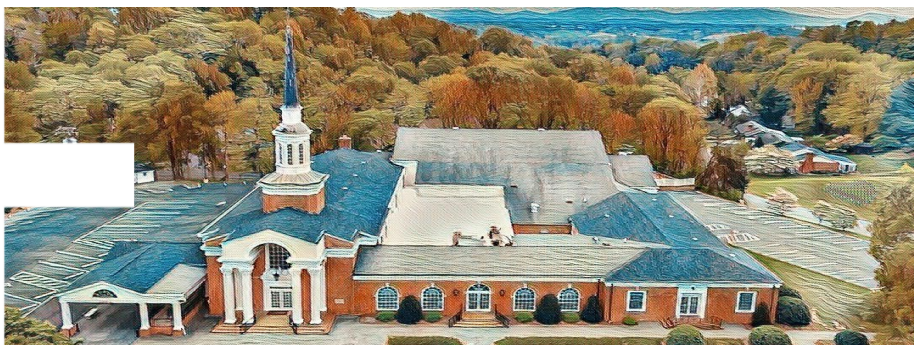


SEPTEMBER 25, 2023
STAUNTON, VA



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COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Desk

I am excited to announce, with the permission of the APNC, that this coming Sunday, October 1, there will be a congregational meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall to hear a report from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and to vote to call Rachel Watson as our Associate Pastor! While much more information will be forthcoming at the congregational meeting on Sunday, let me tell you a little bit about Rachel. Rachel is a native of Texas



and comes to us from University Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX where she served as an intern and then as a stated supply associate pastor following her graduation from Austin Seminary. Rachel was a teacher in the public schools for 17 years before entering seminary and has great experience with children and youth, but also has a passion for working with older adults. All of Rachel's references – colleagues, seminary professors, and friends alike – have been glowing in their comments about Rachel's gifts for ministry. Oft repeated were descriptions of Rachel as “incredibly gifted, talented, compassionate, smart, and hard-working.”

(continued on page 3)

VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG

Serving
GOD
Together



GREETERS

OCT. 1 -

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

10:30 AM....Jerry Lynn & Roller Shipplett
Carol & Bill Jennings

OCT. 8 -

8:30 AM....Jerry Lynn & Roller Shipplett

10:30 AM....Dan Drumheller, Janet
Surratt, Meredith Miller

NURSERY (10:30 AM)

OCT. 1 – TBD

OCT. 8 – TBD

FLOWER COORDINATORS

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING

OCTOBER – TBD

DID YOU KNOW?



Covenant has a Visitation Ministry! Members are matched with other church members who would enjoy a visit on a regular basis. Visitors report they get as much, if not more, out of the visits than the folks they are visiting! How much time is involved? Once or twice a month either in person or by phone to check in. Want to find out more about the ministry and learn how to be a better visitor? **Join us for Visitation Training on Wednesday night, October 11th at 7:00 PM. in the Church Breezeway.**

John will explain more about the visitation program and help us improve our visitation skills. The training will be fun and interactive. You don't have to commit to being a visitation volunteer in order to attend. Just come and improve your skills. If you can't attend the training but would like to learn more about this ministry, please talk to John or Becky Earhart (540-448-2712).



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS 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. 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>

Ushers/Greeters Needed



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

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

In our conversations with Rachel, the APNC appreciated her characterization of Christian Education as Christian Formation and found ourselves using that term along the way. Rachel, husband Douglas, and their three daughters are excited about moving to Virginia and joining us in Staunton, and we are looking forward to welcoming them. If all goes well, Rachel would start with us November 1st!

Rachel has already been examined and approved by presbytery, and the next step is for us as a congregation to vote on extending the call to her. The terms of call (including her compensation) have been approved by the presbytery and meet the budgeted figures established by Session. The only remaining step is the vote of the congregation, which is what Sunday's meeting is all about. We hope that you will join us in the Great Hall on Sunday morning to learn more about Rachel and to vote on the call to her. We have felt God's hand at work throughout this process, and trust that God will be at work in and through us all in the meeting on Sunday.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its stated meeting on September 17, the Session took the following actions:

- ♦ Elected Joan Sayers and Rod Owen as commissioners to the November presbytery meeting
- ♦ Received a report on the August meeting of presbytery
- ♦ Approved a preliminary challenge budget of \$647,995 for 2024
- ♦ Appointed an ad hoc committee to draft a scope of responsibilities for a standing team on technology
- ♦ Called a congregational meeting for October 1 for the purpose of hearing a report from the APNC and extending a call to an Associate Pastor

Called Congregational Meeting



There will be a Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 1, at 9:30 AM in the Great Hall for the purpose of hearing a report from the APNC and voting on the call to an Associate Pastor.

Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, October 6th.**

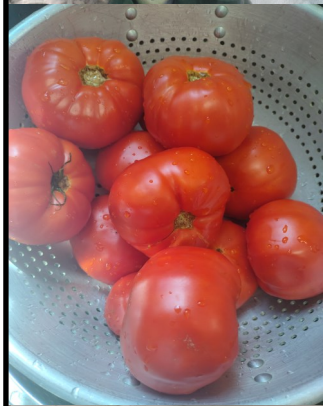
Please email Martha at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com





The Big Canning Event

On Saturday, August 12th from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM both kitchens of the church were a bustle with vegetable canning activity. Approximately 20 hands were on deck washing, cutting, peeling, snapping, cooking, and canning! There was double-strength coffee and donuts (provided by Joe and Elissa McDonald) to keep the canners going through the morning. The Fellowship Team provided lunch. A total of 103 jars of green beans and tomatoes were prepped and sealed with 50 jars delivered by Cliff Gilchrest and crew to the families we support, including the Sultani family. The other 53 jars were taken to the Valley Mission by Charlie Huppuch. The response from the recipients was overwhelming gratefulness. The canners are enthused to do this again with perhaps a Fall project of making apple sauce. Harvest is coming! Think we CAN???



Missionary UPDATE

FROM FAITH'S HEART — August 2023 Update
(Crystal & Raphael)

A little over a month ago, we were able to start planting our Year 3 maize farm, using zero-tillage and minimal soil disturbance — some of the conservation agriculture techniques we learned in our training. Because of this change, we are able to utilize much more of the land, as we are not restricted to only the portions of land that a tractor can easily plow.



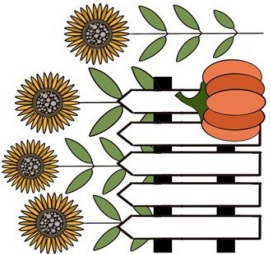
We are also quite happy to have found a great group of hard-working women this year, who are really helping us to get the work done in a much more efficient way. Here you can see our faithful ladies waiting to collect their pay at the end of the day (and, as you can see, in Nigeria every day is bring your child to work day). The money they receive is a direct investment into the local economy.

Working closely with a small group of local villagers provides many opportunities for meaningful conversations and evangelism, as we build relationships—a crucial part of ministry. And as these relationships are being built, we are seeing many doors being opened for more opportunities to preach Christ by planting corn.

The next several weeks still involve a lot of traveling for Raph as he inspects the farm and focuses on weed and pest control, so please keep him and our workers in your prayers for safety and a successful crop.

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth."
~1 Corinthians 3:6

September / October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>25</p> <p>COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED</p> <p>10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	
<p>OCTOBER 1</p> <p>PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY</p> <p>PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 AM Alpha Choir</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School for Children</p> <p>9:30 AM Called Congregational Meeting</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream</p> <p>11:45 AM Omega Choir</p> <p>11:45 AM Outreach Team</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 PM Congregational Care Team</p> <p>7:00 PM Facilities Team</p> <p>7:15 PM Worship Team</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 AM Yoga Class in Breezeway</p> <p>6:00 PM Together on Wednesday (TOW)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 AM Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 AM Alpha Choir</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School for All Ages</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream</p> <p>11:45 AM Omega Choir</p> <p>11:45 AM Christian Education Team</p>	<p>9</p> <p>COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED</p> <p>10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team</p> <p>10:30 AM Presbyterian Women</p> <p>5:30 PM Preschool Team</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 AM Yoga Class in Breezeway</p> <p>5:30 PM Visitation Team Check-In</p> <p>6:00 PM Together on Wednesday (TOW)</p> <p>7:00 PM Visitation Training</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:45 AM Executive Team</p> <p>5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Stewardship & Finance Team</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 AM Novels & Needles Book Group</p>	<p>14</p>

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 2541 pounds of plastic out of the landfills. AND we've donated 4 benches to the Boys and Girls Club. A fifth bench is on order. 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

Current needs for the pantry are hygiene items such as shampoo, conditioner, liquid body wash, deodorant, and shaving razors. Also, snacks that are easy for the kids to grab and eat. Please place your donations in the boxes outside the church office or in the Narthex.

As always, thank you for helping our community's children and their families!



The new PW Bible Study, Sacred Encounters, has begun. The first sacred encounters considered are those experienced by Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary. Zechariah and

Elizabeth, an elderly and childless couple, were called by God to parent a son, John, who would grow up to be John, the Evangelizer (or Baptist). Mary, young and a virgin, was called by God to mother Jesus, the Messiah. Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary are instruments of God. And so are we!

