

COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Desk

In his biography of Abraham Lincoln, *And There Was Light*, Jon Meacham observes: "[T]o Lincoln the duty of the leader and of the citizen was neither to despair nor to seek solace and security with the merely strong, but to discern and to pursue the right." That statement well summarizes our responsibility not only as citizens of our nation but also as disciples of Jesus Christ. The **right** we are called to discern and pursue is what is right in God's eyes, not that of any person, president, or political party. It is the right proclaimed by the prophet Micah: *Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with your God.* It is the right characterized by the fruit of the Spirit that will form the basis for our sermon series this summer: *"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."* It is the right exemplified in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ who calls us to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbors as ourselves. It is the right that insists we welcome the stranger and refugee, minister to the poor, and seek justice for the oppressed. It is the right that disdains power and wealth ("Woe to you," says Jesus, in Luke's version of the beatitudes) and values humility, generosity, and grace.

With our nation's Independence Day celebration approaching and the nation's attention focused on wars with Israel in Iran and Gaza and a budget bill making its way through Congress, it is an opportune time to consider

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VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG

JUNE 30, 2025
STAUNTON, VA



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Serving
GOD
Together



GREETERS

JULY 6 -

8:30 AM....Becky & Chris Earhart

10:30 AM....Dan Drumheller,
Melissa Druff, Sally Griffith

JULY 13 -

8:30 AM....Cindy Bowman

10:30 AM....Sue Morley, Jane Wimmer

NURSERY (10:30 AM)

(sign up below to volunteer)

JULY 6 - Eileen Cooper, Cathy Ryan

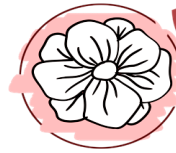
JULY 13 - Debbie Smith, **2nd Volunteer
Needed**

FLOWER COORDINATORS

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING

JULY — TBD



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. Please sign up at <https://bit.ly/3MD9wX0> at least two weeks before your desired date.

Questions? Contact Susan Polly or Christy Davis.



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>



TO OUR VISITORS

If you have been visiting and are interested in learning more about Covenant, our ministries, or membership, please give John Peterson a call at 540-885-2138.

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)*

whether we as a nation are doing right in God's eyes. Are we doing enough to address the carnage in Gaza where over 50,000 Palestinians have been killed and where supplies of essential food, clean water, and medical supplies have been disrupted? Are we doing enough to seek peace in the region, or is our bombing of the facilities in Iran and floating the idea of regime change (as the president did) inflaming the conflict? Does the budget bill address the needs of the poor, or is it cutting taxes for the rich while cutting Medicaid and services for the poor? Are we living within our means, as a nation and as individuals, or are we mortgaging our children's futures? Are we living into the values of justice, mercy, and concern for the poor and suffering that the prophets and Jesus articulated, or are we embracing practices and policies that reflect a more selfish, nationalistic ideal? Are we seeking to discern and pursue the right in God's eyes or are we falling short? Are we washing our hands of the problems or despairing at the direction we are going, or are we daring to stand for what we believe faith and faithfulness demand? Lincoln suggests that our duty as citizens is to discern and pursue the right; that right for us as Christians is the path Jesus showed us, the path he calls us to follow. On this anniversary of our Declaration of Independence, may we dare to follow that path – his path – individually and together!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its stated meeting on June 22, the Session took the following actions:

- ◆ Received a report about the May 20 meeting of presbytery
- ◆ Elected Melissa Druff and Brandon Cline-Taskey as commissioners to the August meeting of presbytery
- ◆ Approved recommendations from Outreach to distribute \$1,000 to Building Bridges in memory of David Stahl, \$1,000 to New Bridges Immigration Center, and an additional \$3,000 for preschool scholarships from their budgeted funds
- ◆ Approved distributions from the Building Fund for tree removal and painting
- ◆ Approved investment of some General Fund monies in interest-bearing accounts
- ◆ Revised the COVID vaccine policy for preschool teachers from required to recommended

Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, July 11th.**

Please email Martha at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com





8:30AM—Blended Service
9:15AM—Happy Half Hour
10:00AM—Traditional Service



Join us between the 8:30AM and 10:00AM services for an opportunity for BOTH services to come together for fellowship, conversation, beverages, and snacks! Gather with old friends or make new ones!

