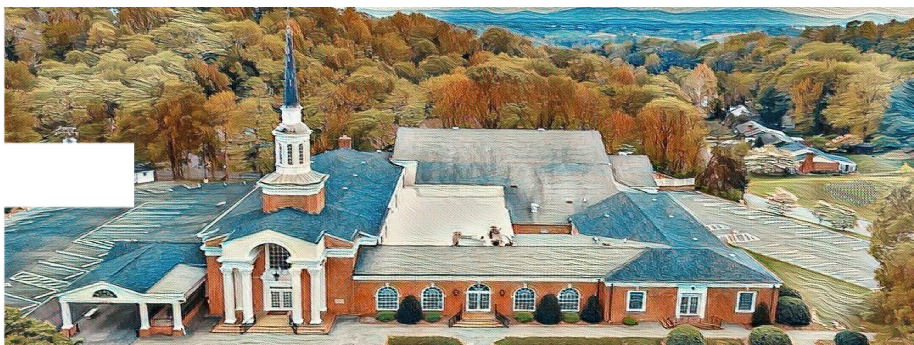


JULY 14, 2025  
STAUNTON, VA



# COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Last week four plaques were installed on the wall of the Memorial Garden by Stu Allen for Pat Dindinger, Betty Bonham, Carolyn Hensley, and David Stahl. They join 24 other plaques on that wall that honor Covenant folks whose ashes have been interred in that sacred ground since 2014. The names bring back a host of faces and memories from across the years, people who shaped my life and our Covenant life together. It is heartening to see folks take time to stop to look at a plaque and remember with a story or a prayer or a sigh.

The Memorial Garden was created to offer an alternative final resting place for the ashes of Covenant folks who are cremated. In placing their ashes into the garden, we repeat the words of the committal liturgy: *"Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Blessed are those who die in the Lord, says the Spirit. They rest from their labors and their works follow them."* The ground is raked back, the words are repeated, the ashes are spread, and the ground is raked back over the ashes, returning the remains of the body to the ground from which we all were created by God. It is a holy rite in a space made sacred by the lives of the saints who are remembered there. But it is also a living place, full of blooming plants and greenery, a place where people gather to visit during Happy Half Hour between services or for a preschool chapel or for a quiet place to sit a spell. The words on the face of the wall amid the plaques echo Jesus' words to Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life..." and it

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VISIT US ONLINE AT  
[WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG](http://WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG)

*Serving*  
**GOD**  
*Together*



### **GREETERS**

JULY 20 -

8:30 AM....Jerry Lynn & Roller Shipplett  
10:30 AM....Linda & Roderic Owen,  
Janet Surratt

JULY 27 -

8:30 AM....Jeanne & Mick Lambert  
10:30 AM....Harry & Sarah Boney,  
Dan Drumheller

### **NURSERY (10:30 AM) — 2 volunteers**

*(sign up below to volunteer)*

JULY 20 – Ruth Arnold, **2nd Volunteer  
Needed**

JULY 27 – **Two Volunteers Needed**

### **FLOWER COORDINATORS**

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

### **CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING**

JULY — Bill Terry



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

Questions? Contact Susan Polly or Christy Davis.

### **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)

is in the assurance of that promise that we remember those Covenant brothers and sisters with heavenly hope.

If you have not taken time to walk through the garden lately, I encourage you to do so this summer when it is in all its blooming splendor. Whether you are on your way into Worship or grabbing lemonade at Happy Half Hour or are just passing through, take a moment to notice the names and remember the people and give thanks to God for their lives and for God's continuing promises for them and for us in Jesus Christ. And if someone happens to be with you as you stand there, perhaps share a story or memory of one of those folks who means something special to you, for in doing so we perpetuate their memories – not just with sorrow but with resurrection joy!



**Note:** For more information on the Memorial Garden see the brochure on the rack in the narthex or on the website (<https://bit.ly/CovenantMemorialGarden>) or speak with John.

\*\*\*\*\*

Responses to the question: *What is the Bible for?* (in 7 words or less)

- ♦ To guide God's people through Heaven's gates
- ♦ Love is forgiveness – pass it on

Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, July 25th.**

Please email Martha at: [covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com)



## Thanks for your SERVICE

In the spring of 2023, Session approved a plan to rent a box at the Post Office to ensure the safety of church mail.



Louise Scott took on the position of 'post mistress' managing a team of merry mail collectors. Since then, Louise has provided the schedule and kept the mail collectors on track. Efficiency and effectiveness have prevailed. Louise is stepping away from the 'post mistress' role. She has been a stalwart leader. The team and congregation appreciate all that she has done!



