

Do good and...

share what you have,

for such sacrifices

are pleasing

to God.

Hebrews 13:16

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A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## From the Pastor's Desk

This past Sunday three of our folks shared their stories of those who have been shining examples of faith and faithfulness for them; perhaps their comments stimulated reflection on your part about those who have been such examples for you. We do not come to faith alone, and we do not understand faithfulness in a vacuum. We learn from others! Have you considered whether you might be such an example for someone else - in your family, among your friends, or for acquaintances who have observed you from afar? In you, do they see a great example of faith and faithfulness to God or do they see a hypocrite who professes faith on Sunday morning and then betrays that faith the rest of the week? Does your life reflect the faith you hold and the faithfulness to which God calls you each and every day?

Across the world there are a host of challenges and existential threats – conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine, political rancor in this year's presidential election, horrific destruction wreaked by recent hurricanes, and the rapid pace of technological change. Our faith does not offer a safe harbor away from those realities, but a resource to draw on in facing them. As a community of Christ, we seek to spark and nurture faith to sustain us, support one another through whatever challenges arise, and share the Gospel in faithful ways within our walls and far beyond. Together we wrestle with hard questions of faith and go wherever God sends us as heralds of the gospel

(continued on page 3)

VISIT US **ONLINE** AT **WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG** 



### **GREETERS**

OCT 27-

8:30 AM....Jeanne & Mick Lambert 10:30 AM....Jane Wimmer

**NOV 3 -**

8:30 Am....Becky & Chris Earhart 10:30 Am....Melissa Druff

**NURSERY (10:30 AM)** 

OCT 27 - Volunteer Needed

NOV 3 – Juli Wszalek

COVENANT KIDS (10:30 AM)

OCT 27 - Volunteer Needed

NOV 3 - Volunteer Needed

FLOWER COORDINATORS

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

**CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING** 

OCTOBER — Craig Whitacre NOVEMBER



Dear Covenant family: Thank you! I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love on Sunday, October 6th, recognizing my 25 years of service at Covenant. The hymn and the painting are perfect and made just to fit me. Being Minister of Music is most definitely not a job to me but an act of love. Thank you for the many years of love and support of my ministry with Covenant. The best is yet to come! I am truly blessed!

Peace, Jeff Ryman



# 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 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.

# Eympathij

Please keep in your prayers Lu Deardorff and her family on the death of Lu's sister, Dorothy Camden, on October 7th. May God grant her eternal rest and grant to Lu and her family comfort and peace.

### CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

For 2025, if you **do not** need Contribution Envelopes we can assign you a different number and you can save the church the cost of a box of envelopes. Please contact Dave Metz.

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

and instruments of God's love, justice, and peace. Are you joining in that good work, or are you just along for the ride?

All that good work is supported by your contributions to our General Fund and the sharing of your time and talents. It is holy work that is supported by staff who lead worship, offer pastoral care, teach classes, and care for children in our preschool, but also by volunteers who do that work too. These church facilities in which so much of that ministry is carried out require maintenance and care throughout the year, including payment for increasing utility and insurance costs. And as good stewards of the financial gifts entrusted to our care, Session has approved hiring a financial secretary to aid in managing the increasingly complex finances of our church and preschool.

So often we take the church for granted. But we shouldn't! We have been blessed by the generous support and vision of saints who have gone before us, and we should not only appreciate their faithfulness, but continue their legacy into the future. In the coming days you will receive a letter from the Stewardship & Finance Team with a pledge card asking you to make commitments for 2025. Give those commitments prayerful consideration, not as an obligation, but as an opportunity to share in ministry and to respond gratefully to God for all the blessings you enjoy. These are commitments that enable us to do God's holy work in this place and beyond, as a Covenant family, together!



### **SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

At its stated meeting on October 20, the Session took the following actions:

- Approved supporting Rachel Watson in pursuit of a Doctor of Ministry degree at Austin Seminary
- Approved letters of transfer for Grace Smith and Monica Zinn
- Elected Rod Owen as commissioner to the November meeting of presbytery
- Approved job descriptions for a Financial Secretary and a Treasurer
- Approved a revised quote for the sound mixer for the sanctuary
- Approved two facilities use requests
- Appointed Stan Grimm to the Memorial and Endowment Fund Committee, Class of 2027
- Approved reallocating funds in dormant reserve accounts to related purposes



### **Transportation MINISTRY**

Transportation volunteers are needed for helping members get to church on Sundays, as well for those who have a need to get to a doctor's appointment or with another transportation need. If you can help, please contact Beverly Riddell.

Items for the next newsletter are due by 9:00 AM on Friday, November 1st. Please email Martha at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com





### Tuesday, November 12 10:30 AM Breezeway

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate! The fellowship of Presbyterian Women gathers next on Tuesday, Nov. 12. Linda Foster is facilitating the conversation about food justice. We begin at 10:30 AM in the Breezeway. All women are welcome!

