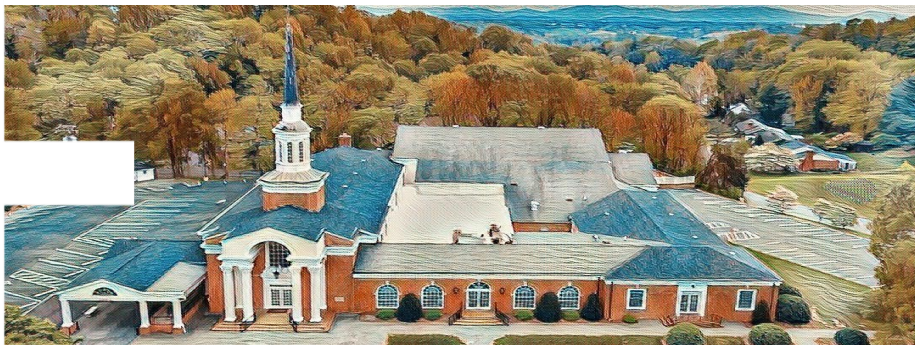


JUNE 2, 2025
STAUNTON, VA



COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Desk

Is it anti-Semitic to criticize Israel – to take issue with the assault on Gaza which has caused the death of thousands of civilians, many of them children, or to condemn the blocking of food and medicines to starving people? In some corners of our country that seems to be the case, though the charge of anti-Semitism appears sometimes to be a cover for other objectives. There is certainly anti-Semitism that rears its ugly head in hate speech and acts of violence directed at people just because of their Jewish identity. As Sunday's attack in Colorado attests, we see that grim reality in our own nation and across the world, and it should be condemned. But that does not mean that the Israeli government is relieved of accountability for decisions they are making in the waging of war on Gaza or the treatment of Palestinians in Israel or support for illegal settlements on the West Bank and Golan Heights. There are voices in our nation and in Israel too calling them to account.

Among the biblical prophets speaking truth to power in Israel, the words of Amos resound:

***Let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.***

It is justice and righteousness that God wants from Israelis, Palestinians, and us. It is justice and righteousness that should flow, not only among individuals, but in the policies and practices of government. The Israeli government has

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VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG

Serving
GOD
Together



GREETERS

JUNE 8 -

8:30 AM....Karen Peterson

10:30 AM....Sally Griffith

JUNE 15 -

8:30 AM....Dori and Steve Walk

10:30 AM....Melissa Druff, Janet Surratt

NURSERY (10:30 AM)

(sign up below to volunteer)

JUNE 8 – **Volunteer Needed**

JUNE 15 – **Volunteer Needed**

FLOWER COORDINATORS

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING

JUNE — Tom Compton

With Sympathy

Please keep in your prayers Becky and Bob Campbell and their family on the death of Becky's brother, A.D. Shinaberry, on May 20.

Please keep in your prayers Bill and Fran von Seldeneck on the death of Bill's brother, Paul, on May 22.

David Stahl, an elder here at Covenant, died early Sunday morning June 1 in hospice care at Shenandoah House. David was an avid advocate for justice and peace in our community and beyond. Please keep his wife, Laura, and daughters Julia and Zoe, in your prayers.

May God grant A.D., Paul, and David eternal rest and grant to their families comfort and peace.



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The nursery for infants through 4 years old needs 2 volunteers (age 14 and up) each week during the 10:30 service (**10:00 in July & August**).

Please consider serving in this way. If you can help even one time, that is one Sunday that is covered. Thank you!

SIGN UP HERE:

<https://bit.ly/3Fe0pfV>



Sanctuary
flowers

SIGN-UP

Provide flowers in memory or in honor of someone, or just to decorate the sanctuary. Directions are given on the sign-up form. Questions? Contact Susan Polly or Christy Davis. Please sign up at <https://bit.ly/3MD9wXO> least two weeks before your desired date.

**Ushers/Greeters
Needed**



Help is always needed!

If you are available at the 8:30 or 10:30 service, please sign-up at <http://bit.ly/3KPmamT>

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (cont'd)

failed to live up to that standard in its war on Hamas, a war that Hamas brought upon Gaza through their own violent actions. But that does not justify indiscriminate bombing, displacement of millions of people, and the cutting off of aid to innocent Palestinian children. That critique is not anti-Semitic; it is biblical! We are all called to live justly and righteously, and when we fail to do so, it is fair to call those acting unjustly and unrighteously to account.

