



# COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 26, 2021  
STAUNTON, VA

MOTHER'S DAY  
EDITION

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

For over a year now our Sunday morning worship has been limited to virtual worship via Facebook Live. We are grateful to all those folks (especially Mike and Sarah Riddell, Michael Norris, Seth Ward, Karen Peterson, and Sarah Wolf) who have helped to make that happen. A week does not go by that someone does not mention appreciation for their work in connecting folks for worship. We look forward to that day when we can get back together in person as we did pre-COVID, but even then we will continue to broadcast the service in order to reach folks who can not be in worship in person at that time.

Beginning May 2, we will offer a second worship service on Sunday morning that will be in person at 8:30 a.m. It will be the same sermon and prayers as at 10:30, but consistent with COVID restrictions, there will be no congregational singing and no communion at this time. Folks attending will need to sign up ahead of time, and we will have a limit of approximately 60 folks with all being socially distanced and wearing masks. There will be no passing of the peace and no fellowship time following the service. This model has worked well for us in our midweek services, and we are hopeful that it will offer a meaningful alternative for many of you. Our 10:30 worship will continue to be all virtual with singing and virtual communion just as we have been doing.

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VISIT US ONLINE AT  
[WWW.COVENANTPRESTAUNTON.ORG](http://WWW.COVENANTPRESTAUNTON.ORG)

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*If you are a woman who fellowships with the Covenant Presbyterian Church family, you are a Presbyterian Woman!*

The PW leadership team has met monthly via ZOOM this year and tentative planning is underway for the fall, though many unknowns remain. The new Bible Study looks promising and is about the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus and is entitled, **What My Grandmother's Taught Me**. But this PW year is not quite complete. Please consider participating in the PW meeting on May 11th at 10:00 AM via ZOOM.

The agenda will include:

- ◆ Bible Study facilitated by Mary Ann Stripling.
- ◆ The leadership team, seeking to align the bylaws and the practices of the fellowship, will present a few changes to the bylaws for your consideration, discussion and your approval or disapproval.
- ◆ Additionally, the leadership team seeks to modify the way that PW funds are held. This will also involve your consideration, discussion and your approval or disapproval.
- ◆ The Search Committee's work is complete and the leadership team for 2021-2022 will be announced.
- ◆ The Life Membership and Recognitions Committee has also completed its work and three members will be accorded special recognition.

This meeting will be our last for this year. Those signed up for the church's opt-in emails will receive the ZOOM link for the meeting just before May 11. Click the "Meet Here" button and join! (If you aren't receiving the church emails but would like to, contact Martha at the email link below.) And let us be in prayer for one another, for our fellowship, for our church and its leaders, for our community, our Commonwealth and nation. Let's all pray to be the answer to someone else's prayer.

Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, May 7th**.

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



B-InspiredMama.com

**KID-MADE FLOWER BAGEL BREAKFAST**

*Perfect for Mother's Day at B-InspiredMama.com*

## Ingredients:

- cinnamon swirl or plain bagel
- Plain or flavored cream cheese
- strawberries, hulled and halved
- Blueberries

Just supply the kids with the goods and let them at it. Little ones might need help spreading the cream cheese on the bagel, but will love adding the berries all on their own. They can make a cute berry flower or any other design they'd like. Moms and dads will like it no matter what!



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK *(cont'd)*

Why the change? One significant challenge that we faced prior to this time was the cleaning and disinfecting of the sanctuary necessary between services to protect those who are participating at the 10:30 service. Now that all the 10:30 participants have been vaccinated that makes such a transition safer and more readily workable. During the month of May, we will also continue with our midweek services at 6:00 on Wednesdays to continue to offer another in person alternative. If you have any questions or concerns with regard to any of these plans, please give me a call or send me an email, and I will be glad to follow up with you.

Our ongoing commitment as a church called to love and serve one another is to follow health and safety guidelines from the CDC, the VDH, and the local health department in order to keep folks safe. We are grateful for those folks who have helped us navigate the guidelines and translate them into our context here at Covenant along the way. We are committed to keeping everyone as safe as possible while also providing increasing opportunities to gather together in person as restrictions are eased. Thank you all for the gracious spirit and patience which you have demonstrated throughout this difficult time. The church is the people, and what a wonderful church we have, for we have so many wonderful people!



