

# COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 1, 2022  
STAUNTON, VA

## *From the Youth Director's Desk*

"Transition is hard." This has become my mantra over the last couple years. Whether it's the transition for the kids coming home from school, the swing of masking and unmasking as the CDC color code ebbs and flows, or larger things like moving from home school to in-person school. Change is lovely, but the process can be tough. In some ways, acknowledging the struggle has been helpful for our family. We try to plan ahead for the moments of transition, and when things go awry we say, "It's okay! Transitions are hard...but it will be okay."

Last fall, a big transition for our family was the switch from homeschooling to attending Eastern Mennonite School. Aubrey was in full day school for the first time as a Kindergarten. Carter and Mason entered as 7th and 8th graders. It was a big transition for all of us, but we planned ahead and welcomed the change.

This coming fall is bringing a transition for me that I did not plan ahead for. A couple weeks ago, a position for a middle/high school math teacher opened up at Eastern Mennonite. Our family doesn't tend to make quick decisions, but God was nudging so I inquired about the position. One of the hardest pieces of the transition this past year for our kids into EMS was that the busy hours in their schedule were in direct contrast with mine. When EMS offered me the job, we took some time to process together if it was the right next

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[WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG](http://WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG)

# With Sympathy

David Surratt, a Covenant member and faithful presence at the 8:30 worship service, died early morning on July 19, 2022 at his home after an extended battle with a host of health issues. Please keep his wife Janet and their whole family in your prayers. May God grant him eternal rest and resurrection joy and grant Janet and their family comfort and peace.

## Lost & Found



Misplaced an item while at the church? Check by calling the church office or come into the office to look in the Lost & Found Box.

## Serving GOD Together



### GREETERS

AUGUST 1 -

8:30 AM....Joe Mills

10:00 AM....Craig Whitacre & Tucker Terry

AUGUST 8 -

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

10:00 AM....Craig Whitacre & Tucker Terry

### FLOWER COORDINATORS -

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

### CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING

AUGUST - Bill Terry

## TO OUR VISITORS

If you have been visiting and are interested in learning more about Covenant, our ministries, or membership, please give John Peterson or Sarah Wolf a call at 540-885-2138.

## WORSHIP with us

### BLENDDED WORSHIP

**Sundays @ 8:30 am**

The Blended Service is a less formal service with communion by intinction each week.

**Masks are required.**

### TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

**Sundays @ 10:00 am**

during July & August  
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 @ 10:00 am**

during July & August  
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/](http://www.facebook.com/Covenant-Presbyterian-Church-163891301309/) videos/

## FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR'S DESK (cont'd)

step in my journey. After difficult and careful thought, I have decided to step down as Youth Director at Covenant.

This summer, the youth at Covenant had an extra month of Sunday school because they were loving getting together so much that they requested more! During that month, we explored binaries in the Bible. One of the binaries was light/dark. I asked, "If you had to choose to have only one - light or dark - and the other ceased to exist, which would you choose?" At first, some said light. Then the conversation moved to what all is lost when the darkness ceases to exist. Shadows, therefore dimensions. The ability to see stars is gone if there isn't an element of darkness to allow us to see that light. Do you even know that light is light? Can there be light without dark? This conversation moved into the biblical connection of light/dark to good/bad. Rather than seeing things as all good or all bad, perhaps there is value, or dimension, in seeing both the good *and* bad in situations. This might even alleviate the common Christian/human struggle of, "Why do bad things happen?" Rather than defining a "bad thing", perhaps we can find the stars...even when things are mostly dark.

My stars in leaving this position are: gratitude for having served a congregation that is intentionally welcoming to youth; relationships I have built with the youth; a continued opportunity to serve alongside our youth as a fellow congregant at Covenant; personal faith transformation that I can only attribute to the experience

of holding the responsibility of encouraging our youth in independent thought around the intersection of faith and life... there are many more - innumerable.

One of the advantages to Covenant being my family's church home is that I will be here. I'll be here through the transition of finding the next person to step in. I can help, but we need others to help as well. Something I have learned about middle and high school youth is that they are eager to help and participate, but will almost never invite themselves into a group or situation - they need an invite. We need adult advocates in the congregation who look for opportunities to plug the youth into the workings of the church. They can do so much more than we give them. They are dreamers, helpers, hard workers, and advocates for social justice. In addition to plugging the youth into the life of the church, we need 2 more Sunday school teachers and one adult to help with a monthly youth group discussion time.