Everyone is invited to participate in the making and delivering of baskets of Christmas greenery on Thursday, Dec. 5 starting at 10:00 AM. If you have greenery you are willing to share, please contact Linda Foster or Jane Wimmer. More information coming soon!

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!



# Sunday, October 27, at 11:45AM in Room 5.

We meet on the 4th Sunday of each month immediately after the 10:30 service. We will continue to explore ways to navigate the emotions, experiences, and questions of grief in order to move forward in our individual grief journeys.

We hope you can join us!



The next

Equal Exchange
Sale is Sunday,
November 3rd.

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 10:30 AM worship services and after the 10:30 service. You can place a pre-order by contacting 540-290-1089 or bettyandcliff@comcast.net.



Novels & Needles Book Club will meet at 10:00 AM on Friday, November 8th in the Breezeway

The book being discussed is The Heaven and Earth Grocery by James McBridge

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 **Presbyterian Coffee Project** began in 2001 and is a collaboration between Equal Exchange and the Presbyterian Church USA. It is a part of PCUSA's Enough for Everyone Program and seeks to involve and engage more Presbyterian communities and individuals in supporting and advocating for small farmers and indigenous cooperatives around the world.

Covenant has been a part of this program almost since it's inception and the Outreach Team would like to highlight some of the ways our monthly support makes a difference for some of our neighbors beyond our borders. The information below is from an article retrieved from the Equal Exchange website to help you learn about one of the coffee growers.

Equal Exchange sells organic coffee.

Particularly in Colombia, coffee is big business, and the Colombian government supports coffee in meaningful ways. However, the government's support focuses on conventional coffee, not organic coffee. In practice, this ends up producing a strong culture of conventional coffee in Colombia, but organic coffee is hard to come by.

Don Luis is one of 176 farmer members of the coffee farmer co-op, ASPROCAFE. This co-op and its members produce organic products. What does "organic coffee" mean? The shortest, simplest answer is: "coffee grown without using harmful chemicals and pesticides." That definition can be an accurate representation of some organic coffees. But the truth is that there is a wide spectrum of what organic can mean, in general, and in coffee specifically. How is this organic philosophy brought to life?

- Shade produced by taller fruit trees also creates a growing environment that supports high quality coffee, allowing the sugars in the coffee cherries to develop slowly
- Tall, hardy, obstructive plants are used along the borders of the organic plots, to create protective boundaries from chemicals that neighboring farms might use – this helps protect organic farmers from losing organic certification from chemical drift
- Specific plants have scents that are off-putting to certain coffee insect pests, and these plants are strategically incorporated into the farm as pest control techniques, instead of spraying chemical deterrents
- Specific nitrogen-fixing plants are included in the farm to help reincorporate this necessary element back into the soil, naturally
- Compost systems, both the more standard style as well as vermiculture (worm composting) systems are used to turn farm, processing, and home organic matter back to soil-enriching compost that is reapplied to the farm
- Flowering plants and hives make welcoming habitats for pollinators
- Below ground, the root systems of these various plants and trees help keep the
  rich topsoil in place on these steep slopes that might otherwise be vulnerable
  to erosion

FULL ARTICLE: https://www.info.eaualexchanae.coop/articles/colombia-series-snapshot-of-an-organic-farm

# Missionary UPDATE

### FROM FAITH'S HEART — August 2024 Update

(Crystal & Raphael)

During our small-scale farmers' training in August, we were privileged to have representatives from the Joint Association of Persons With Disabilities in attendance. (As an added bonus, they were old friends from my days at the orphanage in Otutulu!)

The number of Nigerians now facing food insecurity is 31.8 million people. Among the most vulnerable to this crisis are Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), who face an even higher risk



of food insecurity due to systemic biases in social and financial inclusion. That is why we felt it was so important to begin making an intentional effort to reach out to this community for our agricultural trainings and to work with them on ensuring that our programs are accessible.

They left very excited about the many possibilities for PWDs to be involved in farming their own food AND farming to make a profit, especially through the idea of small cooperatives wherein they leverage the strengths of the different abilities within their community for division of labor. They have already submitted names of more candidates for training!

"Thank you for your disability inclusive program. We look forward to more of this." (Mark)

"When I go back now, the way this country is heading, I think I will move back to the village and just start farming." (David)

"We cannot do without the parts of the body that seem weaker; and those parts that we think aren't worth very much are the ones which we treat with greater care." ~1 Corinthians 12:22-23

#regenerativeagriculture #FoodSecurityForAll #disabilityempowerment

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

CHECK - Commission To Every Nation P.O. Box 291307 Kerrville, TX • 78029-1307

Online - www.cten.org/crystalraphael

Helpful links to follow Decapolis Community Development Center:

FACEBOOK WEBSITE YOUTUBE EMAIL



From the Moment for Mission on Sunday, October 13, given by Melissa Druff.

