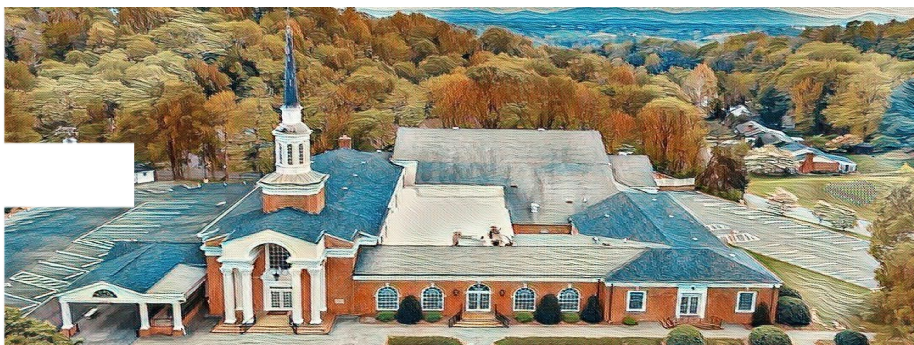


MAY 23, 2022
STAUNTON, VA



COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Desk

At last evening's Session meeting we had the opportunity to hear faith statements from four of our confirmands. Faith is a journey, not a destination, and what is clear from their statements and the statements of those who have come before them is that we do not travel this religious road alone. Along the way there are parents, grandparents, neighbors, teachers, friends, youth leaders, and even pastors who help to shape our understanding of faith and faithfulness. That is the way it should be! Jesus gathered disciples around him and then sent them out to share the good news with the world. He taught them to love one another, to serve one another, to encourage one another, and key to that mission are those words – *one another*. The Christian faith is nurtured and finds expression in community. As Rabbi Evan Moffic suggests: "*faith creates relationships*" – relationships with God and with one another.

COVID has tested those relationships and our ability to nurture them across these last two years. As we emerge from the worst of those pandemic days, we are challenged to resume building those relationships with friends new and old, with new members and visitors to our church, with children who have grown and grown up over these months apart. Be intentional about that holy work! Reach out to your neighbors to invite them to church and to your neighbors in the pew to welcome them. Be an ambassador for Christ and for Covenant!

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VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG

Serving
GOD
Together



GREETERS

MAY 29 -

8:30 AM....David & Janet Surratt

10:30 AM....Eileen Cooper, Cathy
Ryan, Carter Lawson

JUNE 5 -

8:30 AM....Mick & Jeanne Lambert

10:30 AM....Dan Drumheller,
Craig Whitacre

FLOWER COORDINATORS -

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING

JUNE - Tom Compton



During the Sunday School hour (9:30AM -10:15 AM) on June 12 there will be an update and informational session on the current "state of the church" at Covenant. There will be presentations on ongoing programs, finances, and an opportunity for questions about Covenant, what has been happening, and where we plan to go in coming years. Please join us in the Great Hall on June 12 for this informative session.

THANKS
from the
HEART

Dear Covenant Friends:

Jean and I wish to take a moment to thank each of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and meals you sent our way. It is at times like these that we realize how blessed we have been in the past with good health and a supportive church family. Thank you again for all you have done to cheer, feed, and sustain us on Troy's road to recovery from surgery. Peace, love, and gratitude to you all,

Jean & Troy Rexrode



The CDC has moved our region from yellow to orange/red high risk for COVID. Pursuant to our guidelines, we will suspend communion by intinction at the 8:30 service and require masking for both worship services and Sunday School classes until we return to the yellow phase. Please plan accordingly as we continue to navigate this ever-changing pandemic.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (cont'd)

When children are baptized, we pledge to nurture them in faith, to share with them God's love, and to help them come to know Christ. That duty does not stop when they join the church. It is a lifelong responsibility that we have to and for one another. We grow together in faith – supporting and encouraging and challenging one another along the way. Who then has been instrumental in the growth and nurture of your faith? Whose words or example inspired you and who inspires you now? Who may be looking to you as an example of faith and faithfulness? Are you living up to that challenge?