Welcome to our New Members

On Sunday, June 29 at the 8:30 service, we welcomed Ginger, Mike, and Sharon into the Covenant family.



Ginger & Mike Burwell



Sharon Zaccaria

COMMUNITY

Child Care News

Starting in July, the reading sessions for children at the Community Child Care Center will move from Wednesdays at 10:00 AM to Thursdays. Additionally, instead of having two groups of children, there will now be three groups, as the older group has been split into two. This change should not require more time from the volunteers; rather, each group will receive a little less time during the session, which is suitable since children's attention spans tend to be short.



CORA LEIGH CLARK
READING TO THE CHILDREN



JAMYE JUSTUS, DIRECTOR
WITH DONATED BOOKS

Recently, a church member, Mary Ann Stripling, generously donated her store credit from the Bargain Bookstore to purchase a large number of gently used children's books for the Community Child Care Center. The Bargain Bookstore, located on Richmond Rd. in Staunton, offers store credit in exchange for used books. The children and staff at the Community Child Care Center greatly appreciate the readers and the wonderful books donated by the congregation.

FACILITIES TEAM MEETING NEWS

On June 2nd, Jim McClary began the meeting by presenting a special item to Dan Drumheller. He had constructed a special pole for adjusting the shutters in the sanctuary after noticing Dan using a walking cane, which belonged to a church member. Jim created a VERY sturdy wooden pole that is 6 feet long and wrapped with red paracord.

Jim prepared a thoughtful speech about his motivation for making this tool, explaining how tools were crafted and shared on ships in the Navy, and how they would often be accompanied by a plaque. He emphasized that this tool was designed to meet a specific need. ***When tested, it worked perfectly!***



JULY							SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
							30 Covenant Connection Published		JULY 1	2 9:30 AM Yoga Class	3	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY FOURTH JULY	5
6 PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY PRESBYTERIAN COFFEE PROJECT 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Happy Half Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream							7		8 5:00 PM Preschool Team	9 9:30 AM Yoga Class	10	11 9:00 AM Newsletter Submission Deadline	12
13 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Happy Half Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream 11:15 AM Christian Formation Team 4:00 PM Technology Team via Zoom							14 Covenant Connection Published		15	16 9:30 AM Yoga Class 5:00 PM Endowment Committee	17	18 6:30 PM Faith Explorers (Grades 2-5) faith explorers	19



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

RACHEL WATSON • (540) 885-2138
revrachelwatson@gmail.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/

A NOTE FROM RAE —

Summer is full of camps and conferences for people of all ages. Our middle schoolers just got back from the Massanetta Middle School Conference where they spent 3 days learning, playing, and growing in faith with kids from across our synod. The week before that I got to spend a few days at the PW Summer Gathering at Massanetta. That crowd might have been a little calmer than the middle schoolers, but the time was just as magical. In two weeks, our high schoolers will head to Montreat for the Youth Conference, exploring faith with other high schoolers from across the country. **Camps and conferences provide a unique opportunity for people to step out of their daily schedules and immerse themselves in Christian community.** The kids tell me that it's a special place because they don't have to worry about being the coolest or the most successful...this is a place where they get to be themselves and feel like they belong in a way that the world doesn't always allow.

While our youngest disciples don't head off to camp, they have special events lined up for them too. The Faith Explorers will meet three times this summer, exploring themes of justice alongside familiar Disney movies. This last Friday, we explored environmental justice and the way we are called to be stewards of the earth with Moana. We will explore issues of justice with Mirabel from Encanto and Flik from

A Bug's Life later this summer. **If you have a child who just completed 2nd -5th grade, save the dates – July 18 and August 8 from 6:30-8 :00 PM.**

And while our Sunday School classes take a break during the summer, the CF team is hard at work getting ready for the new year! **This year, the CF team is inviting you to come to an at-home All Church Retreat in August.** I'd love to take us all up to Massanetta for a weekend of learning and playing, but this year, we'll spend the time together, but go home at night to sleep in our own beds while we wait for all the fancy renovations Massanetta will soon be doing to their Richardson hotel. **We will gather on August 22 in the evening for fellowship and a talent show and then return bright and early on the 23rd for a full day of workshops and community building.** We hope everyone will plan to "Pull Up a Chair" to our first annual church retreat!