Stewardship season is when members of the Stewardship and Finance Team brief you on what's happened in the past year, explain why the proposed budget amount is what it is, and ask you to make pledges for 2025 covering the projected expenditures. The challenge for the Facilities Team is to contain the normal, everyday costs for the maintenance on a 60 plus year old building and grounds.

Let's look at what the Team has accomplished since I stood here last year. The team has:

- Repaired different sections of our multiple roofs to stop their leaking
- Oversaw the installation of new lighting in the choir room (after all manyof us who use that room are older and need better lighting to see the music!)
- Installed animal abatement (those shiny silver what-ch-ma-call-its hanging below the gutters, fluttering in the wind). They're there to stop those stupid woodpeckers who think we're a tree
- Oversaw the installation of the new flat roof above the choir room after Rebecca Allison spent hours mopping up water and making sure dehumidifiers were employed to dry everything out. (And that's only a small part of what this very special church mouse does around the building unnoticed and underappreciated.)
- Oversaw new sewer pump installation
- Oversaw new toilets for Preschool 5 plus an ADA toilet in the bathroom down by the library
- Worked on removal of the old train from the playground and installed the new train
- Installed the music library cabinets, (If you get a chance, stop by the choir room and look at them. Jeff and Lou finally have room to store all our music.)
- Oversaw the gutters being repaired and drainage evaluated to prevent the rotting of the facia board around the downspouts
- Covered within their budget the totally unexpected 30% increase in insurance premiums due to increased claims in other areas of the state and country due to disasters like hurricanes on the East Coast and destructive fires on the West Coast
- Trimmed back the trees on the lot across the street so school bus drivers and others do not have to pull out onto Coalter to see to turn
- Prepped for the new signage installation which included removing all the old signs, both inside and out, and repairing any damage caused by their removal (And we hope you guys like the new signage that's in place, with more to come.)

That's not all, folks! The Facilities Team has many continuing projects:

- Painting and repairing of trim boards around the downspouts
- Removing the huge Oak tree out by the small parking lot
- Working on fall cleanup and leaf removal which is scheduled for Nov 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 AM. Any and all who just love to rake leaves are invited to participate
- Anticipating replacing several more of our air conditioning units (several of which are over 20 years old)
- Anticipating additional tree work that needs to be done around the playground to keep our little ones safe
- Doing more work on the drains leading away from the Sunday School wing because the ones we have below ground there are either collapsed or blocked by concrete dams
- And then there's those things that pop up unexpectedly like the sump pump in the past few week

Many of the expenses I've mentioned come out of the General Fund, but roof replacement, gutter replacement, sump pump replacement, air conditioning replacement, and many others I've not listed here are not paid for out of the General Fund. They come from the Building Fund. And a part of stewardship of this congregation includes maintaining this building, not with Band-Aid fixes, but fixes that will last many years into the future, just as the original founders of Covenant built a building we're still using more than 60 years later.

When you fill out your stewardship card, the Stewardship and Finance Team asks you to break down your pledge into two separate pledges. One pledge is for the General Fund to cover normal budgeted expenses (including rising utility costs). The other pledge is for the Building Fund, which is essential to addressing our future needs (such things as painting, furnishings, other roofing issues) as these and other unexpected or planned for expenses occur in the future.

Please give prayerful thought to your pledge for 2025. We are a strong church community, and we have a strong and beautiful building, used not only by our members, but by others who are outside our church community. Let's keep this building as beautiful and strong as it was when it was first built. Thank you.







# JOIN US FOR OUR TRUNK OR TREAT!

OCTOBER 30 5:45 PM NORTH PARKING LOT

- Indoor games and a magician
- Kid-friendly dinner at 6:15 pm
   Let us know you are coming by signing up at <a href="https://bit.ly/48bmMN5">https://bit.ly/48bmMN5</a>

The north parking lot will be blocked off for the activities. Please plan to park in the south parking lot.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Decorate your trunk and hand out candy to the kiddos. Please have your vehicle parked and ready to go by 5:30 in the north parking lot. Sign up at https://bit.ly/3U4Ceoq

Provide nut-free candy. There will be a collection box inside the church by the office. Some candy melts so be sure not to leave it in the vestibule area.

