

COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 13, 2023
STAUNTON, VA

From the Pastor's Desk

With St. Patrick's Day fast approaching, the words of the Irish blessing come to mind:

*May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine bright upon your face.
May the rain fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

It is a pastoral blessing from a pastoral island nation. It takes its place along a host of blessings oft-repeated across the years. One of the earliest is the blessing in Numbers that the Lord directs Aaron and his sons to use in blessing the people:

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and grant you peace.*

Such blessings are perhaps a little lengthy to replace a "good-bye" or "see you later." But their sentiments are worth repeating, perhaps in this simple phrase which builds off the Hebrew and Arabic words of parting:

(continued on page 3)



What's INSIDE

- Sunday Volunteers.....2
- Monday Morning Bible Study...2
- Sympathy.....2
- From the Pastor's Desk (cont).....3
- Save the Date.....3
- Thank You's.....3
- Outreach.....4
- Prayer List/ Birthdays.....5
- Calendar.....6
- Presbyterian Women.....7
- TOW Talks.....7
- CareGivers Group.....7
- Grief Support Group.....7
- Lenten Service Schedule.....8
- TOW.....8
- Concert.....9
- Egg Hunt.....9
- Ushers/Greeters.....9
- Dinner Groups.....10
- Blessing Bags.....10
- Nursery Workers Needed.....11
- Vehicle Update.....11
- TOW.....back cover

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG

Serving
GOD
Together



GREETERS

MARCH 19 -

8:30 AM....Chris & Becky Earhart

10:30 AM....Sally & Jonathan Griffith
Sharon & Whit Menefee

MARCH 26 -

8:30 AM....Sarah & Harry Boney

10:30 AM....Tom Compton

COVENANT KIDS (10:30 AM)

MARCH 19 - Anne Bell, Melissa Blinn

MARCH 26 - Cora Leigh Clark,
Juliana Wszalek

NURSERY

MARCH 19 -

9:30 AM....Nancy Headifen

10:30 AM....Susan Wszalek

MARCH 26 -

9:30 AM....Mandy Drumheller

10:30 AM....Mandy Drumheller

FLOWER COORDINATORS

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING

MARCH - Terry Westhafer



Time for a **NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY**

Do you realize it has been almost four (4) years since the last church directory update? A lot has happened to our congregation in those years. Our kids have grown by leaps and bounds and you may not be able to recognize the folks sitting in the pews around you. It is time to gear up for a major redo of our directory. It's all done in-house by church volunteers — that's where you come in. We need photographers, information assistants, traffic directors, and people willing to do email/phone reminders for those people who have not been photographed. If you are willing to help with this project, please contact Becky Earhart at 540-448-2712 or bearhart@hotmail.com. This is a bite-size volunteer opportunity and a great way to meet others in the church.

TO OUR VISITORS

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



Monday Morning Bible Study

Join us each Monday at 10:30 AM

We look at the text for the next Sunday's sermon. Come dive a little deeper into God's word, share your insights, and get a head start on the next sermon. We offer this meeting virtually through Zoom.

With Sympathy

Please keep in your prayers:

Bill and Janey Terry and their family on the unexpected death of Bill's brother, Lindsey Terry, on Sunday, March 5th, in Texas.

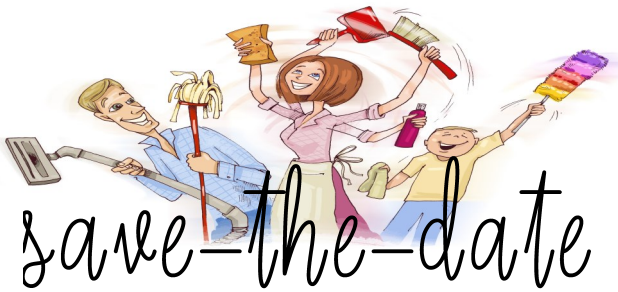
May God grant them all comfort and peace.

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

"God's peace be with you" or perhaps more succinctly just, "Peace!" Paul ends many of his letters with a simple blessing, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

Drawing on Paul's practice, I often close letters with "Grace and Peace" which seems an improvement on the more formal and somewhat stilted "Sincerely".

Consider your own practices – at departures or in letters. When is the last time that you blessed someone with words of blessing – and meant it?



Spring Clean-Up
April 1st, 9:00AM

Help us get the interior of the church ready for Easter!

Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, March 24th.**

Please email Martha at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



THANKS *from the* HEART

Thank you, Covenant family, for the cards, meals, and calls expressing concern and encouragement as I recover from hip surgery. When John called, we had fun comparing notes about our surgeries. Bill and I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. — Jane Lobb

Thank you for the lovely blue prayer shawl that Ruth Arnold brought to me. It keeps me warm as I reach, watch TV, work on jigsaw puzzles, or work in my Sudoku books. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is an important part of Covenant. — Martha Ware

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 PANTRY

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



BAGS TO BENCHES

THANK YOU, COVENANT! In 3 years we have kept over 2000 pounds of plastic out of the landfills. AND we've donated 4 benches to the Boys and Girls Club. Help us keep up the good work:

- Please make sure your bags are **CLEAN, DRY** and **FREE OF FOOD RESIDUE**.
- Plastic bags need to be stretchy. Look for a #2 or #4 recycling symbol (polyethylene films).
- You don't need to cut off zip tops or remove paper labels.
- Please no cellophane (as in snack bags) or metallic films (see nextrex.com for details)

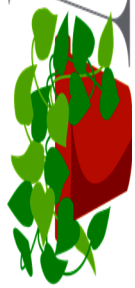
WANT TO HELP? Volunteers are always needed to do the weekly weigh-in and take bags to Food Lion. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/3CzoJTW>
Questions? Contact Robyn Sommerfield at robynsommerfield@gmail.com

SHELburnE PANTRY






The Shelburne Pantry is **currently short on cleaning supplies (especially laundry products and dish soap)** but any donation will be put to good use. They can still use cereal, peanut butter, additional canned fruit or fruit packs, veggies, grab & go breakfast bars.

Your donations give the students many of the basic foods that they love and greatly appreciate!



Ward

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>13 COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study 7:00 PM Personnel Team</p>	<p>14 10:30 AM Presbyterian Women 5:30 PM Preschool Team 7:00 PM Stewardship & Finance Team</p>	<p>15 9:30 AM Yoga Class in Breezeway 5:00 PM TOW TALK 6:00 PM TOW - Together on Wednesday 7:00 PM Lenten Taizé Worship Service</p>	<p>16 8:45 AM Executive Team 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17 </p>	<p>18</p>	
<p>19 8:30 AM Worship Service in Sanctuary 9:15 AM Children's Choir (1-3) 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service in Sanctuary 10:30 AM Worship Service via Live Stream on Facebook 11:40 AM Children's Choir (4-8) 11:45 AM Caregivers Group 7:00 PM STATED SESSION MEETING</p>	<p>20 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study</p> <p></p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9:30 AM Yoga Class in Breezeway 5:00 PM Blood Pressure Check 6:00 PM TOW - Together on Wednesday 7:00 PM Lenten Taizé Worship Service</p>	<p>23 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 9:00 AM Newsletter Deadline 10:00 AM Novels & Needles Book Group</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 4 Cents a Meal 8:30 AM Worship Service in Sanctuary 9:15 AM Children's Choir (1-3) 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service in Sanctuary 10:30 AM Worship Service via Live Stream on Facebook 11:40 AM Children's Choir (4-8) 11:45 AM Fellowship Team</p>	<p>27 COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9:30 AM Yoga Class in Breezeway 5:00 PM TOW TALK 6:00 PM TOW - Together on Wednesday 7:00 PM Lenten Taizé Worship Service</p>	<p>30 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>April 1 9:00 AM Spring Clean-Up</p> 

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women are so very grateful for the generous contributions made by Covenant Presbyterians to the annual Blanket Fund. So far we have raised \$3,446. Contribution will be collected the entire month of March so it is not too late to make your contribution to the Blanket Fund drive. Presbyterian Women will meet on Tuesday, March 14th, at 10:30 AM in the Breezeway for a discussion of Lesson 7, "Sabbath and Self Care" led by Peggy Roberson.



The Caregivers Group meets on the third Sunday of each month immediately after the 10:30 service. The next meeting is **Sunday, March 19th** in Room 5. Anyone caring for a loved one who would like to talk with others in similar situations is invited to come. If you would like more information, contact Joan Sayers.



Various Wednesdays @ 5:00PM in the Senior High Room

- March 15 - "The Benefits of the Aging, Knowing They are Aging!" with Doug Rohr
- March 29 - "Get Your Ducks in a Row" with Mary Ann Stripling

On Wednesdays with no TOW Talks, Covenant Nurse Kathy Henderson, RN, will be doing blood pressure checks.



The next Grief Support Group is **Sunday, March 26th, at 11:45AM in Room 5.**

We meet the 4th Sunday of each month immediately after the 10:30 service. As spring approaches, we will continue to explore ways to navigate the emotions, experiences, and questions of grief in order to move forward in our individual grief journeys. We hope you can join us!



LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Lenten Taizé Services in the Sanctuary (no live stream)

Each Wednesday thru March 29 at 7:00 PM

Maundy Thursday Service in the Sanctuary and Live Streamed

Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 PM

Palm Sunday Services in Sanctuary

Sunday, April 2 at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM (live streamed)

Easter Services in Sanctuary

Sunday, April 9 at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM (live streamed)

Live-stream services can be viewed at

www.facebook.com/Covenant-Presbyterian-Church-163891301309/videos/



WEDNESDAYS
THROUGH
MARCH 29

@ 6:00 PM

GREAT HALL

MENU: VARIOUS

SOUPS,

SALAD, AND BREAD

SIGN UP TO PROVIDE SOUP

Soups are still needed for March 15, 22, and 29.

Sign up at <http://bit.ly/3iZnNm9> or
on the sign-up sheet located in the Breezeway

Schola Cantorum of Waynesboro
presents

empowHER

Women in Music Concert

featuring
The Cry of Jeremiah
by Rosephayne Powell

with readings by
Dr. Amy Tillerson-Brown

Sunday, March 19th at 3:00 PM
First Baptist Church
Waynesboro, Virginia



Spring
EGG
Hunt

APRIL 2nd
2:00 PM
PLEASE BRING
A BASKET

Gather in the Great Hall
for lots of fun including a magician & games!
"Hunting" areas designated by age groups.

Please sign-up at:
<http://bit.ly/3ILACcQ>

Ushers/Greeters Needed



Your help is needed! If you are available at the 8:30 or 10:30 service, please sign-up at <http://bit.ly/3KPmamT>



Candy Needed for
EGG
Hunt

Please drop your donation in the box outside the church office by Sunday, March 26th.

Please note:
candy must be nut free.
Thank you!



Fellowship Dinner Groups Begin Soon

How do dinner groups work?

- ◆ Groups are made up of eight people (singles or couples), *you don't have to be a church member to join a group.*
- ◆ Each couple/single will take turns hosting either at home, in a restaurant or other location
- ◆ The group divides up the work by each bringing a dish; host provides the main course.

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

Please sign up by completing the form below and placing it in the offering plate or by contacting Bruce at brucehemp@gmail.com or 540-294-2406. You may also sign up online (<https://bit.ly/3YpEANS>). Deadline for registration is Monday, March 27th.

SPRING/SUMMER DINNER GROUP SIGN-UP

Name of participants _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Check if you would like to be the first in your group to host.

Check if you would like to be a substitute.

If you have any food allergies or types of food you do not eat, please list:

We want your suggestions or comments:



Help Fill Blessing Bags For Gemeinschaft

Outreach Bite-Sized Opportunity to Help

We need specific toiletries and underclothing to fill 25 Toiletry Kit Blessing Bags. Gemeinschaft has requested these Kits for the larger number of men who are coming to their program now that Covid restrictions are gone. They will be using all the linens we gave them last year, and now they need Toiletry Kits. Find the list of specific items on the sign-up sent out in last week's Opt-In email, check in the Narthex on Sunday, or check with Joan Sayers at 540-255-6273. Let us know what you are going to provide by signing up at <http://bit.ly/3YrhzKq>



Editor's Note: *Was your guess correct? It was Aubrey Lawson, daughter of Laura and Troy Lawson!*

Nursery Workers Needed



Covenant needs one additional adult (age 14+) to volunteer in the nursery for infants through 4-year-olds during Sunday school and the 10:30 service each week. These volunteer spots are for the second adult present to satisfy our Child Protective Policy. If you would like to volunteer, please sign-up at <http://bit.ly/3Y9CvWf>



The Sultani family are thankful to have a new reliable vehicle - a minivan! They can now travel together as a family of six. Shout out to David Didawick for his superior negotiating skills and to everyone who donated to make the car a reality. You have provided them with another tool for becoming self-sustaining community members. (pictured from left to right are four of the six family members: Malalai holding Emrang, Aimal, and Dina.)

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

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.



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Staunton, VA 24401

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



MATTHEW 25

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

Please let us know you are coming!



In order to prepare the correct quantity of food, we ask that you **make a reservation by noon on the Monday** before the TOW you will be attending.

Three options to reserve a seat:

- 1) sign the Friendship Register in the pew on Sunday
- 2) register via the sign-up email that is sent out each Saturday
- 3) call the church office at 885-2138 or email Martha at covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



March 15 @ 6:00 PM

Various soups, salad, and bread.

March 22 @ 6:00 PM

Various soups, salad, and bread.

Vegetarian options are available at all meals.

Join us each Wednesday at 7:00 pm for Taizé Worship Services.