One of the Great Ends of the Church – perhaps the most daunting – is this: *to exhibit the Kingdom of Heaven to the world*. That is to say, folks should see in us at Covenant a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven where peace and praise, faith and faithfulness, love and justice abound. That is our call together, and we now have a few more young members to join us in that good work. Welcome them, but continue to welcome one another too, and in so doing, may we offer to each other and to the world a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its stated meeting on May 22, the Session took the following actions:

- ♦ Received into membership by profession of faith: Jessica “Blu” Harrop, Carter Lawson, Wyatt Shuey, and Susan Wszalek
- ♦ Elected Tom Compton and Christy David as commissioners to the May stated meeting of presbytery
- ♦ Approved installation of a glass wall/shield along the railing in the choir loft
- ♦ Approved moving worship from 10:30 AM to 10:00 AM for the months of July and August

PENTECOST OFFERING - JUNE 5th

At Pentecost, we celebrate that God offers more than we can plan. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect with God's hope and future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults by building a life of faith. Through the Young Adult Volunteer program, Presbyterian Youth and Triennium, the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” initiative, we join in ministries that connect young people with one another and with caring communities, helping them shape a life and a future beyond even the one we could plan. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, June 3rd.**

Please email Martha at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



RUNNING the RACE

SUMMER Reading Plan

Life — and exercise — move at different paces for different people.

Some enjoy leisurely walks, strolls or rolls, while others speed-walk, jog or even sprint. Some people have a 26.2 sticker on their vehicle, indicating they've run a marathon, while others boast of running a half-marathon (13.1) or no marathon (0.0)!

Thankfully, you don't have to be an athlete of any kind to run the Christian "race." The Bible uses running metaphors, however, to encourage followers of Jesus to train, focus, persevere and attain the heavenly prize. Use this Summer Reading Plan to strengthen your faith and your relationship with Jesus. Complete one square each day or every other day, and you'll journey through significant chunks of the New Testament this summer. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join you as a "running partner"!



Mile 1 Read Philippians 1

Re-read verse 6 and consider how your faith journey is a work in progress.

Mile 3 Read Philippians 3

Look back at verses 13 and 14, and brainstorm a list of ways to keep your eyes on the heavenly "prize."

Mile 5 Read Colossians 1

Re-read verse 11. Name three specific ways God gives you strength and endurance.

Mile 7 Read Colossians 3

Look back at verses 23 and 24. What keeps you running for God, not for other people or for personal accolades?

Mile 9 Read 1 Timothy 1

Doodle about how God's law keeps you from wandering away from him.

Mile 11 Read 1 Timothy 3

What aspects of staying "above reproach" are most challenging for you as a follower of Jesus?

Mile 13 Read 1 Timothy 5

Anonymously perform a kind deed for someone in your family or community.

Mile 15 Read 2 Timothy 1

Describe specific ways your life reveals a spirit of power, a spirit of love and a spirit of self-discipline.

Mile 17 Read 2 Timothy 3

Add a daily Bible-reading time to your spiritual training regimen.

Mile 19 Read James 1

Look back at verse 12. Reflect on how God has kept his promises to you. How does that help you during times of trial?

Mile 21 Read James 3

Re-read verses 17 and 18. Pray for godly wisdom as you continue your faith journey.

Mile 23 Read James 5

After re-reading verse 19, think of ways to reach out to people who have wandered away from God.

Mile 25 Read John 20:1-18

Consider how the good news of Jesus' resurrection gives you reasons to run and share the Gospel message.

➔ Mile 2 Read Philippians 2

Re-read verse 5 and pray to have the same attitude as Jesus.

Mile 4 Read Philippians 4

Write verse 13 on a sticky note and place it where you'll see it daily.

