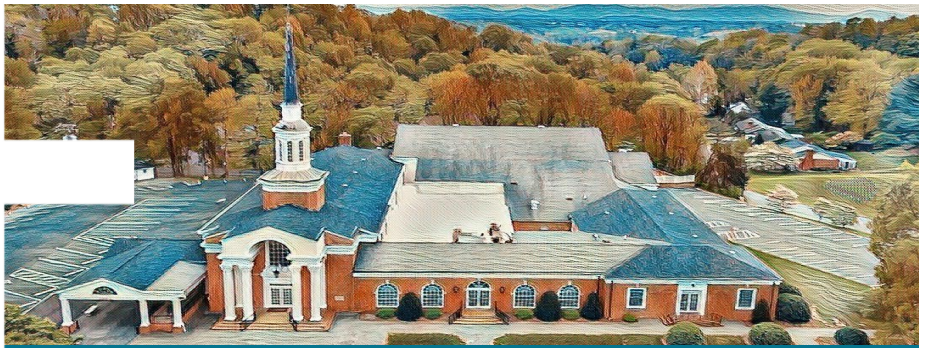


JULY 1, 2024  
STAUNTON, VA



# COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Keep  
These Stories  
in Your  
Heart

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Earlier this month our dear friend Jim Simpson died at age 90. Jim was a minister in the Church of Scotland, and our families have been like one large family since my dad and Jim did a pulpit exchange for three months in the summer of 1971. We saw Jim just last summer when we were in Scotland. In January of 1996 Jim was here to preach at Covenant when the Blizzard of '96 derailed those plans; after a week of being snowbound by 30+ inches of snow, Jim commented, "I will never again dream of a white Christmas!" For many years Jim was pastor of the Dornoch Cathedral in the far north of Scotland – an historic church that is over 750 years old! He was moderator of the Church of Scotland, chaplain to Queen Elizabeth, a regular contributor to The Presbyterian Outlook and to Life and Work (the Church of Scotland's monthly magazine), and authored several books. He was an avid golfer, and offered the blessing at the dinner for the Ryder Cup teams a few years back. In his life, his sermons, and his writing, Jim was a gifted story-teller. Many of his stories related to congregational life, some from his own experience and some that he collected from others over time, often with an eye for the humor in it all. Minnie Pearl once said that "laughter is the hand of God on the shoulder of a troubled world." With his stories, Jim offered God's loving hand to a great many troubled shoulders on both sides of the Atlantic across the years!

Stories are at the heart of our tradition and our lives. Last weekend some folks chalked pictures of favorite Bible stories onto the pavement in the front parking lot here. Many of

(continued on page 3)

VISIT US ONLINE AT  
[WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG](http://WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG)

Serving  
**GOD**  
Together



### **GREETERS**

JULY 7 -

8:30 AM....Frances Craig,  
Bill von Seldeneck

10:30 AM....Becky & Chris Earhart,  
Janet Surratt

JULY 14 -

8:30 AM....Frances Craig,  
Bill von Seldeneck

10:30 AM....Beth Jennings, Sue Morley,  
Janet Surratt

### **NURSERY (10:30 AM)**

JULY 7 – Volunteer needed

JULY 14 – Volunteer needed

### **FLOWER COORDINATORS**

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

### **CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING**

JULY -- Bill Terry

## **Ushers/Greeters Needed**



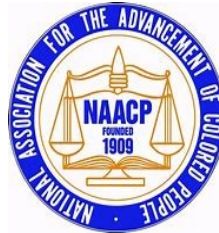
**Help is always needed!**

If you are available on Sunday  
at the 8:30 or 10:30 service,  
please sign-up at

<http://bit.ly/3KPmamT>

## **TO OUR VISITORS**

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



## **NAACP 78th Freedom Fund Banquet**

The Staunton NAACP Branch invites you  
to the **78th Freedom Fund Banquet** on  
**Saturday, August 3**. This wonderful and  
historic event begins at **6:00 pm** at **Hotel  
24 South** located at 24 South Market St.,  
Staunton, VA. The theme this year is:  
*“Working Together, Defines Our Future.”*  
Our guest will be Rev. Cozy Bailey, Presi-  
dent, NAACP Virginia State Conference.  
The net proceeds will go towards the  
Legal Defense Fund. Ticket request forms  
are available for pick-up in the Covenant  
church office. Deadline to reserve a seat  
is July 19, 2024.



