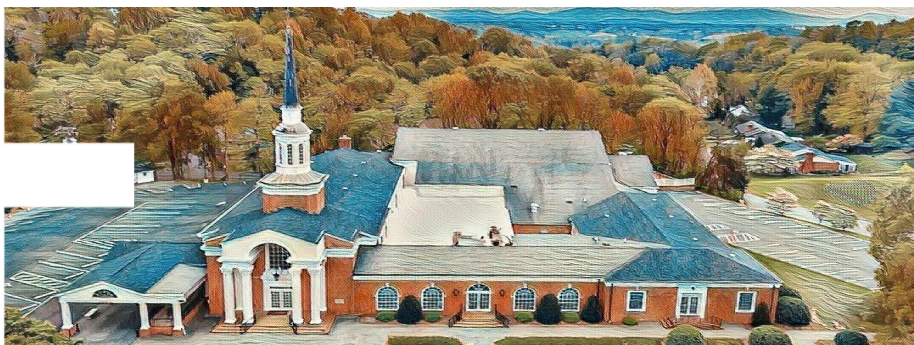


JUNE 5, 2023
STAUNTON, VA



COVENANT CONNECTION

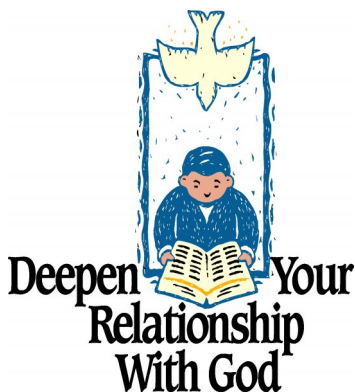
A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Desk

While we were in London in May we got a tour of Lloyd's of London, the legendary insurance and reinsurance market. As we learned in the tour, most of the business written at Lloyd's is still conducted face-to-face in the Underwriting Room which welcomes more than 5,000 people, sees £100m in premiums come into the market and £82.1m paid out in claims every single day! It is a business built on relationships, and those face-to-face meetings are key to establishing and maintaining those relationships.

Relationships take work; that is true of a business, a marriage, a friendship, a partnership, or a sports team. They demand trust, and when trust is broken, considerable effort is required to repair the fracture. Our faith too is very much about relationships – God's relationship with us, our relationship with God, and our relationships with one another. Jesus came to put us back into right relationship with God, a relationship fractured by our sin; and he calls us to be in right relationship with one another, to love and serve one another. God chooses to be in relationship with us as our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer; it is relationship grounded in love, and God promises that nothing – not even death – can separate us from God's love. Oddly, God gives us free will to

(continued on page 3)



Deepen Your
Relationship
With God

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VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG

Serving
GOD
Together



GREETERS

JUNE 11 -

8:30 AM....John & Joan Sayers

10:30 AM....Sally & Jonathan Griffith

JUNE 18 -

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

10:30 AM....Dan Drumheller

NURSERY (10:30 AM)

JUNE 11 - Jacki Dull

JUNE 18 - Ruth Arnold

FLOWER COORDINATORS

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING

JUNE - Tom Compton

Do you have flowers in your garden that you would like to share? Please contact Susan Polly or Christy Davis. They will use your flowers to make a beautiful arrangement to decorate the narthex.



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.

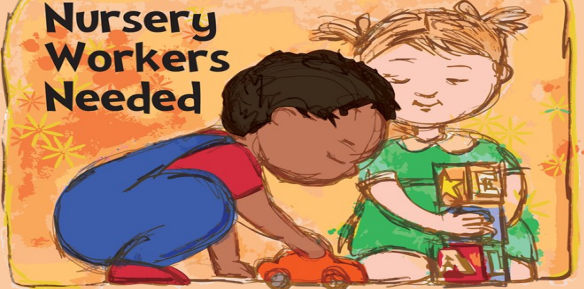
Ushers/Greeters Needed



Your help is needed!

