

# COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 26, 2024  
STAUNTON, VA

And what does the  
LORD require of you

To act justly  
& to love mercy and to  
walk humbly with your

GOD.

M I C A H 6 : 8

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

With the start of school and with Labor Day and football season fast approaching, Rally Day and the beginning of our Christian Formation programs for the Fall are just around the corner. There are opportunities for everyone – Bible studies, Sunday School classes, discussion groups, book studies, choirs, and more. While Christian formation takes place year-round, Rally Day marks a new season of options and possibilities to grow in faith and to wrestle with questions of faith and faithfulness. We hope that you will join in exploring and nurturing your faith through some of these opportunities, for to paraphrase Fyodor Dostoyevsky: *Our faith is forged in the crucible of doubt.* Faith does not grow by sitting back and not engaging with the doubts and questions. It grows through daring to wonder and to question and to learn from and with one another.

This summer Rae and I have preached from the Confessions of the Church that span almost 1800 years. Each of those confessions took shape through reflection and thought, through debate and discussion, through assessment of the changing world and how faith might speak relevantly to it. In the midst of this Fall's presidential campaigns (and endless political ads ad nauseum), it is a fitting time to consider how our Christian faith speaks to the issues that we hope the

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

Serving  
**GOD**  
Together



## GREETERS

SEPT 1 -

8:30 AM....Cindy Bowman,  
Gary Gourley

10:00 AM....Melissa Druff, Janet Surratt

SEPT 8 -

8:30 AM....Gary & Nancy Gourley

10:00 AM....Jonathan & Sally Griffith,  
Janet Surratt

## NURSERY (10:30 AM)

SEPT 1 – Mandy Drummheller

SEPT 8 – **Volunteer Needed**

## FLOWER COORDINATORS

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

## CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING

SEPT -- Bill Terry



## Monday Morning Bible Study

**Join us on Mondays at 10:30 AM  
Beginning on September 9th!**

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 meet **in person** in Room 6 **and** also offer this meeting **virtually** through Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting is sent out via opt-ins each Sunday.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**HELPERS (age 14+) ARE NEEDED ON  
SUNDAYS DURING THE 10:30 SERVICE  
(10:00 during July/August)**

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

**SIGN UP FOR NURSERY:**

<https://bit.ly/FallNurserySignUp>

**SIGN UP FOR COVENANT KIDS:**

**(Sept. - mid May)**

<https://bit.ly/CovenantKidsHelpers>

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
AN UPLIFTING EVENING**

*with*

**MAESTRO ORGANIST  
JOSHUA GOINES**



**Saturday, September 14 @ 7:00 pm  
First Presbyterian Church  
100 East Frederick Street, Staunton**

**Free-will offering  
will be donated to the**

**Staunton**

**African-American  
Heritage Festival**



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

candidates will address and to the values expressed. Such reflection starts though with our assessment of those Christian values that we hold dear, that lens of faith through which we view the world. What values do you hold sacred? Are they the same values Jesus urges upon us – love of God and neighbor, humble service to others, self-sacrifice, forgiveness? Or are they values that the world says you should cherish – power, accumulation of wealth, retribution for wrongs done to you? To be a Christian is to continually wrestle with those questions and concerns in order to determine what a faithful response might require of you now. And in that regard, perhaps the prophet Micah says it best: *What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.* That walk continues this Fall. Come walk with us!



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its stated meeting on August 18, the Session took the following actions:

- ♦ Elected David Stahl and Seth Ward as commissioners to the September meeting of presbytery
- ♦ Approved use of Building Funds for repair of the sump pump
- ♦ Approved use of Reserve Account funds for purchase of a computer for the Administrative Assistant
- ♦ Approved a proposal for pictures for the preschool with funds raised going to the Nancy Summers Scholarship Fund
- ♦ Approved hosting a mission team working with Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta



**Together on Wednesday (TOW) will  
begin on October 6th at 6:00 pm  
for food, fellowship, and fun!  
Watch upcoming newsletters and  
opt-in for more details and sign-ups!**

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

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





# RALLY Sunday

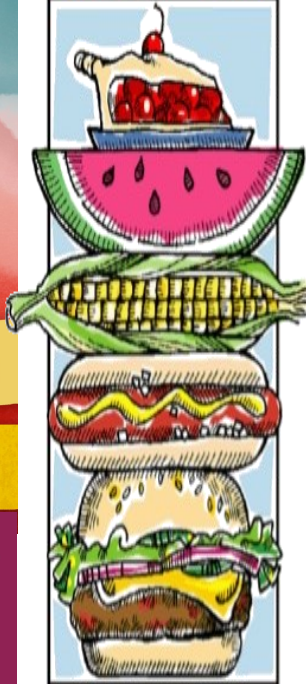
Come and Celebrate  
**FALL KICK-OFF!**

**September 8 @ 9:30 am**  
**Great Hall**

Rally Day is the day we gather  
to kick off a new year of  
Christian Formation!  
Come for breakfast at 9:30  
in the Great Hall!  
The fun continues after church  
with a potluck!

