

Covenant Connection

October 26, 2020 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

Connect *with the* Pastor



This Sunday, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, Dedication Sunday, and the Lord's Supper on the brink of a presidential election. What links those celebrations for us – mere coincidence or something more? On All Saints Sunday, we *remember* those family members in our Covenant family who entered the church triumphant within the last year. As we lift up their names in our prayers some of us will *remember* Mary Almquist singing in the choir and attending every Bible Study we ever offered, Doady Didawick always ready with a gracious smile and a tasty cookie, Louise Slovensky working behind the scenes to fold newsletters and organize greenery baskets with PW, Dennis Avery helping with Outreach projects and sharing opinions in Sunday School classes and at Men's luncheons, Bobbye D'Orsi arranging greeters for Sunday morning and sharing lots of laughter and joy, Steve Henderson singing "*My Lord, What a Morning!*" from the choir loft. On this day, when we break bread *in remembrance* of our risen Lord, we *remember* those brothers and sisters in Christ we have commended to God's eternal care.

Dedication Sunday, too, is about *remembering*. We *remember* those charter members of Covenant who laid the foundation literally and figuratively for this church that we now call home. We *remember* their dedication and generosity in building and maintaining our facilities so that we would have sacred space to worship and serve to the glory of God. As heirs to their good work, we *remember* too our responsibility to continue to nurture faith, worship God, serve our neighbors, and provide a safe place for all those good things to happen. We offer our pledge cards in response to the blessings God has bestowed on us - a tangible *remembrance* of gratitude to God! This Sunday will indeed be about *remembering*, but it will also be about anticipation, looking ahead to the heavenly promises of God for us as for those saints before us, anticipating that day when we all sit at the heavenly table of the Lord, and looking ahead to the coming year and the opportunities and possibilities it presents for new things God will do in our midst as we hope and prepare for the challenges of a post-pandemic world!

Continued on Page 3

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

Please keep in your prayers:

Family and friends
of Steve Henderson, a member of
Covenant, residing in an assisted
living facility in Pennsylvania,
who passed away on October 14,
2020. Steve was the longest living
organ transplant recipient in the
country and was an active member
of the choir during his many years
here at Covenant. He was also
well known for tying balloon
animals for the children!

Condolences



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 vir-
tual 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)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS



**DO NOT FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS
BACK ON SATURDAY, OCT. 31**

Items for the next
newsletter are
due to Martha by
**9:00 AM on Friday,
November 6th.**



Please email her at:
covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com

Connect with the Pastor *(continued)*

As we come down the homestretch of this contentious presidential election year, perhaps we would do well to remember: our responsibilities as disciples of Jesus to support policies and candidates that reflect Jesus' command to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbors – all our neighbors – as ourselves; our charge to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God! Our votes should reflect our values as followers of Jesus! Remembering that God is greater than all of us, including any political candidate, we may anticipate a future for our nation in which God works in us, through us, and when necessary, despite us! May we be part of God's good work in this coming week, coming year, and across our lifetimes! And to God alone be the glory!



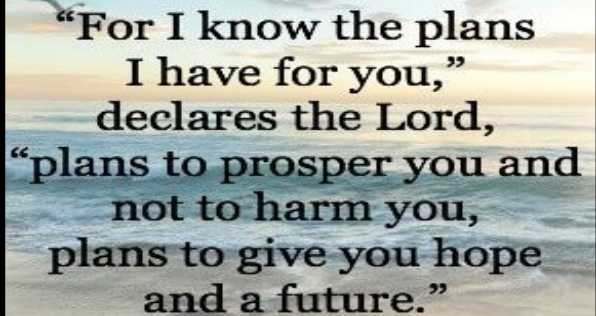
ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 3rd



Session Highlights

At its stated meeting on October 18, the Session took the following actions:

- ◆ Received into membership Eric and June Shipplett by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Staunton, and James Harris by Profession of Faith
- ◆ Elected Kevin Luebke and Michael Norris as commissioners to the November meeting of Presbytery with Elissa McDonald and Brandan Sommerfield as alternates
- ◆ Approved an alternate plan for conducting Glorious Gifts
- ◆ Approved a proposal for Trunk or Treat and a proposal for some in-person classes for children's Sunday School each month
- ◆ Approved a Covenant Tailgate chalking event for November 8 and an Outdoor Advent Decorating Event
- ◆ Approved continuing compensation for TOW kitchen staff
- ◆ Approved purchase of plexiglass partitions for the Boys & Girls Club

A graphic featuring a Bible verse. The background is a beach scene with a blue sky, white clouds, and several seagulls flying. The text is in a serif font, with the first part in a larger, bold font. The verse is: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

—

Jeremiah 29:11

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Pastor Elaine Rose, of Promiseland Christian Fellowship Church in Staunton, was invited to Together on Wednesday (TOW) by David Stahl over a year ago to begin a personal discussion of their experience of race relations in the local area. Since that courageous and honest discussion, David and Pastor Rose have kept in contact, allowing for Covenant to be introduced to a wonderful opportunity for our churches to work together on a community project. Pastor Rose and her congregation have chosen to pull together *A Thousand Blessings* for people in need due to COVID-19 or other life challenges. Part of *A Thousand Blessings* aims to provide Thanksgiving meal packages for families in need. Each family will receive a package that includes turkey, corn, beans, fruit, potatoes, mac-n-cheese, stuffing, gravy, bread, and dessert. Our participation would be two-fold: 1) supply food items for Thanksgiving family meals, and 2) assemble collected items and help with distribution in a safe and socially distanced manner. Should you wish to donate items, you can sign up through Sign-up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D49ACAC2AA1FC1-wenoah>. Non-perishable items can be left in the vestibule. For perishable items (turkey, bread, dessert) or to help with the assembly and distribution, contact David Stahl for more information. Drop-off deadline is November 10th. The hope is that this will be the start of a relationship between our church and Promiseland Christian Fellowship Church that allows for Christian relationships to grow and flourish, by doing good works that help our community!