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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

- ◆ Elected Christy Davis and Katie Campbell as commissioners to the May meeting of presbytery
- ◆ Approved in-person Sunday worship at 8:30 beginning May 2 subject to COVID restrictions
- ◆ Approved continuing with virtual Sunday worship at 10:30
- ◆ Approved a wedding for Hannah Rose Dahl and Hans Slekta for July 31 subject to COVID restrictions
- ◆ Approved purchase of 10 Spanish-English dictionaries for Latinx students
- ◆ Approved a request to be a site for emergency housing for Brightview/Baldwin Park residents
- ◆ Approved holding 2 weeks of pre-school summer camp for up to 20 children per week
- ◆ Approved hosting Helping Hands in August subject to COVID restrictions and with modifications to the program for COVID
- ◆ Received confirmation of total forgiveness of Covenant's PPP loan

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION


SARAH WOLF • (540) 885-2138  
revsarahwolf@gmail.com

The COVID pandemic has disrupted our in-person opportunities for Christian Education learning. 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 fill some of our Christian education needs.

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

Watch opt-in emails for announcements of study opportunities.

Contact Sarah if you have any ideas for Christian Ed.



Christian Education Links are at the Covenant website: [www.covenantpresstaunton.org/christian-education/](http://www.covenantpresstaunton.org/christian-education/)

## 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.

## Wired Word

Check out the Wired Word each week which provides a Christian perspective on current events. You can find the link on the church website. See link above.

## Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

This year's PW study is "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament" by Lynn Miller. Each month a different member of Covenant's Presbyterian Women group will lead via a YouTube video. The link is updated the second Tuesday of each month. Find the link at the church website. See link above.





# Rooted & Reaching

## **Covenant is offering an opportunity to meet in-person!**

From 4:00-5:00 PM on the first four Sundays in May (5/2, 5/9, 5/16, and 5/23), we are going to have some groups meet outdoors, masked, and distanced. The groups will cover a variety of topics while giving an opportunity for us to be together as a church community again. Each group will be capped at 10 participants to allow for discussion while distanced.

### **GROUP TOPICS**

**Bible Study** - From the very beginning amid the wonder of creation, Scripture is full of images of living, growing things. This Bible study will consider some of those images from the pages of the Old Testament – from trees to vineyards to fertile plains. Bring your green thumbs to turn the pages and join us! (Led by John Peterson)

**Bible Study** - The New Testament provides a foundation for a life of faith -- from the earliest days of Christ's ministry on earth to the early house churches of the Christian movement. These foundations root us in our faith and enable us to reach out to the world. This study will consider passages which help us explore the rooted and reaching nature of our individual and collective faith journeys. (Led by Sarah Wolf)

**Current Events** - Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun." For generations, Christians have tried to view current events of the day from a Christian perspective asking themselves, "Where is God in all of this?" The current events group will tackle a different current event each week, look at related scripture passages, and ask the same kinds of questions our ancestors in faith have asked over the years. (Led by Beverly Riddell and John Sayers)


**Individual Faith Practices** - Churches are where we worship God. But so are coffee shops, the gym, conversations with friends and strangers, meal times, work times, rest times...all times! We can take those roots from church and expand on them to reach farther areas of our lives. There are many different, sustainable, and intentional ways we can reach a little further in our faith each day! The Individual Faith Practices group will learn about and engage in faith practices that can be replicated at home, in the car, at work, etc. (Led by Laura Lawson)

**Gardening Outside the Plot** - "Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." ~ Einstein  
This group will begin to explore being rooted in faith and reaching in life through connections that can be learned from gardening. Each week will have a discussion topic and a hands-on experience to take your gardening to the next level by thinking outside the plot. (Led by Cary Dahl and Ashley Kane)

**To be part of one of the groups, please sign-up at [shorturl.at/djpyH](https://shorturl.at/djpyH)**

# CELEBRATING 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

John Todd will be turning 100 years "young" on May 20th. Please help him celebrate by participating in a card shower. Cards should be received at the church by May 14th (you can either mail them to the church or bring them to the church office). Please write "John Todd" on the back envelope flap so we know the card is for him. And mums the word . . . it's a surprise!