Breakfast with Friends  
Milestone Celebrations  
Introduction of Teachers  
Activities Fair  
Program Preview  
Crafts  
Singing and Energizers  
Games  
Potluck

**RALLY DAY**



**POTLUCK**

The Fellowship Team will host a potluck following the late service in the Great Hall. Hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, and toppings will be provided. We need 1-2 grills, grill masters, clean-up help, **AND** congregants to bring side dishes or desserts. Please review the available slots on the sign-up at <https://bit.ly/RallyDayPotluck>

**THANKS**  
*from the*  
**HEART**

To our Covenant Family,  
Romans 12:15 — *Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.*  
Once again you have shown yourselves to be our family, helping us to mourn the loss of a mother, grandmother and sister in Christ. We are blessed to belong to such a loving community, and we want you all to know how much your prayers, cards, food and presence have meant to us.  
Peace and blessings to you all,  
Tom and Vicki Bellamy and family

# WANTED: BELL RINGERS

The Covenant Ringers is starting up again and we need ringers! All are welcome — past, present, and wannabes. Experience is not required, but the ability to read music is a big plus. Come learn a new skill!



The first practice is Thursday, September 5 at 5:45 PM, in the Choir Room. Come and give it a try!

During the regular season, we play on the third Sundays of every month at the 10:30 worship time.

For more information, contact Lou Dolive at [louis.dolive@gmail.com](mailto:louis.dolive@gmail.com).



## *Sanctuary Flower Sign-Up*

We have Sundays available to provide flowers in memory or in honor of someone, or just to decorate the sanctuary. 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.



# AUGUST



# SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>END-OF-SUMMER</b>	<b>26</b> <b>COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED</b> 5:30 PM Endowment Committee 7:00 PM Personnel Team	<b>27</b> 10:30 AM Act III Ministries in Chapel	<b>28</b> 9:30 AM Yoga Class	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:00 AM The Big Canning Event
<b>SEPT. 1</b> Peanut Butter Sunday Presbyterian Coffee Project 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Happy Half Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream 11:15 AM Outreach Team	<b>2</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>3</b> 10:30 AM Act III Ministries in Chapel	<b>4</b> 9:30 AM Yoga Class	<b>5</b> 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM Newsletter Submission Deadline	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>RALLY SUNDAY</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Rally in the Great Hall 10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream 11:45 AM Potluck in Great Hall 4:00 PM Technology Team via Zoom	<b>9</b> <b>COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED</b> 10:30 AM Monday Morning Bible Study 5:30 PM Congregational Care Team 7:00 PM APNC 7:00 PM Christian Formation Team 7:00 PM Facilities Team 7:15 PM Worship Team	<b>10</b> 10:30 AM Act III Ministries in Chapel 11:00 AM Presbyterian Women in Great Hall 5:30 PM Preschool Team 7:00 PM Stewardship & Finance Team	<b>11</b> 9:30 AM Yoga Class	<b>12</b> 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 8:00 AM Executive Team 10:00 AM Novels & Needles Book Group	<b>14</b>



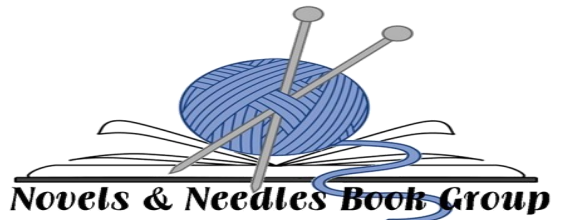
**Tuesday,  
September 10  
11:00 am  
Great Hall**

***Bible Study, liturgy, and prayer.  
Fellowship. Catered lunch.  
Interested in any of these?***

Gather with old friends and new ones in the Great Hall at 11 o'clock in the morning on Tuesday, September 10. It is, indeed, time to resume gatherings of the women of the church and all women are welcome.

Again, this year we begin with the Thank Offering celebration. The Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a way to express their gratitude for the blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. At least 40 percent of the offering funds health ministries.

In happy moments, praise God!  
In difficult moments, seek God!  
In quiet moments, worship God!  
In painful moments, trust God!  
In every moment, thank God!



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

The book being discussed is ***Remarkably Bright Creatures*** by Shelby Van Pelt.

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.***

Please join us!