#### SATURDAY FILL BACK 26 6 10:00 AM Novels & Needles Book Group 6:30 PM Faith Explorers (Grades 2-5) FRIDAY 6:30 PM Middle School Youth 6:30 PM Middle School Youth Submission Deadline Newsletter 9:00 AM NOV. 1 25 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal THURSDAY 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal Together on Wednesday (TOW) WEDNESDAY 6:15 PM Together on Wednesday (TOW) Together on Wednesday (TOW) 5:00 PM Blood Pressure Checks 5:45 PM Trunk or Treat 9:30 AM Yoga Class 9:30 AM Yoga Class 7:00 PM Bible Study 9:30 AM Yoga Class 7:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 30 TUESDAY 10:30 AM Act III Ministries 10:30 AM Act III Ministries Act III Ministries 4 Endowment Committee 10:30 AM 5:30 PM D MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY Monday Morning Bible Congregational Care COVENANT CONNECTION COVENANT CONNECTION MONDAY Facilities Team Worship Team 10:30 AM 10:30 AM PUBLISHED PUBLISHED 10:30 AM 7:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM Study Team 21 4 **Presbyterian Coffee Project** 10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream 10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream SUNDAY 11:45 AM Grief Support Group Peanut Butter Sunday 4 Cents a Meal 11:45 AM High School Youth 11:45 AM High School Youth 2:30 PM Fellowship Team 8:30 AM Worship Service 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Sunday School 27



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**RACHEL WATSON • (540)** 885-2138 revrachelwatson@amail.com

There is a place for everyone in Christian Formation with classes for our adults, youth, and children happening on Sunday morning and all week long! Come grow in faith with us!

Christian Formation Links are at the Covenant website:

www.covenantpresstaunton.org/christian-formation-opportunities/

### **Sunday Christian Formation**

Faith in Action | Age 3-Grade 5 | 9:30 - 10:15 AM | Education Wing Journeys in Faith | Grades 6-8 | 9:30 - 10:15 AM | Middle School Room **Follow Me** | Grades 9 - 12 | 9:30 - 10:15 AM | Youth Room

Children's & Youth Fellowship

Faith Explorers | Grades 2-5 | 6:30 - 8:00PM | First Fridays | Great Hall

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

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

Bite-size Opportunities for Adults to Help Elementary Sunday School

Adults can spend a week in either of the elementary Sunday school classes helping the kids with the crafts, games, and snacks as the teacher's helper. https://bit.ly/3Y8rPt7 Covenant Kids on Sunday

Adults and youth age 14+ can go out after Children's Message to help our youngest disciples play and learn about the scripture of the day alongside our Covenant Kids Teaching Team. https://bit.ly/4b2wFxA

Nursery Ministry on Sunday

Adults and youth age 14+ can stay in the nursery during the 10:30 service helping our nursery caregiver by being a second set of eyes and hands and heart as we care for our infants and toddlers. https://bit.ly/FallNurserySianUp

YOUth Group Guest Helper

Adults can sign up to stay after church with the youth one Sunday. This helper serves as a second set of eyes and hands during the meal and lunch. You choose how much you participate in the games. https://bit.ly/youthhelper Meal Prep

We need to feed our kids each Friday and Sunday. You can help by signing up to bring a piece of the meal one week. You can bring the ingredient to the church by Friday and we will turn it into a yummy meal! https://bit.ly/3Yrc165

### **Adult Christian Formation**

Follow Me | Sundays | 9:30 - 10:15 AM | Fellowship Hall Monday Morning Bible Study | Mondays | 10:30AM | Room 6 **Act III Ministries** | Tuesdays | 10:30am - noon | Chapel

#### A SPECIAL NOTE FROM RACHEL—

When our children are baptized, we make a promise to nurture them in the faith, to share the stories of God's love and care with them, and to be a part of their church family. One of the ways we do this is through the Christian Formation programs – Sunday school, Covenant Kids, and Children's and Youth Fellowship, And as we educate our children in the faith, our own formation as sharers of the word grows.

It's a good thing we have a big church family because it takes a lot of hands to maké this happen. Each week, 16 adults come together to care for the children in the nursery, teach our children's and youth Sunday school classes, lead our Covenant Kids class, and facilitate our high school youth fellowship. On Friday nights, another team of teachers come together to facilitate elementary and middle school fellowship. While we have a vibrant team of teachers that bring their energy and expertise to this work each week, we depend on the entire community participating through bite-size opportunities throughout the semester.

These opportunities are perfect for adults who attend the adult Sunday school classes or who travel a lot. You can sign up for just one or two weeks across the semester and dip your toe in to see what we are up to. Each of the classes has a lead teacher who will present the lesson and lead the activities. You get to participate in the activities or just be the eyes and ears that help keep our classrooms safe.



With the help of four energetic Covenant Youth and four adults, we made ten quarts of applesauce and delivered them to the Valley Mission. We also delivered three bushels of apples to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.





# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mailing Address: PO Box 2948, Staunton, VA 24402 Physical Address:

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

**Rachel Watson** Associate Pastor

**Jeffrey Ryman** Minister of Music

**Christopher Wszalek** Organist

**Lou Dolive** Handbell Director

**Mitzi White**Developmental Preschool Director

**Martha Pierce** Administrative Ass<u>istant</u>

> **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.



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