

# Covenant Connection

January 4, 2021 | Bi-Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

## Connect *with the* Associate Pastor



Dear Friends,

As we enter into another season of Pandemic Church, we continue to grieve some of the changes this pandemic has brought. One of those big changes has been in our routines. Prior to Covid-19, we knew the routine of the church seasons by heart, attending Sunday school each week, Taizé services in Lent, Monday morning Bible studies throughout the school-year, etc. This pandemic has shaken all of that up. Our routines have gone out the window. But all is not lost! There are still ways that we are able to come together virtually or ways that we can study God's word individually that fills some of our Christian education needs.

While we cannot meet in person still, your Christian Education Team wants to be sure that you are aware of all of the opportunities for Christian Education in the coming months:

- ◆ As a part of the PCUSA's Matthew 25 initiative exploring church vitality, eradicating systemic poverty, and dismantling structural racism, we hope you'll join us for three church-wide reads in January, February, and March. During each month, we'll tackle one of the Matthew 25 components in a virtual book group, similar to our *Waking Up White* discussions last summer. We will begin in the second half of January with a book on church vitality, so look for more information coming soon!
- ◆ We continue to update the Wired Word each week which provides a Christian perspective on current events.
- ◆ Join us on Monday mornings at 10:30 via Zoom for a Bible study based on the Scripture for the following Sunday. The link gets emailed out each Sunday afternoon and no prep work is required!

*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:*

Kevin Griffith and family on the  
passing of his mom, Gwen Griffith  
on December 21st from cancer.

*Condolences*

Items for the next  
newsletter are  
due to Martha by  
9:00 AM on Friday,  
January 15th.

Please email her at:  
[covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com)



## Worship Service at 10:30 am each Sunday

Live  
Streaming

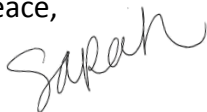
[www.facebook.com/pg/Covenant-Presbyterian-Church-163891301309/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Covenant-Presbyterian-Church-163891301309/videos/)

## Connect with the Associate Pastor *(continued)*

- ◆ Laura and I will continue to offer socially distanced opportunities for our children and youth to gather either physically or in person to discuss the great things God continues to do for us.

Please know how much the staff misses the rush of Sunday mornings with your wonderful faces filling our halls and classrooms. Until we are able to safely meet again (which will be soon, we pray!), please let us know if you have any ideas for Christian education!

Peace,



- ◆ 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](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 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!

## Epiphany Star Words

Each year on January 6th, the Church celebrates Epiphany -- the day on which the Magi, following a star, appeared before the Holy Family.

One of the newer traditions in the Church has been to pick Star Words each Epiphany and to have your Star Word guide you through a new year. If you receive your newsletter in the mail, your Star Word will be included in this issue's mailing. If you do not receive the newsletter in this way, please stop by the office vestibule over the next week and pick your Star Word. If you would like a word randomly assigned to you, email Sarah and she will drop a star off in your mailbox! ([revsarahwolf@gmail.com](mailto:revsarahwolf@gmail.com))




*A Benefit Concert*  
*for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network*  
Presented by the Combined Choirs of  
Olivet Presbyterian Church and Staunton Church of the Brethren  
with Mini-Orchestra  
Under the Direction of David MacMillan

*Listen on WBTX, 1470AM, on January 6, 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm*

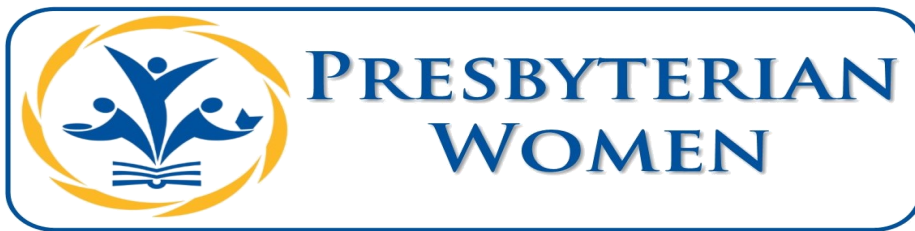
  
Free Will Offering  
Send to

BRAFB, P.O. Box 937, Verona, VA 24482  
Please mark 12th Night on memo line.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>4</b> Covenant Connection Published 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom 5:30 PM Congregational Care Team in FH	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00 PM Midweek In-person Service <i>Sign-up by calling the church at 540-885-2138</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Novels & Needles Book Group	<b>9</b>
<b>10 Presbyterian Coffee Project</b> 10:30 AM Live Stream Worship Service on Covenant's Facebook Page	<b>11</b> 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom 7:00 PM Facilities Team	<b>12</b> 5:30 PM Preschool Team 7:30 PM Stewardship & Finance Team	<b>13</b> 6:00 PM Midweek In-person Service <i>Sign-up by calling the church at 540-885-2138</i>	<b>14</b> 8:30 AM Executive Team	<b>15</b> 9:00AM Items due for News-letter	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10:30 AM Live Stream Worship Service on Covenant's Facebook Page 4:00 PM Youth Make a Meal 7:00 PM STATED SESSION MEETING	<b>18</b> Covenant Connection Published 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:00 PM Midweek In-person Service <i>Sign-up by calling the church at 540-885-2138</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>

# JANUARY 2021



***Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament***, the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for this year has been remarkably timely. When the author and illustrator of the study, Lynn Miller, completed the series three years ago, neither she nor the publisher, ***Horizons***, could have known. Who among us has not lamented something or someone in recent months? The fifth lesson, *Lamenting Life*, focuses on Job and begins with this opening prayer:

God of comfort, you have called each of us into being, and you call each of by name. You know us completely and you love us in Jesus Christ. Through your word and our words, speak to our lives that we may know you are with us always. Amen. (p. 45)

The illustration for the lesson features an hour glass. Do you remember the soap opera, *Days of Our Lives*? The intro was "Like sands through the hour glass, so are the days of our lives. . ." Thinking about the days of our lives like that sand in the hour glass, how many grains do we let slip through? How many grains or days do we use well? How do we react when presented with opportunities?

When Job was tested, his friends said he must have done something wrong. Job responded to each in turn that he had remained steadfast. He had used each of the grains of sand in his hour glass wisely and well. Now, hopefully we will not be tested like Job, but we might want to give thought to how well and wisely we are using the days of our lives?

You're in line at the grocery store. Your grocery cart is full and the person behind you has only a few items. Did you let that person go ahead of you? Are there clothes in the closet that could be donated to the Valley Mission? There are countless persons whom we encounter who could use a friendly greeting, or a child who is struggling with virtual learning who could use a word of encouragement or a teacher who is worn thin from the demands virtual teaching who could use a word of encouragement. Is there something you could say or do?

The point: The days of our lives are finite. The LORD has given us those days to use wisely and well before they slip through that hour glass!

Prayer: God of comfort, help us to be like Job, remaining steadfast using our days wisely and well and to the glory of God! Amen!

*Lynn Grimm will develop lesson 5 in our Bible Study.  
Check it out on the church web site.*

## 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](http://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](http://www.covenantpresstaunton.org).

COVENANT



2001 North Coalter Street  
Staunton, VA 24401

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ORGANIZATION  
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STAUNTON, VA  
24401

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

We're on the web!  
[covenantpresstaunton.org](http://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



May the faith of God  
be with you this year.  
May the peace of God  
surround you,  
and may you be blessed  
each day!

*Happy New Year*