

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
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY..... Debby Bibens
 TREASURER..... Paul Sorrell
 COVENANT NURSE..... Kathy Henderson
 CUSTODIAN..... Cleo Holly

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Cindy Bowman	Tom Bellamy	Sally Griffith
Brandon Cline-Taskey	Tom Brooks	Clay Robinson
Mandy Drumheller	Melissa Druff	Bob Stripling
Linda Foster	Jacki Dull	Janet Surratt
Joan Sayers	Donna Hamric	Linda Tenney
Randy Smith	Sam Hostetter	Dori Walk
Seth Ward	David Stahl	Jane Wimmer



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

MARCH 9, 2025
 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30 AM

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

STRIVING TO BE FAITHFUL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

PRELUDE.....Wood
I Need Thee Every Hour

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT.....Billings
When Jesus Wept

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 91)

Leader: The Lord is our refuge and our dwelling place!

People: In the Lord our God we trust!

Leader: The Lord hears our cries and answers us!

People: The Lord is our salvation. Praise the Lord!

*HYMN No. 166.....ST. FLAVIAN
Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days



2001 NORTH COALTER STREET
 STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you are strong; we are weak. You are perfect; we are flawed. You are holy; we are unholy. Forgive us for our weak, imperfect, unholy, sinful ways. Too often we give in to temptation and do what is evil in your sight. We are selfish and self-centered. We lack humility and demonstrate little virtue. Merciful God, cleanse our sin-stained hearts and renew our sordid spirits, that we may make better choices, be better people, and serve you more faithfully. Lord, hear our prayer. . . (silent confession) . . .

*KYRIE – Hymn No. 2275

***Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.
Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison.
Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.***

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – Hymn No. 215 (stanza 1 alt.)

***What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heavy cross for my soul.***

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.)*

FIRST READING.....Pg. 277 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible James 1:12-16*

SECOND READING.....Pg. 74 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible Luke 4:1-15*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON.....**JOHN PETERSON**
“SO TEMPTING!”

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *Question 21 of the Heidelberg Catechism*

Q. What is true faith?

A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace granted solely by Christ’s merit. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

*HYMN No. 735.....NEED

I Need Thee Every Hour

SERVING IN LOVE

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

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....Christiansen

Lamb of God

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 724.....ANGEL’S STORY

O Jesus, I Have Promised

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE.....African-American Spiritual

Were You There?

POSTLUDE.....Wszalek

Wondrous Love

(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. 166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins
and close by you to stay.*

*As you with Satan did contend
and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere,
in you to conquer sin.*

*And through these days of penitence,
and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death,
O Lord, with us abide.*

*Abide with us, till when this life
of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.*

HYMN No. 735

I Need Thee Every Hour

*I need thee every hour,
most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine
can peace afford.*

*Refrain:
I need thee, O I need thee,
every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior—
I come to thee!*

*I need thee every hour;
stay thou near by;
temptations lose their power
when thou art nigh. (Refrain)*

*I need thee every hour;
teach me thy will,
and thy rich promises
in me fulfill. (Refrain)*

*I need thee every hour,
Most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed,
thou blessed Son. (Refrain)*

HYMN No. 724

O Jesus, I Have Promised

*O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.*

*O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle;
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer
and shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.*