WITH  
*Love*  
&  
SYMPATHY

*Please keep in your prayers  
Becky Earhart and her family  
on the death of her father,  
Rev. Donn Langfitt on April 16th  
at his home in Fredericksburg, VA.  
Donn served as pastor here at  
Covenant from 1971-1981,  
and was much loved.  
May God grant him heavenly joy  
and grant to his family and friends  
comfort and peace.*

## EQUAL EXCHANGE SALE



The next Equal Exchange Sale will be Sunday, May 2nd. At this time, we have coffee for \$8.00, tea for \$4.00, and dark chocolate for \$3.00. The sale will be set up from 2:00-4:00 PM under the portico on the north side of Covenant, assuring us all of maintaining safe physical distance and rainy weather will not be a problem. Your individual orders will be labeled and placed on a table in front of the steps leading up to the side

entrance. There will be a box for you to deposit a check or exact cash. We will be sitting in front of the side entrance if you have any questions or need to add to your order. To order, call 540-290-1089 or send an email to [bettyandcliff@comcast.net](mailto:bettyandcliff@comcast.net). Thank you for supporting Equal Exchange, Cliff and Betty Gilchrest

# WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE (In Person)

**PLEASE REGISTER AS SPACE IS LIMITED**

To provide an opportunity for safe in-person worship, we offer a service of prayer, Scripture, reflection, and instrumental music in the Sanctuary each Wednesday evening beginning at 6:00 PM. The service is about a half hour in length.

There is no congregational singing or choir. Masks and social distancing are required, which means we are 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 day of the service you will be attending. Register via the sign in offered through an opt-in email or contact Martha Pierce at 540-885-2138 or covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com.



## 8:30 AM SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP (In Person)

**PLEASE REGISTER AS SPACE IS LIMITED**

To provide an opportunity for safe in-person worship, we offer a service of prayer, Scripture, reflection, and instrumental music in the Sanctuary each Sunday morning at 8:30 AM. There is no congregational singing or choir.

Masks and social distancing are required, which means we are 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 Friday prior to the service you would like to attend. Register via the sign in offered through an opt-in email or contact Martha Pierce at 540-885-2138 or covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com.





## 10:30 AM SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP (Virtual)

Please join us as we worship together via live stream at 10:30 AM on Sunday. Below is the link to the Facebook page where the live stream will be shown. The video for this Sunday's service will be in the top-left spot of the video page.

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



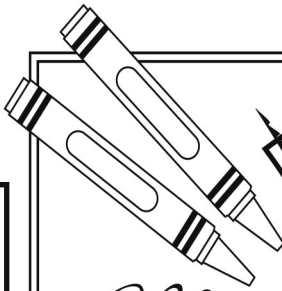
# April 2021 May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><b>26</b>  <b>COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED</b>            10:30 AM            Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom</p>	<p><b>27</b>            7:00 PM COVID Task Force in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p><b>28</b>            6:00 PM            Midweek Service            In-person service is limited to 60, please sign-up.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>May 1</b>    <b>May Day</b></p>	
<p><b>2</b>  <b>Peanut Butter Sunday Presbyterian Coffee Project</b>            8:30 AM            Worship Service            In-person service is limited to 60, please sign-up.            10:30 AM            Worship via Live Stream on Facebook            4:00 PM Seed Group Studies</p>	<p><b>3</b>            10:30 AM            Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom            5:30 PM            Congregational Care Team            7:00 PM Facilities Team            7:15 PM Worship Team</p>	<p><b>4</b>            7:00 PM            Fellowship Team</p>	<p><b>5</b>            6:00 PM            Midweek Service            In-person service is limited to 60, please sign-up.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b>            9:00 AM            Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b>  <b>Mother's Day</b>            8:30 AM            Worship Service            In-person service is limited to 60, please sign-up.            10:30 AM            Worship via Live Stream on Facebook            4:00 PM Seed Group Studies</p>	<p><b>10</b>  <b>COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED</b>            10:30 AM            Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom</p>	<p><b>11</b>            5:30 PM            Preschool Team            7:30 PM            Stewardship &amp; Finance Team</p>	<p><b>12</b>            6:00 PM            Midweek Service            In-person service is limited to 60, please sign-up.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b>            10:00 AM            Novels &amp; Needles Book Group            10:30 AM            Memorial Endowment Meeting</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>



Below is a bookmark kids can color and present to mom on Mother's Day. Reprint on white card stock in order to have a blank back.

Happy  
Mother's  
Day



# PUZZLE

## Mothers in the Bible

Children have always had a special place in their mother's heart.

Directions: First, cover up the second column and see if you can name some of the mothers' children from the Bible. Then write the circled letters on the correct lines below to complete Proverbs 23:25, NIV.