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**HELPERS (age 14+) ARE NEEDED ON  
SUNDAYS DURING THE 10:30 SERVICE**

These volunteer spots are for the  
second adult present to satisfy our  
Child Protective Policy.

**SIGN UP FOR NURSERY:**

<https://bit.ly/3Y9CvWf>

**SIGN UP FOR COVENANT KIDS:  
(Sept. - mid May)**

<https://bit.ly/4b2wFxA>



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

those stories were first heard by the chalkers when they were young tots. Stories like Noah and the Ark, Jonah and the whale, David and Goliath, Jesus walking on water, and the empty tomb at Easter have been told again and again across generations. Are there some of those Bible stories that you treasure? What stories might you tell from your own life that further illustrate God's hand at work in our midst? For as Jim Simpson's legacy, the Biblical witness, and the testimony of a host of Covenant folks attests: God is still at work among us, in us, through us, and around us in surprising, creative, and sometimes amusing ways. You don't have to write a book or preach a sermon to share such stories; you can tell them to a child or grandchild, a friend, a pewmate, or even a pastor, for in so doing we share the Good News and live into our calling to be heralds of the Gospel which is still good news for all generations!



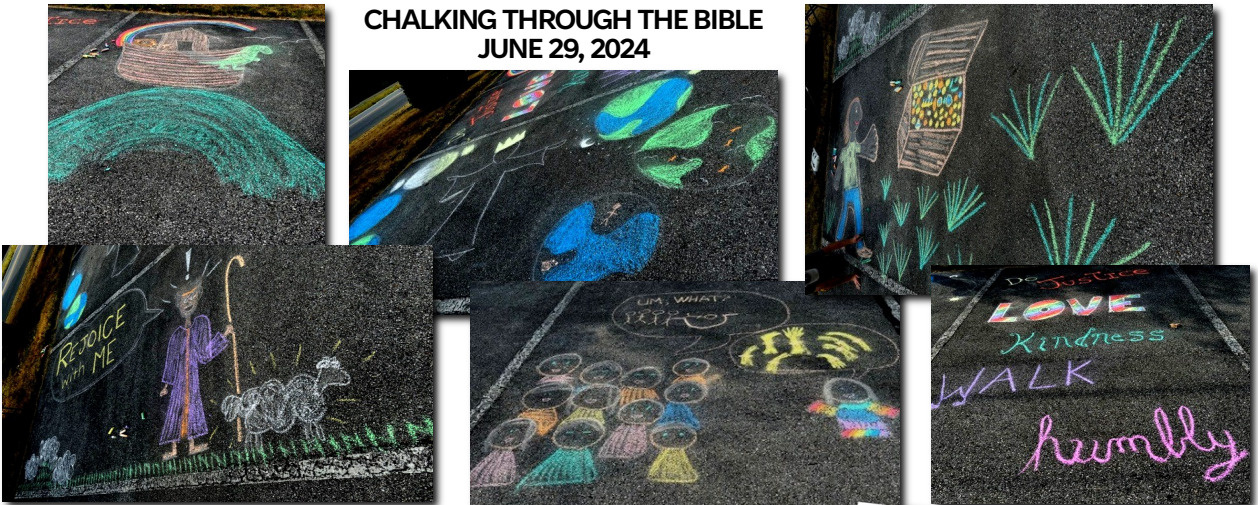
## Hyperlinks ARE HERE!



A hyperlink is a clickable element on a page . . . when you click on it you will be directed to a web page or resource. You will find hyperlinks in the Covenant Connection to help you with sign-ups, emails, or further information on the web. Hyperlinks in most cases are underlined and in a blue font. In the few cases where the hyperlink is a white font, it will be underlined. When you place your cursor over a hyperlink, the cursor will change to a hand. Then just click and go! We hope that you will find this added feature in the newsletter helpful!

P.S. Hyperlinks only work if you are viewing the newsletter through an emailed pdf or online at the church website.

### CHALKING THROUGH THE BIBLE JUNE 29, 2024



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

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





Join us between the 8:30AM and 10:00AM services for an opportunity for BOTH services to come together for fellowship, conversation, beverages, and snacks!

Gather with old friends or make new ones!

Hosts are needed for coffee/lemonade making, snacks, set up, and clean up.

Please sign up at <https://bit.ly/3UYDER1>



CareGivers will meet immediately after the 10:00 service on

**Sunday, July 21st**

in Room 5. Anyone caring for a loved one who would like to talk with others in similar situations is invited to come.