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

Nursery Workers Needed



Covenant needs one additional adult (age 14+) to volunteer in the nursery for infants through 4-year-olds each week during 10:30 service (10:00 in July and August). 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>

SNAIL MAIL ADDRESS

PO Box 2948, Staunton, VA 24402

Please use this address going forward.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (cont'd)

choose whether to be in relationship with God, and that provides the opportunity for sin to enter as we too often choose poorly. Rather than reject us, God chooses to love us through those poor choices, always inviting us back into right relationship with God. That relationship is nurtured by conversation, and while we can never stand face-to-face with God, we can talk with God through prayer.

What then are you doing to nurture your faith, to nurture your relationship with God? Scripture gives us shining examples of what God wants of us and for us. Jesus' example and teaching show us what healthy relationships look like. Might it be worthwhile then, to spend some time studying those examples and that guidance? Might it be worthwhile spending time talking with God and listening for God's voice speaking to you? Might it be worthwhile to nurture the relationships in your life by spending time with your friends and family but also in getting to know your neighbors, working to repair any fractures, and looking for new ways to serve one another in love?

Summer can be a time to kick back and relax away from the busy pace of the rest of the year. Perhaps this summer might be a good time too to work on your relationships – with God and with your neighbors all!



Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, June 16th.**

Please email Martha at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Would you be interested in giving blood in July or August?

The Staunton Church of the Brethren has asked us to check with our Covenant family to see who might be available to participate in a Blood Drive if they were to sponsor one. Please call the church office (540-885-2138) by June 15th to let Martha know of your interest. She will put you on a list so that you can be informed of the date that is selected. Thank you!





PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

This is IT!! The LAST Presbyterian Women meeting until September. We will finish up our year-long study, **Celebrating Sabbath**, on Tuesday, June 13 at 10:30 AM in the Breezeway. Even if you missed some or all of the other meetings, please come to the study. Knowledge from other lessons is not necessary to understand and participate in discussions of Lesson 9, "Sabbath and Community." You will enjoy the fellowship of other women and feel that sense of community. After the meeting, those who wish will go out to lunch at the Depot Restaurant.



Synod of the Mid-Atlantic **Men's Conference** July 21-23, 2023

"A New Response to a Seasoned Faith"
Mark 9:2-8

Join us at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA for a weekend of inspiring worship, challenging keynotes, and refreshing recreation. Register online at www.midatlanticmen.org



GEMEINSCHAFT BABY SHOWER

WOW! Look at what you have done with this opportunity to serve! A multitude of gifts of love is ready to be shared with the expectant mother at Gemeinschaft and to welcome this new baby into God's world. What a caring church family!



For more than three decades Presbyterian Churches have marked Mother's Day/Father's Day with an offering for Sunnyside Communities' Fellowship Fund. Covenant gathers this offering on Father's Day, June 18th.

Sunnyside Communities operates three Life Plan Communities: Sunnyside in Harrisonburg, King's Grant in Martinsville, and Summit Square in Waynesboro. Each location provides a full range of accommodations and services from independent and active living to healthcare and memory support.



Presbyterian churches and their members play a vital role in sustaining this ministry. One way to assist is through this special offering, which provides charitable care for residents who have outlived their life's savings. Even when someone has saved responsibly for retirement, an especially long life or a health crisis can deplete their financial resources. Older adults should have the security of knowing they will receive quality care and loving support regardless of their financial situation.

To contribute, bring your contribution to church on June 18th or mail/ bring a check to the church. Make your check payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church and designate "Sunnyside Offering" in the memo line.



Sanctuary Flower Sign-Up

We have Sundays available to provide flowers in memory or in honor of someone, or just to decorate the sanctuary. We have a new way to reserve your Sunday. You can sign-up online by going to:

<https://bit.ly/3MD9wX0>

Please sign up at least two weeks before your desired date.