**Thanks, Louise!**



# PICNIC & JAZZ IN THE PARK

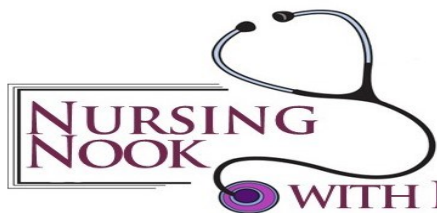
- ✓ Picnic begins at 6:00 pm. Meet in the park behind the brigade band building at long picnic tables. If those are not available, we will scout out a nearby table/shelter and communicate that info to those who sign up.
- ✓ Fellowship will provide fried chicken, plates, napkins, utensils, and trash bags
- ✓ Please bring a side dish to share
- ✓ Bring your own drink and chair for the Jazz concert after the picnic
- ✓ We will go up to the band stand lawn to fellowship and listen to the music

LET US KNOW YOU PLAN TO ATTEND SO  
WE ORDER ENOUGH FRIED CHICKEN  
SIGN UP AT:

<https://bit.ly/44Itz0u>



**17 JULY 2025  
@ 6:00 PM  
GYPSY HILL  
PARK**



WITH KATHY HENDERSON, RN

Kathy Henderson, RN • (540) 290-6396  
[covenantnurse@gmail.com](mailto:covenantnurse@gmail.com)  
Contact Kathy with medical questions or  
for a blood pressure check.

In so many ways, Farmers Markets represent the essence of summer: Fresh food, fresh air, so many friendly faces. If you meander through our local market at the Wharf, chances are excellent you'll see familiar faces. But wandering into a market you've rarely – or never – visited gives you the chance to be a tourist in your own land. The produce may look the same, but the vendors' presentation of their wares differs slightly, and visitors look and sound just "different" enough to remind you just how diverse an area the Shenandoah Valley is.

So, go ahead: Visit a few of the following, and have an adventure while foraging for food. Your body and soul will thank you. Several brick-and-mortar outfits offer fresh, local produce (Nu-Beginnings and JMD here, Valley Pike Farm Market in Dayton and Stuarts Draft Farm Market come to mind), but the following list is limited to open air with farmers and craftspeople on site.

If you have a favorite farmers market I've not included, please let me know and I'll add it to the list.

# FARMER'S Markets



## IN & AROUND STAUNTON

### Staunton Farmers Market

7AM-noon, Saturdays thru Oct.;  
open with shorter hours Oct.  
thru third week of Dec.  
The Wharf, downtown Staunton.  
Opened in 1993, this is one of  
the oldest and largest Farmers  
Markets in the area, drawing  
vendors from all over the state.  
More info:  
Facebook; 540-448-1937;  
[www.stauntonfarmersmarket.org](http://www.stauntonfarmersmarket.org)

### Verona Farmers Market

3-6 PM, Thursdays  
502 Lee Hwy, Verona  
More info:  
Facebook or email  
[manager@vfmrt11.com](mailto:manager@vfmrt11.com)

### Shomo Fresh Market

10 AM-5 PM, Fridays;  
10 AM-2 PM, Saturdays thru Sept.  
1231 Cedar Green Rd.  
(easy 10 minutes south on  
Middlebrook Ave)  
More info: Facebook;  
540-294-5954

### Project Grows Farm Stand

4-5:30 PM, Tuesdays, May-Oct.  
608 Berry Farm Road, Staunton  
Also, a Mobile Market visits  
several locations in Staunton  
Tuesday-Thursday every week.  
More info: Facebook;  
[www.projectgrows.org](http://www.projectgrows.org)

## WAYNESBORO & STUARTS DRAFT

### Waynesboro Farmers Market

9 AM-1 PM, Saturdays thru October  
(rain or shine),  
215 W Main Street, Waynesboro  
More info: Facebook, Instagram, or  
email [autumn@projectgrows.org](mailto:autumn@projectgrows.org)

### Old Schoolhouse Farmers Market

4-7 PM Thursdays thru August  
116 Draft Avenue, Stuarts Draft  
Opened just this summer, it's the newest  
market in the area.  
More info: Facebook; 540-290-1136

## ELSEWHERE

*(but an easy scenic drive)*

### Augusta Harvest Market at the Alpine Goat

Noon-4 PM, alternate Saturdays  
(July 26 – Oct. 18)  
212 Chapel Hill Lane, Weyers Cave  
More info: Facebook; email  
[wildfloursourdough24482@gmail.com](mailto:wildfloursourdough24482@gmail.com)

This venue includes an on-site  
brewery, food truck, and  
children's play area.

### Cross Keys Farm

9 AM-6 PM, Tues-Sat, thru Nov.  
3022 Cross Keys Road, Harrisonburg, Va  
More info:  
Facebook; 434-953-6661; or  
[www.crosskeysfarmmarket.com](http://www.crosskeysfarmmarket.com)

The farm stand, just north of  
White Oak Lavender Farm,  
(about half way between  
Weyers Cave and Route 33)  
has seasonal produce. Also  
available (by appointment)  
pick-your-own options, tours  
and lectures.