In our own nation and neighborhoods, God expects that same justice and righteousness to flow from our hands and hearts, from our lips and lives. We are called to stand with the poor and oppressed who are too often victimized by the rich and powerful. We are called to welcome the stranger and to love all our neighbors, not just those that look like us or act like us, think like us or vote like us. These are contentious times in which we live, but God calls us to forsake contentiousness, retribution, and hate, and instead to embrace the Way of Jesus which is the way of love. Others may criticize us for doing so, claiming that Jesus' way is weak or unrealistic, but they said the same of Jesus two thousand years ago – and here we are with his words guiding our lives today!

As you deal day to day with the multitude of challenges and voices that are out there, look for the paths of justice, righteousness, and love; listen to the voices speaking justice, righteousness, and love; let your life reflect justice, righteousness, and love. It may be just a trickle that comes from us, but together and with God's help, it may yet become an ever-flowing stream!



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

NEXT GATHERING:
Tuesday, June 10,
11:30 AM at
June Shipplett's
Home

LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP

The final gathering of Presbyterian Women is Tuesday, June 10 at 11:30 AM at the home of June Shipplett for lunch. Please RSVP to June or to Frances Craig if you will be able to participate.



STATE OF THE CHURCH MEETING SCHEDULED

During the Sunday School hour (9:30 AM -10:15 AM) on June 8 there will be an update and informational session on the current "state of the church" at Covenant. There will

be presentations on ongoing programs, finances, and an opportunity for questions about Covenant, what has been happening, and where we plan to go in coming years. Please join us in the Great Hall on June 8 for this informative session.

Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, June 13th.**

Please email Martha at:
covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com





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.



PLASTIC BAG COLLECTION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

THANK YOU, COVENANT! We have kept over **3515 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





SHELburnE PANTRY

SCHOOL IS OUT, NEEDS CONTINUE!

The pantry shelves are almost bare, but the children and families always need our help. Let's work on restocking all of the items in time for the summer Open House events at Shelburne. Items needed: canned foods like fruits and veggies & soups; small jugs of laundry detergent and dish soap; hygiene products such as toothbrushes, hygiene items, and shampoo; and packaged snacks like trail mix, nuts, dried fruit, and jello. There are boxes outside the church office and in the narthex waiting for your generous donation.

Thank you for your continued support of this Outreach Project!

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 2 COVENANT CONNECTION PUBLISHED 5:30 PM Congregational Care Team 7:00 PM Facilities Team 7:15 PM Worship Team	3	4 9:30 AM Yoga Class	5	6	7	
8 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM STATE OF THE CHURCH 9:50 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream 11:45 AM Christian Formation Team 4:00 PM Technology Team	9	10 11:30 AM Presbyterian Women 5:00 PM Preschool Team	11 9:30 AM Yoga Class	12	13 9:00 AM Newsletter Submission Deadline	14 2:00 PM Memorial Service for Carolyn Hensley
15 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:50 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream	16 7:00 PM Personnel Team	17 7:00 PM Stewardship & Finance Team	18 9:30 AM Yoga Class	19	20 9:00 AM Executive Team 	21



Children's Corner



SPECIAL OFFERING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 8

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of children, youth, and young adults.

- 40% is retained by congregations to support work in their local community.
- 50% supports ministries with youth and young adults.
- 10% supports child advocacy/children at risk.

WAYS TO GIVE:

- Through Covenant - make your checks payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church and designate "Pentecost Offering" on the memo line
- Text PENTECOST to 91999
- Give online at pcusa.org/give/pentecost



HELPING HANDS DAY CAMP 2025

is a cooperative ministry of
Emmanuel Episcopal, Central United Methodist,
Second Presbyterian & Covenant Presbyterian.

HELPING HANDS DAY CAMP

is for children who have completed
grades K through 5 and
youth who completed grades 6 to 12
during the 2024 - 2025 school year.

CAMP DATES:

Monday, July 28 through **Thursday, July 31**
from **9:00 am to 1:30 pm** and
Friday, August 1 from **9:00 am to noon**

LOCATION:

Covenant Presbyterian Church

COST:

\$15.00 per camper

Scholarships are available and contributions to sponsor a
camper in need of financial assistance are welcome.

Registration forms are available at:

[www.covenantpresstaunton.org/
helping-hands-camp-2025/](http://www.covenantpresstaunton.org/helping-hands-camp-2025/)

The deadline for registration is **Friday, June 20, 2025**

For more information,

email helpinghandsstaunton@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

Debby Bibens

Financial Secretary

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.

COVENANT



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MATTHEW 25

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

