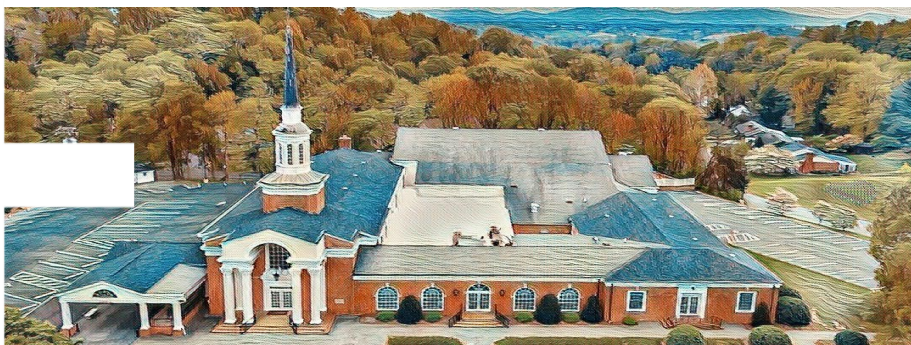


JULY 28, 2025
STAUNTON, VA



COVENANT CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Desk

In his biography *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*, Jon Meacham writes: "[P]olitics divorced from conscience is fatal to the American experiment in liberty under law." In the difficult decisions that Lincoln had to make across his life, he sought to do the right thing as he perceived it and as he believed God willed it. Yet he was aware that there were others who opposed him who were also guided by their consciences, albeit with different values, and reached different conclusions. He believed that history would judge those that proved faithful and those that proved unfaithful. Meacham's point is that if conscience, ethical reflection, is not guiding political decisions, then our democracy is at risk. His comment called to mind the time our son Dan was asked by a high school teacher to write a paragraph about what he was most afraid of; he wrote, "Intelligent people who lack morals." I think that is something we all should fear!

What then are the morals that should stir our consciences as Christians as we consider the policies and actions of our government and its leaders? Lincoln's opposition to slavery was grounded in the biblical testimony that all people were created in God's image and the affirmation of the Declaration of Independence that "All men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights" including "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." He found slavery repugnant to those values, though politically he was slow to use the power of the presidency to enact change. His morals were also grounded in the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

(continued on page 3)



Do to others

as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6:31

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VISIT US ONLINE AT
WWW.COVENANTPRESSTAUNTON.ORG

Serving
GOD
Together



GREETERS

AUGUST 3 -

8:30 AM....Gary & Nancy Gourley
10:30 AM....Dan Drumheller, Sally Griffith,
Janet Surratt

AUGUST 10 -

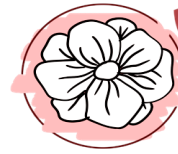
8:30 AM....Becky & Chris Earhart
10:30 AM....Ruth Arnold, Lou Dolive,
Melissa Druff

FLOWER COORDINATORS

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING

AUGUST— Bill Terry



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 [h https://bit.ly/3MD9wX0](https://bit.ly/3MD9wX0) at least two weeks before your desired date.

Questions? Contact Susan Polly or Christy Davis.

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>

**NOTE TO OUR
VISITORS!**

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (cont'd)

He found it untenable that anyone would want to be enslaved and have his labors enrich others, and so saw slavery as a violation of that Golden Rule.

As Christians, those two biblical precepts: our common creation in the image of God and the Golden Rule should be the basis for our moral judgments as well. The Great Commandment to love God with all that we are and to love our neighbor as ourselves should be front and center. Micah's call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God is a clear call to ethical behavior. Perhaps there are others that resonate for you as well. But do you live into those demands day to day and, to return to Meacham's point, do they shape your politics and expectations for our government and its leaders?