### Crozet Farmers Market

8 AM-noon Saturdays thru  
September  
1186 Crozet Ave. (directly  
behind Blue Goose Building)  
More info: Facebook

This market donates its  
vendor fees to local food  
banks and has seasonal  
produce. Also available  
(by appointment) pick-your-  
own options, tours and  
lectures.







## 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 Covenant donates 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](mailto: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!*



From July 4th to 5th, central Texas faced devastating flash flooding in the Hill Country area due to heavy rainfall. The threat of additional downpours and flooding remains a major concern, extending from the Hill Country to North Texas. This catastrophic event has tragically claimed at least 120 lives. Search and rescue operations are still underway and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is aiding

in the effort. During this critical time, your support can make a significant difference.

If you would like to contribute to the disaster relief efforts, write a check made out to Covenant and include "TX Flood" in the memo line. You can also give directly online at:

<https://pcusa.org/donate/dr000191-disaster-relief-us-flooding>.

Every donation counts and can help provide much-needed assistance to those in need!



**Sunday, July 27th  
at 11:15AM in Room 5.**

Whether your loss is recent or long past, all are welcome! Our group offers a welcoming and safe place to share, connect, and support each other.

We hope you can join us!

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

Please contact Eileen Cooper if you have questions or would



CareGivers will meet immediately after the 10:00 service on

**Sunday, July 20th**

in the Room 5

Anyone caring for a loved one who would like to talk with others in similar situations is invited to come.

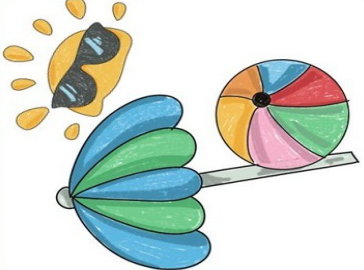

For more information, please contact Ruth Arnold.



# JULY



# AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>14</b> Covenant Connection Published 	<b>15</b> Covenant Connection Published	<b>16</b> 9:30 AM Yoga Class 5:00 PM Endowment Committee	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30 PM Faith Explorers (Grades 2-5) 	<b>19</b>	
<b>20</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Happy Half Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream 11:15 AM CareGivers Group	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30 AM Yoga Class	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM Newsletter Submission Deadline	<b>26</b>
<b>27 4 Cents a Meal</b> 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:15 AM Happy Half Hour 10:00 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream 11:15 AM Fellowship Team 11:15 AM Grief Support Group	<b>28</b> Covenant Connection Published	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>AUG. 1</b>	<b>2</b>







# Summer

## WORSHIP TIMES

### JULY AND AUGUST

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



## July & August Happy Half Hour

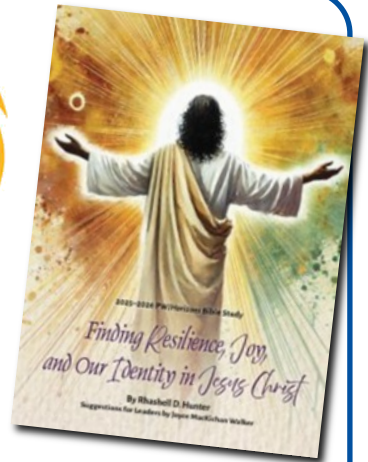
Every Sunday in  
July and August at  
9:15AM in the Breezeway

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!



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.



**Thank you to Jimmy Guynn  
and Karen Peterson!**

Janet Guynn was a brilliant and beloved moderator of the Presbyterian Women. When she passed, her husband Jimmy gave the PW \$500 in her memory. Grateful for Janet's PW service as well



as her role as a professional educator and for the gift, PW decided to honor Janet by using the money to purchase new

materials for our children's library in the church. We turned to Karen Peterson, a veteran school library media specialist, to discern what the collection needed and to spend the money. The project is complete. Jimmy and Karen have blessed the children in our church family with their gifts and grace. The Presbyterian Women are grateful! **Thank you!**

# FROM THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE on SUNDAY, JUNE 29th

Having been planted in the good soil of the Spirit, Pastor John blooms with all the fruit of the Spirit. He certainly is faithful, kind, loving, peaceful, joyful, gentle, good, full of self-control, and patient. . .very patient.



To view the Children's Message go to 27:34 of the video located here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=luzWReIXog0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luzWReIXog0)

## 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](http://www.covenantpresstaunton.org).

COVENANT



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Church of America  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



MATTHEW 25

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

Be **KIND.**  
EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

**SERVE**  
others.   
1 PETER 4:10, NIV

**HONOR**  
Christ *the* Lord.  
1 PETER 3:15, ESV

  
Go out  
*with* **JOY**  
And be led  
*in* **PEACE.**

ISAIAH 55:12