Transitions are hard, but I am grateful for the opportunity to continue striving to be faithful disciples of Christ: worshiping with joy, growing in faith, and serving in love... together.

*Shaura*

Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, August 12th.**

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







After a 2 ½ year absence children and youth choirs will begin again. We are arranging the year into 4 seasons. Families who sign up will commit children to sing for the whole season. That means they will try to

attend rehearsal and sing for worship service when scheduled, unless of course, they are sick. The first season will go from Rally Sunday until Thanksgiving.

The Children's Choir is for those in grades 1-3 and will meet in the choir room at 9:10 am (before Sunday School). This choir will focus on matching pitch and rhythms.

Youth Choir is for those in grades 4-8 and will meet after the late church service in the choir room. They will sing in unison and parts, as well as work on expression and dynamics.

Look for other activities and opportunities for these groups as the church year passes. I look forward to seeing the singers on Rally Day.

— Ms. Joan (Swift)



It is time for us to send much-needed supplies to the Valley Mission.

How can you help?

- ◆ Grab slips of paper with items needed from the basket that will be available in the office vestibule.
- ◆ Check out the Opt-in email this week which will list specific cleaning supplies, paper products, and personal hygiene items needed.

- ◆ Bring items to the collection boxes at church on Sundays, August 7th and 14th.

If you have questions, please contact Bill Roberson or Charlie Huppuch.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*celebrating*

### **And celebrate, we will!**

Celebrating what? Sabbath

Who's doing this celebrating? The women of Covenant Presbyterian Church from September to June at gatherings of the Presbyterian Women.

This Bible Study promises to be the springboard for evocative conversations and opportunities for spiritual growth.

Study books will be available in September but if you'd like one now, contact Frances Craig at 540-414-8170 or at [craig.francesc@gmail.com](mailto:craig.francesc@gmail.com) to arrange to get a copy.

And one bit of good news: Inflation has NOT impacted the cost of a study book . . . still \$10.00!

## THANKS *from the* HEART

### DECAPOLIS PROJECT: THANKS FROM CRYSTAL!

How can we convey our joy and gratitude to you for your investment and prayers?

It is such an encouragement to have you all praying and investing in the Decapolis ministry. Sometimes it feels like this vision the Lord has given us is overwhelming and too big for us, but not for Him! We just keep trusting and taking the next step, and through the communal efforts of His people across the globe, we are moving forward! You are a huge part of these efforts.

To make the best use of the construction workers and the funds, we will begin the project once we have the bulk of the money in hand. Thanks to your generous donations of \$4717, more than 25 percent of the total is in hand.

In the meantime, we gear up for the Decapolis Farms 2022 planting season. We anticipate the harvest will double this year. Through a series of God's-timing moments, we have potentially found a local source for an effective and affordable organic fertilizer and will test the product on a 2-hectare plot of land. Several farmers are learning how to better provide for their families through a subsidized training/mentoring project incorporating modern planting protocols, semi-mechanized planting methods, and proper land management.

The insecurity in the country grows worse every day - kidnappings, armed robbery attacks are rampant. With national elections in just 8 months, it will only increase. We ask for your continued prayers for Ralph's safety as he travels on this project.

In all things, we praise Him and pray for new opportunities to share His love and truth to a hurting Nigeria.

With gratitude and joy, Crystal :)





On Sunday, August 14 during the Happy Half Hour (between services), we will celebrate a Covenant Cruise-In. Folks in our congregation with classic/antique/old cars will be bringing them for you to see, ask questions about, and perhaps share a memory or two. Some of the cars date back to the 1930's and perhaps beyond, while others are classic cars from later years. Plan to come early or stay after the late worship. Remember that the late service begins at 10:00 AM, so please allow enough time to see what you want to see and get to the worship before the closing hymn!

## EQUAL EXCHANGE SALE



The next Equal Exchange Sale will be **Sunday, August 7**. We have available coffee for \$8.00, tea for \$4.00, and dark chocolate for \$3.00. Items can be purchased between the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM worship services and after the 10:30 worship service. If you would like to place a pre-order, call 540-290-1089 or email [bettyandcliff@comcast.net](mailto:bettyandcliff@comcast.net).