Mile 6 Read Colossians 2

Review verses 6 and 7, make a gratitude list and say a prayer of thanks to God.

Mile 8 Read Colossians 4

Write a note or letter to someone who needs spiritual encouragement.

Mile 10 Read 1 Timothy 2

Re-read verses 5 and 6. Offer praise to Jesus for being our mediator and ransom — and for running the race perfectly for us.

Mile 12 Read 1 Timothy 4

As you exercise, ponder verse 8 and brainstorm ways to build your spiritual muscles.

Mile 14 Read 1 Timothy 6

Review verses 11 and 12. In what ways might faith be viewed as a fight? To whom have you made bold profession of your faith?

Mile 16 Read 2 Timothy 2

Re-read verse 5. The next time you participate in or watch a sporting event, compare the value of God's "victor's crown" to earthly achievements.

Mile 18 Read 2 Timothy 4

Memorize verse 7. Think about people you know who have already "finished the race." How can their example strengthen you?

Mile 20 Read James 2

Put your faith into action today by meeting someone's needs.

Mile 22 Read James 4

Review verse 8. Confess your sins to God and ask him to come near you.

Mile 24 Read Luke 15:11-32

When have you run away from God? What brought you back? When have you seen proof of God running toward you (see verse 20, as well as James 4:8)?

➔ Mile 26 Read 1 John 1

Re-read verse 7. Write "Walk in the Light" on a sticky note, and place it by a lamp or light switch.

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.

Fun Fact: On average you donate over 80 lbs. of food per week. That's a lot of peanut butter!

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.

Bags into Benches

Turn your plastic bags into benches for the Boys & Girls Club.



500 lbs. = a bench

THE 3RD BENCH IS ON THE WAY TO US!

See your benches in action on the playground at the Waynesboro Boys & Girls Club. Thank you! Bring your plastic bags to the church and drop in a designated receptacle located in the office vestibule.

WANT TO HELP? Volunteers are needed to help take the bags collected at the church to Food Lion. Contact Robyn Sommerfield or sign up at <https://>



Egg cartons are no longer needed.

Shelburne Families Thank You!

As a parent, have you ever wanted to provide something for your child that you just couldn't afford? You felt frustrated and guilty. Now, how about if this 'something' was cereal, soap, or paper towels? Wow . . . what a hard spot for parents and families. There are many families in that position whose children attend Shelburne Middle School.

YOU HELPED PARENTS by providing personal care items, breakfasts and snacks, plus basic household items like tissues and paper towels.

YOU HELPED STUDENTS by easing the embarrassment of needing basic personal care items and helping to relieve their hunger. Life as a middle school student is hard enough without these problems.




YOU SHARED GOD'S LOVE by giving many donations over this past school year.

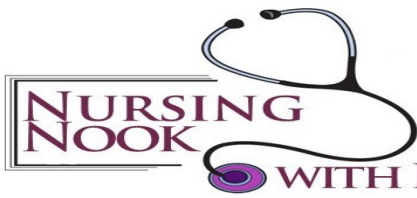
School is out for summer soon! We thank you for your commitment to this service. See you again in August!








SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>   </div> <div> 23 COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED 10:00 AM <i>Sign Committee</i> </div>	<div> 23 COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED 10:00 AM <i>Sign Committee</i> </div>	<div> 24 </div>	<div> 25 </div>	<div> 26 </div>	<div> 27 </div>	<div> 28 9:00 AM <i>Mulching of the Memorial Garden</i> </div>
<div> 29 4 Cents a Meal 8:30 AM <i>Worship Service in Sanctuary</i> 10:30 AM <i>Worship Service in Sanctuary</i> 10:30 AM <i>Worship Service via Live Stream on Facebook</i> </div>	<div> 30 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  Memorial Day <i>Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives</i> </div>	<div> 31 </div>	<div> JUNE 1 </div>	<div> 2 </div>	<div> 3 9:00 AM <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> </div>	<div> 4 </div>
<div> 5 PENTECOST Peanut Butter Sunday Presbyterian Coffee Project Pentecost Offering 8:30 AM <i>Worship Service in Sanctuary</i> 10:30 AM <i>Worship Service in Sanctuary</i> 10:30 AM <i>Worship Service via Live Stream on Facebook</i> 12:00 PM <i>Outreach Team</i> </div>	<div> 6 COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED 5:30 PM <i>Congregational Care Team</i> 7:00 PM <i>Facilities Team</i> 7:15 PM <i>Worship Team</i> </div>	<div> 7 7:00 PM <i>Fellowship Team via Zoom</i> </div>	<div> 8 </div>	<div> 9 </div>	<div> 10 </div>	<div> 11 </div>