To-do list after signing up:

- Place an order for flowers from a florist of your choice. Please do not have them bill the church. The florist will deliver your order the Saturday before your reserved Sunday.
- Email Martha with your flower note for the bulletin on Monday or Tuesday before your reserved date.
- Please take the flowers with you after the service. If you wish to leave flowers, they will be used the following Sunday if no one has signed up.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>5</p> <p>COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED</p> <p>5:30 PM Congregational Care Team</p> <p>7:00 PM Facilities Team</p> <p>7:15 PM Worship Team</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 AM Yoga Class in Breezeway</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>		<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship Service in Sanctuary</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service in Sanctuary and via Live Stream</p> <p>11:45 AM Christian Education Team</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 PM Personnel Team</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:30 AM Presbyterian Women</p> <p>5:30 PM Preschool Team</p> <p>7:00 PM Stewardship & Finance Team</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 AM Yoga Class in Breezeway</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:45 AM Executive Team</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 AM Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Happy Father's Day!</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship Service in Sanctuary</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service in Sanctuary and via Live Stream</p> <p>11:45 AM Caregivers Group</p> <p>7:00 PM STATED SESSION MEETING</p>	<p>19</p> <p>COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30 AM Yoga Class in Breezeway</p> <p>Happy First Day Of SUMMER!</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30 PM APNC</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>



IF WE **CAN** DO IT! YOU **CAN** DO IT, TOO!

We had a great time in our recent "Canning for Beginners" class. There were four "students" eager and ready to learn water-bath canning. We prepped then canned strawberries and blueberries. We yielded 15 quart jars and 9 pint jars. The majority was delivered to the Valley Mission. They were **THRILLED!!!** The remaining jars were given to the Sultani family. We hope to have the empty jars returned to us after use so that we can reuse them.

For the purpose of **THIS** year's project, our next canning session is being planned as an "all hands on deck" assembly line event. Be on the lookout for more information.

KHALIL, IQBAL, & DINA GO TO CAMP!

Do you remember how much fun you had at summer camp? Crafts, swimming, games, friends – it's a big part of summer in America.

Our favorite Afghan kids have the chance to attend 6 weeks at the Staunton YMCA Summer Day Camp!

In addition to all of the fun, they will also be provided breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Thanks to the Y's financial assistance program, their cost is reduced to \$50 per week per child. An anonymous donor has paid the camp registration fees. The Outreach Team has allocated some funds to help cover the \$900 expense but needs a bit more to make it happen.



That's where you come in! Would you like to sponsor all three kids for one week by donating \$150; one week for one child with a \$50 donation? It's easy . . . Give online at <https://bit.ly/3N9t2w6>, and be sure to include in the 'Comments' section – Sultani Summer Camp or send in a check with Sultani Summer Camp in the memo. Your funds will go into the 'Refugee' account and will help these delightful children learn to swim, make new friends, and have a fabulous American Summer.

Khalil and Iqbal will also attend the Helping Hands camp just before school starts. We will update you more on their activities, Malalai's English language improvement, family asylum applications, required vaccinations, and plans for the new school year. Have questions or want to get involved? Contact Elissa McDonald.

We thank **EVERYONE** who has been involved in this courageous family's growth.



ONGOING 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.



500 lbs. = a bench



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



Children's Corner



HELPING HANDS DAY CAMP 2023

is a cooperative ministry of
Emmanuel Episcopal, Central United Methodist,
First Presbyterian, Second 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 2022 - 2023 school year.

CAMP DATES:

Monday, July 31 through Thursday, August 3
from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm and
Friday, August 4 from 9:00 am to noon

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 23, 2023

For more information,
email helpinghandsstaunton@gmail.com

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mailing Address:

PO Box 2948, Staunton, VA 24402

Physical Address:

2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton

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
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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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MATTHEW 25

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



*July & August
Happy Half Hour*

*Every Sunday in
July and August at
9:15AM by the Memorial Garden*



Join us between the 8:30AM and 10:00AM services for an opportunity for BOTH services to come together for fellowship and conversation! Refreshments will be provided. Gather with old friends or make new ones!