want to attend will need to sign up by noon on the Monday prior to the date you will be attending. Call the church at 540-885-2138, or email Martha Pierce (covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com).



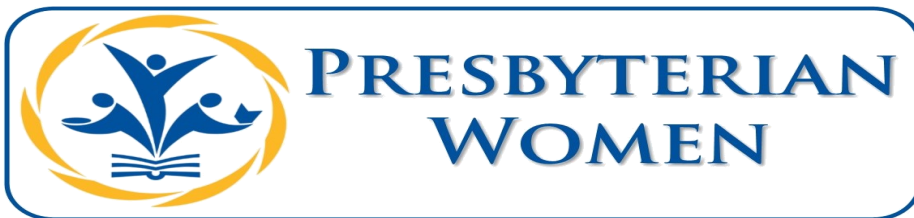
On October 7th, the Facilities Team acknowledged Cleo and Hilda Holly with sincere gratitude for twenty-five years of custodial care to all that participate here at Covenant.

Gifts were given of prayer shawls and tickets to Sight & Sound Theatre with hotel accommodations to be used at a time of their choosing.

We look forward to celebrating together with them in worship sometime in the days ahead.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	12 Covenant Connection Published 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Parents in a Pandemic via Zoom 7:15 PM Worship Team in Fellowship Hall	13 5:30 PM Preschool Team 7:30 PM Stewardship & Finance Team	14 6:00 PM Midweek In-person Service 6:45 PM Congregational Meeting In-person or Zoom Sign-up for these two events by calling the church at 540-885-2138	15 8:30 AM Executive Team	16 9:00AM Items due for Newsletter 6:00 PM Family Outdoor Movie Night	17
18 10:30 AM Live Stream Worship Service on Covenant's Facebook Page 4:30 PM Youth Open Table(s) 7:00 PM STATED SESSION MEETING	19 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Parents in a Pandemic via Zoom 7:00 PM Elder Training in Fellowship Hall	20	21 6:00 PM Midweek In-person Service Sign-up by calling the church at 540-885-2138 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM COVID-19 Task Force in Fellowship Hall	22	23 6:00 PM Family Outdoor Movie Night	24 
25 4 Cents a Meal 10:30 AM Live Stream Worship Service on Covenant's Facebook Page 2:00 PM High School: Have A Little Faith via Zoom 7:00 PM Middle School Stretch via Zoom	26 Covenant Connection Published 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Parents in a Pandemic via Zoom	27	28 6:00 PM Midweek In-person Service Sign-up by calling the church at 540-885-2138 7:00 PM Youth Bible Study via Zoom	29	30	31 2:00 PM Trunk or Treat 

OCTOBER 2020



Lament: We're Better Together

Lesson two in our Bible Study is about our strength when we are in community. A community is where we share our experiences or learn about the experiences of others. A community is where we join our voice with that of others combining our energy and resources with others.

Many of the writings of the Psalmist are about the community's lament. (See Psalms 44, 74, 79, 80 and 81). These are addressed to God crying out to God against injustice and inequality. What shall the community do? Lament. That is, **name** the injustice or evils. **Name** those who perpetrate inequality or injustice. **Ask God** to show up and do something. And **then, remember** who gave you eyes to see and a voice to speak up. Remember who gave you life so that you could be an advocate for others.

"You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who were

baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." (Galatians 3:26–27) You might rightly say that the injustices and inequalities are too many or too ingrained or too challenging and that it is difficult to know where or how to begin. Some ideas:

- ◆ **Donate** to one effort
- ◆ **March** when given the opportunity
- ◆ **Commit** to long-term engagement
- ◆ **Contribute** to the greater good
- ◆ **Be part** of a community that joins voices and energy

Horizons (pp, 23-24), the Presbyterian Women periodical, is the source of this. You can subscribe at **Horizons**, P. O. Box 421, Conyers, NY 10920. The annual cost is \$19.95 and with your subscription, you will receive the Bible Study book in the Spring before a new study begins. You can also get a Bible Study book from Carolyn Hensley by calling 540-885-4533.

Worship Service at 10:30 am each Sunday

Live Streaming

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

OUTREACH CONTINUES

Boys and Girls Club —

We continue to participate in the Nextrex Program, collecting plastic bags for a park bench. 500 pounds = 1 bench. Collect your bags and bring to the church office vestibule to drop in a designated receptacle, or drop off at RefillRenew, 110-1 Baldwin Street. Also, we need volunteers to help with taking the bags collected at the church to Food Lion. Volunteers will need to weigh the bags (there is a luggage scale next to the receptacle at the church), advise Robyn of the weight, and drop bags off at Food Lion. If you would like to help, you can sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4AAAAE2BA6F94-covenant1>



Donate supplies to Boys and Girls Club:

school supplies (especially dry erase pens, lined paper, Kindergarten lined paper, pencils, crayons, and colored pencils). Look for a drop off box in the church office vestibule.

Shelburne Project —

We continue to collect toiletry items and non-perishable food items for Shelburne Middle School families. The hygiene items and non-perishable foods will always be useful, but we are also collecting school supplies . . . items such as backpacks, hand sanitizer, and binders . . . to have on hand for students for school. **FYI . . . as far as serving our kids . . . we have 105 families at last count who are asking for food. That is 5 times as many as last year!! So, again cereal and peanut butter are always good!** Collection boxes are located at the church in the vestibule by the office.

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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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

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.

Fill the bucket



COVENANT
FLOCKTOBER

OCTOBER 2020

How it works:

- 1) A yard is flocked.
- 2) A picture is posted on facebook.
- 3) Guess whose yard it is!
A LINK FOR YOUR GUESS IS ON THE FACEBOOK POST.
- 4) Flockees nominate the next recipient of the flocking fun!

BIRDS OF A FEATHER...LAUGH TOGETHER