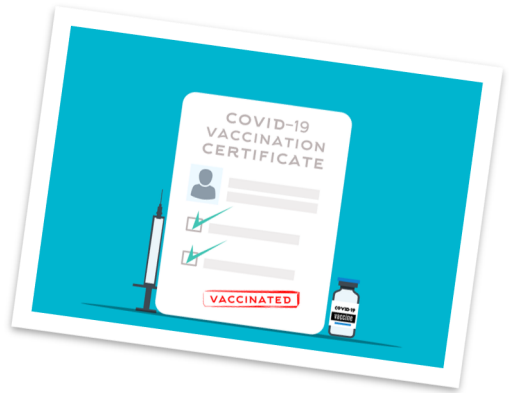
Kathy Henderson, RN • (540) 290-6396
covenantnurse@gmail.com
Contact Kathy with medical questions or
for a blood pressure check.

WITH KATHY HENDERSON, RN

A COUPLE OF COVID FYIS

1. Misplaced your Covid vaccination records? Need vaccine verification for a doctor's appointment today? No problem! You can find them in less than a minute, through the Virginia Department of Health "Vaccine Request Portal." Follow the link below, answer three questions (name, birth date, zip code) and a pop-up requesting a verification telephone number will appear. Enter the code you're sent and it's done. Even with a glitch (VDH did not have my correct telephone number so I had to call the "Questions?" number listed), the entire process took less than five minutes to complete.

https://vase.vdh.virginia.gov/vacapps/f?p=545%3A1&utm_campaign=covid_vaccine&utm_content=2all22eng2022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=gov_delivery



2. In case you missed the news — or are one of the several folks I've heard from recently who has been unable to find at-home Covid test kits at local pharmacies — the U.S. government will now send every household eight free at-home rapid Covid tests. The link below will take you straight to the order form.

<https://www.covid.gov/tests>

WORSHIP
with us

BLENDED WORSHIP
Sundays @ 8:30 am
The Blended Service is
a less formal service.
Masks are required.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
Sundays @ 10:30 am
At our Traditional
Service, music plays a
central role in worship.
Communion is served
the first Sunday of every
month. This service
includes a Children's
Moment with the pastor.
Masks are required
to help protect our
unvaccinated children.

VIRTUAL WORSHIP
Sundays @ 10:30 am
via Facebook
This is a live-stream of
the Traditional Worship
Service.
Worship with us wherever
you access Facebook!
The link is:
[www.facebook.com/
Covenant-Presbyterian-
Church-163891301309/
videos/](https://www.facebook.com/Covenant-Presbyterian-Church-163891301309/videos/)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women (PW) at Covenant marked the 100th year of generous giving by Presbyterian women all over the world by having a special worship service for the Birthday Offering followed by a birthday party on May 10. The Birthday Offering began in 1922 to honor the 100th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the USA. Something to celebrate!