# AUGUST 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>August 1</b> <b>COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED</b> 5:30 PM <i>Covenantal Care Team</i> 7:00 PM <i>Facilities Team</i> 7:15 PM <i>Worship Team</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:00 PM <i>Potluck &amp; Jazz in the Park</i>  <b>POTLUCK &amp; Jazz in the Park</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Peanut Butter Sunday</b> <b>Presbyterian Coffee Project</b> 8:30 AM <i>Worship Service in Sanctuary</i> 9:15 AM <i>Happy Half Hour</i> 10:00 AM <i>Worship Service in Sanctuary</i> 10:00 AM <i>Worship Service via Live Stream on Facebook</i> 11:00 AM <i>Covenant Connects in Great Hall</i> 12:00 PM <i>Outreach Team</i> 1:30 PM <i>Nominating Committee</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 5:30 PM <i>Preschool Team</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:30 AM <i>Worship Service in Sanctuary</i> 9:15 AM <i>Happy Half Hour &amp; Cruise-In</i> 10:00 AM <i>Worship Service in Sanctuary</i> 10:00 AM <i>Worship Service via Live Stream on Facebook</i> 11:45 AM <i>Christian Education Team</i>	<b>15</b> <b>COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00 PM <i>Stewardship &amp; Finance Team</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:45 AM <i>Executive Team</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>





# CONGRATULATIONS - TO OUR - GRADUATE!



Wyatt Dunay graduated this year from Staunton High School. This summer he looks forward to getting certified in scuba; sea creatures have always been his love. He will be attending Old Dominion University's honors college to study Marine Biology. We wish him well!

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Laura Lawson

covenantyouthstaunton@gmail.com

### OPEN TABLE

11:00 am - Sunday, August 21



Finally eating at a table together again! Wear your mask and meet in the Great Hall Kitchen to cook together. We will follow church masking guidelines based on the CDC numbers (color code system) for Staunton. If COVID numbers are

high (orange/red), we will eat outside if we can or we will space out in the Great Hall to eat. We'll cook food together, eat together, clean up together, and then have time for games and a discussion time.

An email will go out prior to the event so you can RSVP. RSVPs are important for this event since we buy food for as many as are coming. If you have specific dietary needs, please reply to the same email so we can accommodate your needs.

Not on the email list? Let Laura know at the email above so you can be added.



## 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 TO BENCHES

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



### THE 3RD BENCH IS ON THE WAY!

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://bit.ly/3CzoJTW>

### RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG



#### FROM THE STORE

✓ Produce bags

✓ Store bags

✓ Ice bags



#### FROM YOUR PANTRY

✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags

✓ Cereal box liners

✓ Case overwrap

✓ Bread bags



#### FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

✓ Newspaper sleeves

✓ Dry cleaning bags

✓ Bubble wrap

✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers



## & Jazz in the Park

**Thursday, August 4th  
in Gypsy Hill Park.**

**Gather at 6:00 pm at the long  
table across the park drive  
behind the old art center.**

**Bring a dish to share.**

**Lemonade & water  
will be provided.**

**Music starts at 7:00 pm.**



## ON-CALL NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED

The Nursery Team is looking for adults who would enjoy playing with our youngest members during the 10:30 AM service. Volunteers are needed to help one Sunday a month. Volunteers are also needed to be on an on-call list to fill in when needed. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sarah Wolf.

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



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**Pray for  
the World**

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

Summer 2022  
Covenant Connects!

August 7 and 28, 2022

11:00am - 1:00pm

(ends with a potluck lunch!)

Join us for two opportunities for fellowship and fun in August! On August 7th and 28th, we'll gather in the Great Hall after the 10:00 worship service and spend some time together greeting old friends (and making some new ones!) before splitting off to attend a Bible study with John Peterson, a service project with Cora Leigh Clark, or painting new wall hangings for the Great Hall with Christy Davis. The choice is yours!

Afterward, we'll come back together for our first potluck lunch since before Covid! If you would like to bring something for the potluck, please bring a side dish or dessert. We'll provide the main course and the beverages.