### MOTHERS

### CHILDREN

Eve <sup>31</sup> .....	bore .....	Cain, Abel and Seth <sup>11</sup>
Sarah <sup>23</sup> .....	bore .....	Isaac <sup>22</sup>
Rebekah <sup>7</sup> .....	bore .....	Jacob and Esau <sup>18</sup>
Rachel <sup>13</sup> .....	bore .....	Benjamin and Joseph <sup>27</sup>
Leah <sup>12</sup> .....	bore .....	Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah <sup>20</sup>
Zilpah <sup>44</sup> .....	bore .....	Gad and Asher <sup>41</sup>
Bilhah <sup>34</sup> .....	bore .....	Dan and Naphtali <sup>28</sup>
Jochebed <sup>19</sup> .....	bore .....	Moses <sup>29</sup>
Naomi <sup>2</sup> .....	bore .....	Mahlon and Kilion <sup>3</sup>
Ruth <sup>14</sup> .....	bore .....	Obed <sup>5</sup>
Hannah <sup>26</sup> .....	bore .....	Samuel <sup>21</sup>
Bathsheba .....	bore .....	Solomon <sup>42</sup>
Elizabeth <sup>10</sup> .....	bore .....	John the Baptist <sup>9</sup>
Mary <sup>3</sup> .....	bore .....	Jesus <sup>16</sup>
Eunice <sup>6</sup> .....	bore .....	Timothy <sup>4</sup>



“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 21 22 3 23 24 25 W 26 27 28 29 30 31 4 32 33  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 34 35 36 37 38 f 41 42 3 43 44 !”

PROVERBS 23:25, NIV

Answer: "May your ... mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!" Proverbs 23:25, NIV

Happy Mother's Day Mom



Children's Corner



# OUTREACH

## Peanut Butter Sunday First Sunday of Each Month

You can drop off your jar of peanut butter in the vestibule area just outside the church office.



## FILL THE BUCKET - HELP RESTOCK THE VERONA FOOD BANK

Help feed our neighbors in need! Donations can be dropped off in the **RED BUCKET** located in the vestibule area just outside the church office.



### Boys and Girls Club So far we have collected enough bags for one bench and are 97 pounds towards a second park bench.

500 pounds = 1 bench. Bring your plastic bags to the church and drop in a designated receptacle located in the office vestibule, or drop off at RefillRenew, 110-1 Baldwin St. Also, we need volun-

teers 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 Sommerfield of the weight, and drop bags off at Food Lion. If you would like to help, you can sign up at: [www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4AAAE2BA6F94-covenant1](http://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 Middle School Project**  
Items continue to be accept-

ed for students and their families. Assorted food items such as cereal, packaged snacks, peanut butter, jelly, and pasta sauce are always welcome. With the move to a hybrid school schedule and most students at the school for breakfast and lunch two days a week, the more important needs have shifted to hygiene items. Donations of shampoo, deodorant, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, tissues, etc. are now in demand. Collection boxes are located at the church in the vestibule by the office.

**McSwain Learning Packets**  
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!



## Paper & Cleaning Products Drive for Valley Mission, April 26 - May 10



Please help the Outreach Team with this collection drive by bringing any of the products listed below. Place products in the big white box in the vestibule area by the church office.

- Toilet paper
- Toilet cleaner
- Paper towels
- Paper cups
- Napkins
- Kleenex / tissues
- Clorox / bleach
- Pinesol
- Mr. Clean
- Shampoo
- Sponges
- Infant diapers
- Toddler diapers
- Liquid hand cleaner
- Dry cereal

The Outreach Team is inviting Covenant's Family to join in a "Bilingual Book Celebracion". As we talked with Staunton City School's ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) teacher about helping with needs of students, we discovered a need we can easily fill: providing bilingual books for the children and their families. This will help children learn to read, celebrate their own culture, and encourage parents to learn with their children.

Be on the look-out for an Opt-in coming soon for opportunities to choose and purchase books for this program. Or, you can send a check payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church with "bilingual books" listed on the memo line. Karen Peterson has researched some delightful children's books that will be listed in the Opt-In!

Deadline to receive the books and/or money to buy them will be May 7.

## COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2001 N. Coalter Street,  
Staunton, VA 24401  
Office — 540-885-2138  
Fax — 540-885-4399  
Office Hours:  
Monday - 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



Presbyterian  
Church


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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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

**Novels & Needles Book Group**  
is meeting on  
Friday, May 14  
at 10:00 AM via Zoom.  
The book for discussion is  
**Anxious People**  
**by Fredrik Backman.**  
Please contact Susan Polly  
for the Zoom link.