Clearly, the treatment of immigrants across our nation fails to meet those ethical standards. The recent legislation granting tax breaks to the rich at the expense of health care for the poor fails that moral test. Failing to care for the environment violates our call to be stewards of creation. Those are a few examples, but my larger point is this: our ethics as Christians should not be set aside in the political arena. They should guide the policies and candidates we support; they should shape our expectations and demands of government and its leaders. Our Christian faith is the lens through which we should look at all of life – without exception! And where we see inconsistencies, we should speak up and demand better. That is not always easy; sometimes values clash and leave us uncertain as to what faithfulness demands. But faithfulness should not be set aside for political expediency if we are to be the disciples Jesus calls us to be. May you be such a disciple, and together may we be such a nation!



Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, August 8th.**

Please email Martha at: covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com



Covenant's Preschool begins its school year on Wednesday, August 13th.

Please be reminded that children will be playing on the paved area behind the church (near the playground) from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

This area is blocked off for their safety. So please exit the parking lot the same way you entered and avoid driving through the back area.

Thank you for helping to keep our children safe!



NOMINATIONS FOR ELDERS

Our Book of Order tells us this about the office of Elder:

As there were in the Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament church provided persons with particular gifts to share in governing and ministry. Ruling Elders are chosen by the people. Together with Teaching Elders (Ministers of the Word and Sacrament), they exercise leadership, governance, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibility for the life of a congregation, as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. They serve faithfully as members of the Session and should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world. Additionally, the church makes provision for youth who may be called to serve as youth elders to serve a one-year term, if so called.

* * * * *

The Nominating Committee is seeking names to be considered for Elder. If you know of someone you feel would be qualified to serve, please write their name below. You may turn in this form by placing it in the offering plate on Sunday or by dropping it in the designated box located in the lower vestibule area by the church office.

Alternatively, you may email the name(s) to Martha Pierce at covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com. **Please return the completed form by Friday, August 15th.**

ELDER NOMINATIONS

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |



JOIN US AT THE ALL-CHURCH RETREAT: AROUND THE TABLE "SHARING OUR STORIES"

The church is a family and the building is a home. It is a place where the family gathers around the table to eat, around the room to share stories, around each other to comfort one another, and around the Word to learn about the One who created and sustains us. The scriptures are Word pictures that make up a photo album of faithfulness and love that we can visit over and over again as we add our own stories to the stories of the people of God. And so it is right for us to gather and share the stories - the ones that make us laugh, the ones that make us cry, the ones that make us US.

The church is a family and it is always growing. In church, we learn to intentionally leave space at the table for all those seeking a home here. We learn to celebrate each other's talents and learn from each other in community. We learn to say not only are you welcome here, but we will create a space that embraces, includes, and empowers you because we are not whole without you. So if you have a friend who is wondering about the church, invite them to pull up a seat at the table with us! This retreat is for all ages, all stages, all people.

On August 22 and 23, we invite everyone to pull up a seat in the Great Hall and join us around the table at our all-church retreat! On Friday night, we will gather at 5:00 PM for fellowship and fun, a pizza dinner, and a variety show showcasing the gifts of the members of this congregation. If you have a talent you want to share, click on this link to sign up for the retreat and tell us about your act!

<https://forms.gle/bi8YWiLqpEjxgvAi7>

On Saturday, we will gather again at 8:30 AM 'til 7:30 PM to eat, play, and learn together. If you can't attend the entire event, please join us for part of it!

There will be three workshops:

- ♦ Telling our Stories with Joan Swift,
- ♦ Telling the Stories of Mission and Community with Christy Davis,
- ♦ Telling the Stories of the People of God with John Sayers.

We will explore our stories through storytelling, art, and Bible study! To make sure we have all the food and supplies we need, please register for the retreat with this link: <https://forms.gle/bi8YWiLqpEjxgvAi7>


It's a busy time! There are a thousand things to do! But we need each other and we need rest and restoration! So retreat with us from the busy-ness of the world for just a few minutes and believe that we can emerge from our time together refreshed, surprised, and less burdened than we came!

Questions? Contact Rae at the church or email revrachelwatson@gmail.com


BACK TO SCHOOL!