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.

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 Gilchrest 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!

REMINDER: Sign-Up for Mid-Week Worship

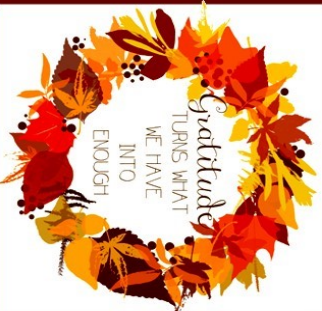


To provide an opportunity for safe in-person worship, we will offer a service of prayer, Scripture, reflection, and instrumental music in the Sanctuary each Wednesday evening beginning at 6:00 pm. The service will be about a half hour in length. There will be no congregational singing or choir as current 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).



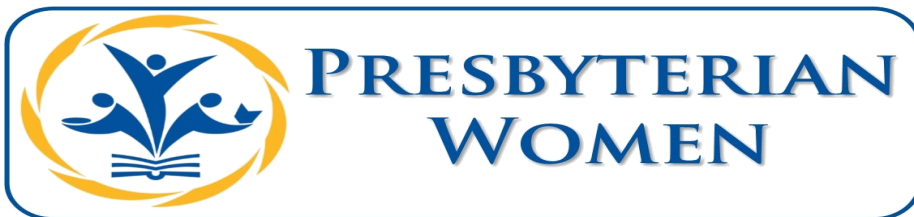
Anne Mitchell's home was recently flocked with pink flamingos on her 94th birthday!

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT (9 MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020)

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	377,940
TOTAL OTHER RECEIPTS	105,779
TOTAL RECEIPTS	483,719
OUTREACH	37,972
PERSONNEL	248,233
FACILITIES	84,543
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	3,828
FELLOWSHIP	576
STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE	3,254
CONGREGATIONAL CARE	1,729
WORSHIP	2,624
TOTAL EXPENSES	382,759
NET INCOME	100,960

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	26 Covenant Connection Published 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Parents in a Pandemic via Zoom 7:00 PM Elder Training in FH	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 
Nov. 1 PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT 10:30 AM Live Stream Worship Service on Covenant's Facebook Page 12:15 PM CE Team via Zoom 6:00 PM Youth Costume Contest & Games	2 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom 5:30 PM Congregational Care Team in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Facilities Team 7:00 PM Parents in a Pandemic via Zoom 7:15 PM Worship Team in FH	3 	4 6:00 PM Midweek In-person Service Sign-up by calling the church at 540-885-2138 7:00 PM Elder Training in Fellowship Hall	5	6 9:00AM Items due for Newsletter	7
8 COLLEGE MAIL SUNDAY 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	9 Covenant Connection Published 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Parents in a Pandemic via Zoom 7:00 PM Elder Training in FH	10 10:30 AM PV Officer Installation via Zoom 5:30 PM Preschool Team	11 6:00 PM Midweek In-person Service Sign-up by calling the church at 540-885-2138	12 8:30 AM Executive Team via Zoom	13	14

OCT - NOV 2020



News Flash! Presbyterian Women!

Lynn Grimm is facilitating lesson 3 in the Bible Study. Look for more about the lesson in the next newsletter. If you would like a copy of the study book, contact Carolyn Hensley at 540-885-4533 or at 1carolyncat@gmail.com to arrange to acquire a copy. The cost is \$10. Please make checks payable to 'Covenant Presbyterian Women.'

Each new PW year begins with the Thank Offering Luncheon. This year we were not able to be together but the projects funded by the Thank Offering continue to need our help. The Thank Offering provides much-needed financial assistance to 20 to 30 worthwhile programs each year. The recipients are always a mix of domestic and international projects, but all meet crucial needs. At least 40 percent of this offering funds health ministry, often helping the most marginalized members of God's community. The remaining percentage supports new or expanded projects and small capital improvement projects. Your gift to the Thank Offering helps fund real solutions in the areas of health, education, economic

development and the needs of women and children. You can contribute by mailing your check to Dee Norris at 126 Woodland Drive, Staunton VA 24401. Make your check payable to 'Covenant Presbyterian Women.' The deadline for receiving gifts is November 23.

The PW budget for 2020-2021 totals \$2600.00, reduced from \$2835.00 in 2019-2020. The budget is predicated on each member's offering of \$10.00 per month according to our by-laws. If you would like to remit your offering before we gather, please send your check (made payable to Covenant Presbyterian Women) to Dee Norris at 126 Woodland Drive, Staunton 24401-2371. Thank you, Dee.

And one more thing! Covenant Presbyterian Women will meet via ZOOM on November 10 at 10:30 AM, John Peterson will install the leadership team and Dee Norris, speaking for the committee, will announce the names of the two members who have been selected for Life Membership status. An opt-in email will be sent out with the Zoom link; all you need to do is 'click' the hot button at 10:30 AM on November 10.

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/30E0A4AAAE2BA6F94-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 nonperishable 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.



**2001 North Coalter Street
Staunton, VA 24401**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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STAUNTON, VA
24401

*Striving to be Faithful Disciples of Christ:
Worshipping 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!
- 4) Flockees nominate the next
A LINK FOR YOUR GUESS IS ON THE FACEBOOK POST.
recipient of the flocking fun!

BIRDS OF A FEATHER...LAUGH TOGETHER