

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		Jane Wimmer



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

JUNE 29, 2025

10:30 AM

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*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..... Raney

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 16)

Leader: Come, bless the Lord, in whom we find our refuge and safety.

People: You are our God; all good things come from You alone.

Leader: Come, bless the Lord, whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

People: You are our God; our lives are in your hands.

Leader: Come, bless the Lord, who is present among us here.

People: You are our God; we will not be shaken or live in fear.

*HYMN No. 837.....SHOWALTER

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine



2001 NORTH COALTER STREET
 STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, you call us to freedom of life in you. But we confess that we let ourselves be bound by the ways of the world. We know that the whole law is summed up in a single commandment to love you and love our neighbors as ourselves, yet we create fences to keep out our neighbors and tell ourselves we have no responsibility for them. We bite and devour each other as we seek power, hoard resources, and let hatred and jealousy divide us. Forgive us. Send your spirit to guide us in your way of grace, peace, and love. Lord, hear our prayer . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – Hymn No. 288

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

GROWING IN FAITH

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING.....Pg. 292 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*
1 John 4:7-12

SECOND READING.....Pg. 232 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*
Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMONRACHEL WATSON

“FREED TO LOVE AND SERVE”

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. 693.....GIFT OF LOVE

Though I May Speak

SERVING IN LOVE

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

FOUR CENTS PER MEAL

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 366.....HYFRYDOL

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE.....*The Trees of the Field*

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there’ll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;
the trees of the field will clap their hands;
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.*

POSTLUDE.....Kim

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

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

**Those who are able, please stand.*

Today at the 8:30 service we welcomed the following new members:
Ginger and Mike Burwell by reaffirmation of faith
Sharon Zaccaria by letter of transfer from
Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church

*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. 837

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Refrain:

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)*

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)*

HYMN No. 693

Though I May Speak

*Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.*

HYMN No. 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*