

Welcome!

Whether you are a long-time member, occasional worshiper, or new visitor with us, we hope that in this service you will encounter the living Christ and be strengthened by God's promises for you. Please visit our website at covenantpresstaunton.org to learn more about our ministries and Covenant life together. We are happy to have you as part of our church family today!

COVENANT CHURCH DIRECTORY

PASTOR.....John C. Peterson
 ASSOCIATE PASTOR.....Rachel Watson
 MINISTER OF MUSIC.....Jeffrey Ryman
 ORGANIST.....Christopher Wszalek
 HANDBELL DIRECTOR.....Lou Dolive
 DEVELOPMENTAL PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR.....Mitzi White
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.....Martha Pierce
 TREASURER.....Paul Sorrell
 COVENANT NURSE.....Kathy Henderson
 CUSTODIAN.....Cleo Holly

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Eileen Cooper	Cindy Bowman	Tom Bellamy
Chris Earhart	Brandon Cline-Taskey	Tom Brooks
Kristen Lambert	Mandy Drumheller	Melissa Druff
Sue Morley	Linda Foster	Jacki Dull
Roderic Owen	Joan Sayers	Donna Hamric
Sarah Splaun	Randy Smith	Sam Hostetter
Dan Summers- Minette	Seth Ward	David Stahl



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

10:30 AM

*As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship, please silence any mobile devices.
 This service is live streamed on Facebook.*

STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

PRELUDE.....Marcello

Psalm 19

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....Watts & Cruger

This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 19)

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God!

People: All creation sings God's praise!

Leader: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God!

People: The Lord is our rock and our Redeemer! Praise the Lord!

*HYMN No. 14.....DIX

For the Beauty of the Earth



2001 NORTH COALTER STREET
 STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Wisdom, your imagination exceeds our imaginations. You have given us your Word to guide our lives, but we confess that often we struggle to understand what you are saying, for we are too close-minded and unimaginative. Sometimes we understand what you are saying, but disobey you, as if we knew better. And sometimes we simply ignore you for fear of what you might ask of us. Forgive us for closing our ears to your voice and our minds to the guidance of your Spirit. Inspire us to hear you more clearly, to embrace you more dearly, and to follow you more nearly, day by day. Lord, hear our prayer . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — Hymn No. 2176

*Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.*

GROWING IN FAITH

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE — Those who prefer their child(ren) not be on camera are welcome to have their child(ren) continue sitting with them during this time. *(Following the Children’s Message, children ages 3-1st grade are invited to exit the sanctuary for Covenant Kids.)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING..... Pg. 237 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible Ephesians 5:6-10*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 55 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible Mark 9:38-48*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON.....JOHN PETERSON

“DON’T BE SO LITERAL!”

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

*HYMN No. 458.....THY WORD

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet

SERVING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER (...“sins”)

FOUR CENTS PER MEAL

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....Harlan

If Anyone Be in Christ

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 2246.....BEECHER

Word of God in Human Language

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE.....GREEN TYLER

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

POSTLUDE.....Raney

Beautiful Words of Life

(Please be seated for the Postlude or exit the sanctuary quietly while the Postlude is being played.)

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*Children are always welcome in the Sanctuary during worship.
Children’s worship folders are available in the Narthex.
Should you find that your child grows restless, there is childcare available in the nursery for ages 3 and under.*

(Hymns and streaming used by permission One License A-715880)

HYMN No. 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

*For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:*

Refrain:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)*

*For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)*

*For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)*

*For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)*

HYMN No. 458

Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*

*When I feel afraid,
and I think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear
as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.*

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.*

HYMN No. 2246

Word of God in Human Language

*Word of God in human language
for this time and in our tongue,
tell anew the ageless story,
ever ancient, ever young.
May our hearts receive the message
of God's faithful, loving care;
may our lives respond in action,
living deed and living prayer.*

*Everywhere the world is hungry
for the liberating Word,
food for spirit as for body,
to be tasted, felt, and heard.
It is thus the Word encounters
at God's own appointed hour,
bringing knowledge and perception
of true justice, peace, and power.*

*So God's voice continues speaking
in the words we can't deny,
sounding out across the ages.
Will we answer or defy?
As the call becomes still clearer,
witness that the Word shall last,
may we follow with commitment
in the present as the past.*