The next **Equal Exchange** Sale is **Sunday, September 1st.**

Available are:

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

Make your purchase between the 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM worship services and after the 10:00 service. You can place a pre-order by calling 540-290-1089 or emailing [bettyandcliff@comcast.net](mailto:bettyandcliff@comcast.net).





# 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

**Follow Me** | Sundays | 9:30-10:15AM | Fellowship Hall

We will be learning more about discipleship and faithful practices this year. We will start with a study on the practice of lament. All are invited to attend whenever they can.

**Act III Ministries** | Tuesdays | 10:30-noon | Chapel

This ministry is geared toward those who self-identify as older adults and want to explore what faithful discipleship looks like in the 60s and above. Drop in whenever you can!

## Children's Christian Formation

**Faith in Action** | Age 3-Grade 5 | Sundays | 9:30-10:15AM | Education Wing

Each week, we will focus on a different Bible hero and their faithful action. There are classes

### A SPECIAL NOTE FROM RACHEL—

As we head into the fall semester, our youth groups are getting ready to begin. Youth group is a time to build friendships, explore mission and discipleship, and play together. Manna (grades 6-8) and YOUTH (grades 9-12) will meet three times a month. Our Explorers (grades 2-5) will meet on the 1st Friday.

What is a youth group? It is a time to set aside all the worries about school, the mile-long to-do lists, and the need to be perfect and just be. It's a sabbath, a loud and active sabbath, but sabbath none-the-less. It is rest and renewal for young hearts, minds, and souls. In today's fast-paced environment, our kids need this kid-sized sabbath more than ever. If you are related to a youth or child, encourage them to give it a try, to bring along a friend, and to find joy as we explore and play together. It might be the manna your middle schooler needs and YOUTH group isn't the same without YOU!

Save the date! The new Sunday School year kicks off on September 8! We will gather for breakfast at 9:30 and a Fall Celebration Potluck after church!

for early childhood (PK-Grade 1), lower elementary (Grade 2-3), and upper elementary (Grade 4-5) kiddoes!

**Faith Explorers** | Grades 3-5 | First Fridays | 6:30-8:00PM | Great Hall

**Beginning Oct. 4**, kids in grades 2-5 can join us on the first Friday of the month to play and learn together. We will work on mission projects, study Bible stories, worship, and, of course, play games!

## Youth Christian Formation

**Follow Me** | Grades 6-12 | Sundays | 9:30-10:15AM | Youth Room

Our high school youth will be learning about discipleship and faithful practices this year. We will be learning about the practices of lament, crossing borders, and communion.

**Youth Journeys** | Grades 6-8 | Sundays | 9:30-10:15AM | Middle School Room

Our middle school youth will explore the elements of worship this year. We will explore the reasons, meanings, and connections between the symbols and rituals of worship from biblical, theological, liturgical, and practical perspectives.

**Middle School Manna** | Grades 6-8 | 6:30-8:00PM | 2ND, 3RD, & 4TH Fridays | Great Hall

All our middle schoolers are invited to gather for fellowship, study, and play. We will participate in mission, worship, and Bible study as we learn together.

**Our first meeting is Oct. 11th.**

**High School YOUTH** | Grades 9-12 | Sundays | 11:45AM-1:45PM | 2ND, 3RD, & 4TH Sundays | Great Hall

Our high schoolers will gather after church to play games, learn about their faith, and participate in mission together. This semester, we will be learning about our faith.

**Join us for the first meeting of the semester on Sept. 29th.**





## 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 **3113 pounds** of plastic out of the landfills. **AND** we've provided benches to the Boys and Girls Club and Covenant Preschool. **We are now working towards a sixth bench!** 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 SHELburne PANTRY

**THE PANTRY HAS A CONTINUING  
NEED TO BE STOCKED!**

Donations needed are 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.

*Thank you for helping our community's children and their families!*

# Of Course We Can!

Calling all, women and men!  
We need experts, novices,  
and helpers! There are  
many jobs available!

Sign up at  
[bit.ly/CanningEvent](http://bit.ly/CanningEvent)



## THE BIG CANNING EVENT

Saturday, August 31 ♦ 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Great Hall & Fellowship Hall Kitchens

This is an outreach project and canned food will be donated.

Need more info? Contact Becky Wszalek at [bwszalek@gmail.com](mailto:bwszalek@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*

**Rachel Watson**

*Associate Pastor*

**Jeffrey Ryman**

*Minister of Music*

**Christopher Wszalek**

*Organist*

**Lou Dolive**

*Handbell Director*

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



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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*

LET THE WHOLE  
EARTH BE FILLED  
WITH HIS

*Glory.*  
Psalm 72:19