

Welcome!

Whether you are a long-time member, occasional worshiper, or new visitor with us, we hope that in this service you will encounter the living Christ and be strengthened by God's promises for you. Please visit our website at covenantpresstaunton.org to learn more about our ministries and Covenant life together. We are happy to have you as part of our church family today! May God grant you comfort and peace through these challenging days. Stay safe and be well. Blessings!

The rose on the communion table is in celebration of the birth of a son, Avett Joseph, to Melanie and Evan Knox on November 11. Sullivan and Landyn are proud big sisters.

COVENANT CHURCH DIRECTORY

PASTOR.....John C. Peterson
 ASSOCIATE PASTOR.....Sarah Wolf
 DIRECTOR OF YOUTH.....Laura Lawson
 MINISTER OF MUSIC.....Jeffrey Ryman
 ORGANIST.....Christopher Wszalek
 HANDBELL DIRECTOR.....Lou Dolive
 DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MUSIC.....Joan Swift
 DEVELOPMENTAL PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR.....Mitzi White
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.....Martha Pierce
 TREASURER.....Paul Sorrell
 COVENANT NURSE.....Kathy Henderson
 CUSTODIAN.....Cleo Holly

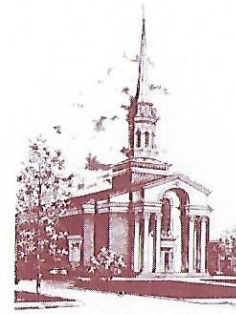
SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Rebecca Allison	Sarah Brodie	Anne Bell
Janie Ballurio	Katie Campbell	Elissa McDonald
Richard Beard	Christy Davis	Michael Norris
Thom Jennings	Kent Diduch	Janice Rockwell
Kevin Luebke	Ron Ramsey	John Sayers
Kristin Siegel	Peggy Roberson	Louise Scott
Jane Wimmer	Brandan Sommerfield	Tad Shuey

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 8:15 am to 12:15 pm, Monday - Friday



2001 NORTH COALTER STREET
 STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

NOVEMBER 29, 2020
 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:30 AM

STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

One: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
 And ransom captive Israel
 That mourns in lonely exile here
 Until the son of God appear.

ALL: Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 80)

Leader: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
 you who lead Joseph like a flock.

**People: Restore us, O God of hosts;
 Show us your light, and we shall be saved.**

Leader: Let your hand be upon us, O Lord.
 and make us strong for your service.

**People: Give us strength, that we may never turn from you;
 Give us life, that we may call upon your name.**

HYMN #82 – *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

***Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins releases us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art.
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.***

***Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being; we are the clay, and you are the potter. We are the work of your hand. Yet we resist your purposes for us, and have sought instead to satisfy our own aims and desires. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember our iniquity forever. We are your people. Be merciful to us. Come to us. Revive us. Renew us. Lord, in your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE—Hymn #121 (stanza 4)

***O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!***

GROWING IN FAITH

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON.....Isaiah 64:1-9

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON.....Mark 13:24-37

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON.....SARAH WOLF

"LET THERE BE . . . HOPE!"

MUSICAL REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — From the Confession of 1967

***In Jesus Christ God was reconciling the world to God's self.
Jesus Christ is God with us. He is the eternal Son of the
Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill
the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by
the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his
mission. This work of God — the Father, Son, and Holy***

***Spirit — is the foundation of all confessional statements about
God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all
people to be reconciled to God and to one another. To God be the
glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations! Amen.***

HYMN #357 – *The Days Are Surely Coming*

***The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.***

***The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.***

***The days are surely coming when we will know at last
the fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass.
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.***

SERVING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (...“sins”)

OFFERING

FOUR CENTS PER MEAL

OFFERTORY

PRAYER

HYMN #100 – *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (Canticle of the Turning)*

***My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.***

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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