At our meeting we approved the new officers for 2022-23:

Moderator Linda Foster

Secretary Frances Craig

Treasurer Dee Norris

Circle Leaders ... Jane Wimmer and Peggy Roberson

In addition, we recognized two women for special contributions to our church. **Frances Craig was designated an Honorary Life Member of Presbyterian Women.** We are grateful for her insights into scripture, her gift of sharing her faith, and her ability to make people feel safe and comfortable in her presence. **Laura Lawson received Covenant PW's Recognition Award** for her tireless work with our youth. She meets our youth where they are in life, ensuring that each one knows that God loves them, and includes the youth in activities across the whole church.

All women are invited to our next meeting on Tuesday, June 14 at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

Jane Wimmer will lead the final lesson on women in Jesus' genealogy based on Matthew 1. The lesson summarizes what the grandmothers of our faith can teach us and how that understanding relates to our lives today. Come join us for this interesting discussion. Following our meeting, we hope to go out to lunch together before we take a break for the summer.



Dear Presbyterian Women,
Thank you for according me life membership. I feel privileged to be listed among other life members and will strive to be worthy. The sanctuary flowers were a wonderful gift to share with the whole Covenant family. The kind words, lovely pin and certificate left me speechless and those who know me know that this is unusual. Thank you for this amazing honor. With gratitude,

Frances Craig



Join us on the grassed area next to the church on Friday, June 3rd for Family Movie Night. We will begin gathering at 8:00 pm with the movie starting at 8:30 (sunset). Showing will be Encanto (this is subject to change). Bring chairs, blankets, etc. and snacks and/or drinks. Popcorn will be provided. Sign-up at <https://bit.ly/3NaEwN5>



BLESSING BAGS

Our Covenant Family is collecting bed, bath, and kitchen linens for the Gemeinschaft Home where folks can stay for 90 days as they transition from incarceration for nonviolent offenses to society with respect, integrity, and accountability.

Please sign up at <https://bit.ly/3MvfWq4>. If a slot is full, please know that we will still take your donation!

Bring any of the following NEW or GENTLY-USED linens to the Narthex in the church by Sunday, May 29th:

- ◆ Twin bed sheet sets
- ◆ Bath towels
- ◆ Light-weight twin bedspreads
- ◆ Wash cloths
- ◆ Light twin blankets
- ◆ Kitchen towels and dish cloths
- ◆ Twin mattress pads

Questions? Contact Joan Sayers (8917jts@gmail.com) or Sarah Wolf (revsarahwolf@gmail.com).

JONES GARDENS is a non-profit all-volunteer organization creating gardens in Staunton on small vacant plots to provide fresh veggies and education on healthy eating to their neighbors.

You can join Cliff Gilchrist and his crew — Jane Wimmer, Eileen Cooper, Cathy Ryan, and Carrie Darracott — for planting on Wednesdays and/or harvesting on Fridays. Give Cliff a call or sign up to volunteer using this link: <http://www.jonesgarden.org/volunteer.html#/>



With Sympathy

Please keep in your prayers David Didawick and family on the death of his father, Guy Didawick on May 23rd at the age of 95. May God grant them all comfort and peace.



HELPING HANDS DAY CAMP 2022

is a cooperative ministry of
Trinity Episcopal, Emmanuel Episcopal,
Central United Methodist,
First Presbyterian & Covenant Presbyterian.

HELPING HANDS DAY CAMP

is for children who have completed
grades K through 5 and
youth who completed grades 6 to 12
during the 2021 - 2022 school year.

CAMP DATES:

Monday, **August 1** through Friday, **August 5**
9:00 am to 1:30 pm

LOCATION:

Covenant Presbyterian Church

COST:

\$15.00 per camper

Scholarships are available and contributions to sponsor a camper in need of financial assistance are welcome.

**Registration forms are available on the church website
homepage (covenantpresstaunton.org).**

The deadline for registration is Friday, June 24, 2022

**For more information,
email helpinghandsstaunton@gmail.com**

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2001 N. Coalter Street,
Staunton, VA 24401

Office — 540-885-2138

Fax — 540-885-4399

Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs, 8:15AM - 3:15PM

FRI, 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:**

**Worshipping 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.



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Pray for
the World

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