Finally, the summer is a time for getting ready for all the projects and activities we will be doing in the new school year. And we need your help. We need toilet paper tubes, paper towel tubes, yogurt containers, egg cartons, bottle caps in all colors, paper grocery bags, and small glass jars (like the Oui yogurt jars). What may seem like trash is actually a treasure trove of creativity! All these things will be used for various crafts and projects over the course of the school year. You can bring them to my office and put them in the big bin right inside the door.

HIGH 2025 SCHOOL

Congratulations!



CATHERINE "CAITY" CAMPBELL

Caity graduated from Staunton High School. She played on the varsity soccer team all four years and played for SOCA Elite in Charlottesville. She also played volleyball and did gymnastics, but gave those up to focus on soccer her junior year. She will be attending Randolph-Macon College in the fall. She is undecided on a major and will be playing on the soccer team there.



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.



1000 lbs. = 1 bench

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!

HAPPY FOURTH of JULY

PATRIOTIC PARFAIT

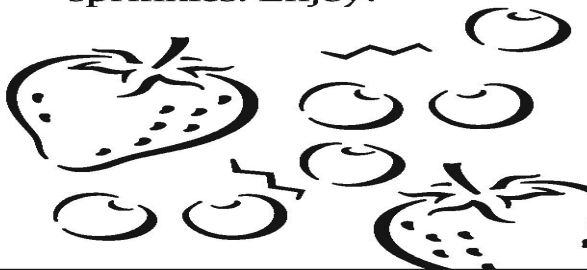
On the 4th of July, make this healthy, festive dessert to share with family and friends.

What you need:

- Clear glasses or plastic cups
- Spoons
- Vanilla yogurt
- Cut strawberries
- Fresh blueberries
- Coconut, whipped cream, red and blue sprinkles (optional)

What you do:

1. Place a couple of spoonfuls of vanilla yogurt at the bottom of each glass or cup.
2. Add cut strawberries to cover the yogurt layer.
3. Add more yogurt over the strawberries.
4. Add a layer of blueberries.
5. Repeat the layers until you reach the top of the glass or cup.
6. For extra fun, add coconut, whipped cream and sprinkles. Enjoy!



PATRIOTIC PINWHEEL

Create this colorful July 4th craft.

What you need:

- Decorated card stock square (5" x 5")
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- 2 one-inch circles of card stock
- Glue
- Pipe cleaner (3 inches)
- Drinking straw

What you do:

1. Fold the square corner to corner to form an X. Unfold.
2. To make spokes, cut the four creases until an inch from the center.
3. Punch a hole in the middle of the square, near the tips of each spoke, and in the middle of each circle.
4. Fold each spoke toward the center, lining up the holes. Glue in place.
5. Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the top of the straw. Thread a circle, the pinwheel, and the remaining circle onto the pipe cleaner.
6. Roll the pipe cleaner end into a ball. Then spin!

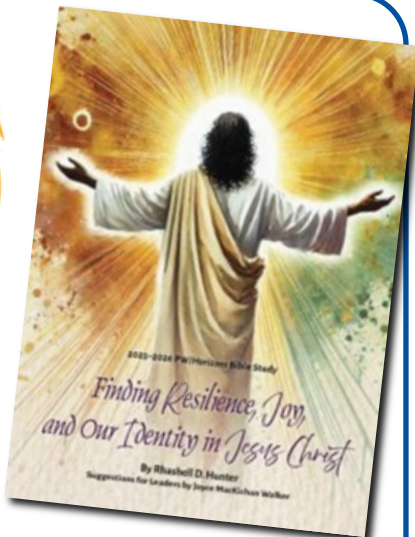




**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

**Do you need a
copy of the new
PW Bible Study?**

Frances Craig is glad to arrange to get a copy to you. The cost is \$14.00. You can pay with cash or with a check made payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church with PW Bible Study in the memo line.



The next
Equal Exchange
Sale is **Sunday,**
July 6th.

Available are:

- ♦ regular coffee for \$9
- ♦ decaf coffee for \$10
- ♦ tea for \$4
- ♦ dark chocolate for \$3

Make your purchase between the 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM worship services and after the 10:00 service. You can place a pre-order by calling 540-290-1089 or emailing bettyandcliff@comcast.net.

**COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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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



Presbyterian
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MATTHEW 25

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

BELOVED,

let us *love* one another,
for *love* is of God;
and everyone who *loves*
is born of God
and knows God.

1 JOHN 4:7, NKJV