Teresa of Avila, a Carmelite nun from the 1500s, says it this way: "Yours are the feet with which God is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which God is to bless God's people."

Here's a question to think about:
How can you be an instrument for God?

Presbyterian Women gather on **Tuesday, October 10 at 10:30** in the morning in the Breezeway.

Join in! There's no FUN without out U!

EQUAL EXCHANGE



The next Equal Exchange Sale is **Sunday, October 1st**. Items available are: regular coffee for \$9.00, decaf coffee for \$10.00, tea for

\$4.00, and dark chocolate for \$3.00.

Make your purchase 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.



Mark your calendars for **TOW—Together on Wednesday**

The first gathering will be on
October 4th at 6:00 PM
in the Great Hall.

Watch for announcements
about sign-ups to bring food
or to register your attendance.



HEY KIDS!
COME SING WITH US!
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

ALPHA CHOIR
9:15 am - BEFORE
SUNDAY SCHOOL
GRADES 1-3
IN THE CHOIR ROOM

OMEGA CHOIR
11:45 am - AFTER CHURCH
GRADES 4-7 OR 8
IN THE CHOIR ROOM

Martha's
Meals
on
Wheels



Martha's Meals on Wheels ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Drive-Thru Spaghetti & Salad Dinner
Sunday, October 15, 2023, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Verona Moose Lodge

1510 Commerce Road (Rt. 11), Verona/Staunton

Call Jane Lobb at 540-885-2131 by October 5th to make your reservation, or complete the form below and mail to MMOW. (Cash or Check made out to MMOW)

\$12 adults/12 and up; \$6 children; under five – free

Meals will be brought to your car.

(a limited number of meals will be available for purchase the day of the event)

For Details, call 540-886-1219 or visit <http://mowstaunton.org>

MMOW ANNUAL FUND RAISER

Number of Adult Meals _____

Number of Child Meals _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NAME: _____

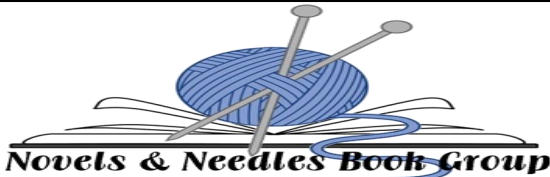
Please make checks payable to MMOW and mail to:

MMOW, PO Box 2354, Staunton, VA 24402

Ticket Orders must be received by October 5th.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF MARTHA'S MEALS ON WHEELS

Helping those who are unable to feed themselves



Novels & Needles Book Club
will meet at 10:00 AM on
Friday, October 13
in the Breezeway.

The book being discussed is
A Covenant of Water
by Abraham Verghese.

Members are encouraged to bring
their knitting or crocheting which could
benefit the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

*We also welcome those who
do not knit or crochet.*



The CareGivers
Group will meet
immediately
after the
10:30 service

on **Sunday, October 15** in
Room 5. Anyone caring for a
loved one who would like to talk
with others in similar situations is
invited to come. Would you like
more information? Contact
Joan Sayers.

With Sympathy

Please keep in your prayers Stan Heatwole and his family on the death of Stan's son, David Heatwole, on the morning of September 21st at the Shenandoah Hospice House. May God grant David eternal rest and grant to Stan and his family comfort and peace.

Ginny Francisco, a Covenant member and retired professor at Mary Baldwin, died early morning on September 21st in hospice care at Summit Square in Waynesboro.

Please keep Ginny's daughter, Sarah and their family in your prayers. May God grant to Ginny eternal rest and resurrection joy; grant to Sarah and her family comfort and peace.

Please keep in your prayers Kevin and Sally Griffith, Jonathan, and their family on the death of Kevin's father, John Griffith, in Roanoke early Saturday morning, September 23rd. May God grant them all comfort and peace and grant to John resurrection joy.

THANKS *from the* HEART

Thank you for the gracious recognition you gave me for my service as Children's Choir Director. I had help!!!!

*Many thanks to **Mike Riddell** for coming each Sunday at 9:15 to play for the Alpha Choir. He was loyal year after year.*

*And thanks to **Chris Wszalek**, who came after playing for two services, and played for Omega Choir.*

These men deserve all our thanks for their loyal dedication to our children's choirs.

*Thank you, **Bonnie Powell** and **Amy Diduch**, for stepping in when needed.*

Many, many thanks. — Joan Swift

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

Katherine McLean
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.

COVENANT

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MATTHEW 25

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



Trust in the Lord
with YOUR WHOLE HEART.

Proverbs 3:5



Monday Morning Bible Study

Join us on Mondays 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 will meet **in person** in Room 6 **and** also offer this meeting **virtually** through Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out via opt-ins each Sunday afternoon.