For more information, please contact Ruth Arnold.

# Outreach Opportunities

Check out the SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES and WHO to call to get involved:

**READING** to kids at COMMUNITY CHILD CARE CENTER — Linda Tenney  
**GARDENING** with PROJECT GROWS OR JONES GARDEN — Joan Sayers  
**SUPPORTING** “HELPING HANDS” Day Camp for children — Cora Leigh Clark  
**CANNING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES** to donate — Becky Wszalek  
**OFFERING SUPPLIES** to VERONA FOOD PANTRY — a place for people to receive free WI-FI and laptop use, free showers, free laundry, free coffee and snacks, and references to places for different needs. *Be on the lookout for items to share with this Center in the next Connection.*



“Reading at [Community Child Care Center](#)” with Cora Leigh Clark.



### April 2024

Have you ever experienced an amazing coincidence? We have! Too many of them to think of them as random chance—we know that God orchestrates things to fulfill His purposes, so we like to call them God-instances instead of coincidences.

Through a series of these God-instances, we were introduced to the wonderful work of [MeCAHT](#) (Media Coalition and Awareness to Halt Trafficking) and their residential and after-care services for rescued trafficking victims here in Abuja. In April, we had the privilege of hosting a small group from MeCAHT at one of our 3-day trainings.

Trafficking victims are another highly vulnerable group that often does not have much access to resources or land. The [pfumvudza](#) model is perfect for them because it provides a way to feed oneself on just a 17 m x 40 m piece of land. "I would like to say that the training brought hope to me personally. We have been buying corn to feed our girls, but with this, I think it's very easy for us to cultivate enough to feed [them] with just a little portion of land." Just 3 hours after the training ended, they were already gathering materials for their compost pile!

Teaching them how God can help us redeem the destroyed soil gives us the opportunity to share with them how He can also redeem their own stories of brokenness and pain.

"Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—" ~ Psalm 107:2

If you would like to help support the work of Decapolis in Nigeria, donations can be sent to:

- ♦ checks:  
Commission To Every Nation  
P.O. Box 291307  
Kerrville, TX • 78029-1307
- ♦ online:  
[www.cten.org/crystalraphael](http://www.cten.org/crystalraphael)

Helpful links to follow Decapolis Community Development Center:

[FACEBOOK](#)

[WEBSITE](#)

[YOUTUBE](#)

[EMAIL](#)





You don't have to visit the beach to make a sandcastle. Make fluffy "moon sand" to build fun structures.

**What you need:**

- Large bowl
- Wooden spoon
- 8 cups flour
- 1 cup baby oil



**What you do:**

1. Measure flour into the large bowl. Add baby oil.
2. Mix thoroughly until all the oil is combined and the texture is consistent. If needed, use your hands to knead the mixture.
3. The sand is ready when it sticks together to form a ball when pressed in your hands.
4. Use sand toys and molds to create a sandcastle. Store sand in an airtight container for up to two weeks.

# Welcome to our New Members

On Sunday, June 16 at the 10:30 service, we welcomed Beth, Linda, and Ray into the Covenant family.



**Beth Moody**



**Ray & Linda Furman**



## ONGOING OUTREACH

### Peanut Butter Sunday

First Sunday of Each Month

You can drop off your jar of peanut butter in the vestibule area 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 BUCKETS** located in the vestibule just outside the church office or in the Narthex.



### MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH PLASTIC BAGS

**THANK YOU, COVENANT!** We have kept over **3034 pounds** of plastic out of the landfills. **AND** we've provided benches to the Boys and Girls Club. 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](mailto:robynsommerfield@gmail.com)



### Restock the SHELVES at the SHELburne PANTRY

**Summer is here! This is a great time to help replenish the Shelburne Pantry.**


You are welcome to provide laundry and cleaning items, hygiene products, and foods such as canned vegetables, canned fruits, soups, and snacks. 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!*





# JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JULY 1</b> COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED	<b>2</b> 10:30 AM Acts III Ministries in Chapel	<b>3</b> 9:30 AM Yoga Class in Breezeway	<b>4</b> Church Office Closed 	<b>5</b> Church Office Closed	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b> PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Happy Half Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:30 AM Acts III Ministries in Chapel	<b>10</b> 9:30 AM Yoga Class in Breezeway	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8:00 AM Executive Team 9:00 AM Newsletter Submission Deadline 3:00 PM Faith Explorers Friday	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Happy Half Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream	<b>15</b> COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED	<b>16</b> 10:30 AM Acts III Ministries in Chapel	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Yoga Class in Breezeway	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>





# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**RACHEL WATSON • (540) 885-2138**  
[revrachelwatson@gmail.com](mailto:revrachelwatson@gmail.com)

Christian Formation Links are at the Covenant website:

[www.covenantpresstaunton.org/christian-formation-opportunities/](http://www.covenantpresstaunton.org/christian-formation-opportunities/)

## Adult Christian Formation

**Wired Word** | Online | June 9 - August 25

Join our Google classroom to participate in an online discussion. The Wired Word provides a Christian perspective on current events. Each week, you can interact with the guiding questions on a discussion board with Rachel and other members of the group. To join the class, open Google Classroom and use code:

hkibmpa or use this link: <https://bit.ly/3KprbRG>

**Acts III Ministries** | Tuesdays @ 10:30AM |

June 18 - August 27 | Chapel

Act III Ministries is a gathering time for older adults who are navigating the changes that come with aging, whether that be defining oneself after retirement, dealing with aging bodies and abilities, or finding one's place in the story of the people of God in this new life stage. Anyone who identifies with any these issues is invited to join us for fellowship, worship, and prayer. Each session is a new opportunity to encounter God in community, so come when you can and miss when you need to. We're just glad you're part of it!

## Children's Christian Formation

**Take-Home Sunday School** | Age 3-Grade

5 | Online | June 9 - August 25

It's not too late to join us for some summer fun! No matter where you are, you can listen to stories and complete the simple activities together with your family. If you'd rather have the material sent to you by email each week, contact Rae and ey'll send it to you. To join the class, open Google Classroom and use code: yetvqfx or use this link: <https://bit.ly/3V23gMW>

## Youth Christian Formation

**Wander and Wonder** | Grades 6-12 |

Our next meet-up is scheduled for July 13 at 2:00 PM. Let's meet at Crucible Coffee for fellowship and discussion. We will dig into theology and scripture to figure out how to love louder and open the doors

Children of all ages are invited to join Rae during the Happy Half Hour for a quick connection activity. We will connect with friends, sing a song or play a game, and be introduced to the parable of the week.

wider, covering topics such as immigration, refugees, LGBTQ inclusion, gender, racism, mental health, interfaith relations, and disability. Bring your questions and let's chat.

## A SPECIAL NOTE FROM RACHEL—

It's hard to give up our own learning time during the Sunday school hour for a whole year. And our own busy schedules don't always allow for such a lengthy commitment of time. But I wonder if you might have a month that you would be willing to commit to the faith formation of our children. For three or four weeks, you can be the shepherd that welcomes them into the stories and plays alongside them before handing the task over to another shepherd. The children get to see the breadth of love for them in this community as many hands come together to care for them. Blending this with the consistency of one or two teachers that are there all year, children are nurtured by the whole community.

For some, the idea of teaching Sunday school is daunting. Kids have boundless energy and ask questions with no simple answers. But taking it one month at a time offers a way for adults to try it out, exploring something just outside their comfort zone. Taking it one month at a time means that adults have plenty of time to tend to their own faith formation the rest of year. Taking it one month at a time models the practice of sharing the load with the entire family of God.

As we move into the month of July, consider this offering of love and see if you hear God calling to you ministry in this way. If you have questions, contact Rae. Ey'll be happy to talk to you about it, show you the new curriculum, and help discern what might be the best fit for you.



The next  
**Equal Exchange**  
Sale is **Sunday,**  
**July 7th.**

Available are:

- ♦ regular coffee for \$9
- ♦ decaf coffee for \$10
- ♦ tea for \$4
- ♦ dark chocolate for \$3

Make your purchase between the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM worship services and after the 10:30 service. You can place a pre-order by calling 540-290-1089 or emailing [bettyandcliff@comcast.net](mailto:bettyandcliff@comcast.net).



**"Please bless these chops, these peas and these potatoes, both actual and couch."**

## 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*

**Rachel Watson**

*Associate 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.covenantpressstaunton.org](http://www.covenantpressstaunton.org).

COVENANT



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**MATTHEW 25**

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

**Summer**  
**WORSHIP TIMES**  
**JULY AND AUGUST**

8:30AM—Blended Service  
10:00AM—Traditional Service