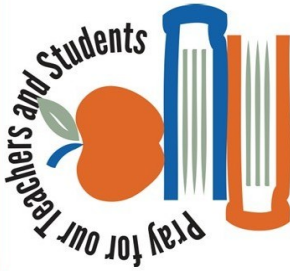

Children's Corner



JULY



AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>  <p>Prayer for our Teachers and Students</p> </div>	<div> <p>28</p> <p>Covenant Connection Published</p> </div>	<div> <p>29</p> </div>	<div> <p>30</p> </div>	<div> <p>31</p> </div>	<div> <p>AUG. 1</p> </div>	<div> <p>2</p> </div>
HELPING HANDS DAY CAMP						
<div> <p>3</p> <p>Peanut Butter Sunday Presbyterian Coffee Project</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 AM Happy Half Hour</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream</p> <p>11:15 AM Outreach Team</p> </div>	<div> <p>4</p> <p>5:30 PM Congregational Care Team</p> <p>7:00 PM Facilities Team</p> <p>7:15 PM Worship Team</p> </div>	<div> <p>5</p> </div>	<div> <p>6</p> <p>9:30 AM Yoga Class</p> </div>	<div> <p>7</p> </div>	<div> <p>8</p> <p>9:00 AM Newsletter Submission Deadline</p> <p>6:30 PM Faith Explorers (grades 2-5)</p> <p></p> </div>	<div> <p>9</p> </div>
<div> <p>10</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 AM Hot Rods & Hot Cakes</p> <p>Happy Half Hour</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service and via Live Stream</p> <p>11:15 AM Christian Formation Team</p> <p>4:00 PM Technology Team</p> </div>	<div> <p>11</p> <p>Covenant Connection Published</p> <p>7:00 PM Personnel Team</p> </div>	<div> <p>12</p> <p>5:00 PM Preschool Team</p> <p>7:00 PM Stewardship & Finance Team</p> </div>	<div> <p>13</p> <p>First Day of Covenant Preschool</p> <p>9:30 AM Yoga Class</p> </div>	<div> <p>14</p> </div>	<div> <p>15</p> <p>9:00 AM Executive Team</p> </div>	<div> <p>16</p> </div>



Support a cause with Every Bite!

Join Us at **Seed to Tail Staunton, VA**

DATE
Friday, August 15

LOCATION
**2303 N. Augusta Street
Staunton, VA 24401**

Seed to Tail will be donating 10% of all profits
to support the impactful work of Decapolis in Nigeria.

Come shop, eat, and connect! It's not just a fundraiser it's a
meet-and-greet to learn more about Decapolis' mission and how
you can get involved.



SHOP:
11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

KITCHEN:
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM



A FARM FRESH
SANDWICH SHOP,
BAKERY, CATERING,
AND SPECIALTY
MARKET.

WINE
BEER
CIDER

Where Seed to Tail begins is in the land. Our own backyard is the source for many of the ingredients in the kitchen and products in the Market. We grow from seed (a portion of our namesake) vegetables, flowers, and herbs from spring to fall. While each year we are expanding our production, we rely heavily on partnerships with other local farmers to enhance the procurement of fresh ingredients for our daily menu year round.

Our organic and regenerative approach allows the Restaurant and Farm to feed each other. Soil health is a necessity for growing nutritious vegetables. The chickens play an important part in creating a natural fertilizer for the garden along with their delicious eggs for our family and the Market. The chickens benefit from tasty treats from the Restaurant's food scraps, which are also used in our compost bin and worm farm. This all then feeds back into the soil to help the garden grow the veggies you find on your plate. With pollinating help from our neighbor's bee hives and use of rainwater collection, we hope to keep this symbiotic relationship blooming for years to come.

Restaurant & Market

Seed to Tail is a community focused, neighborhood restaurant. Using the best seasonal ingredients, Chef Patrick and his Team produce a menu full of delicious and nutritious meals. A sandwich shop at heart but so much more as we constantly push ourselves to create new experiences for you.

www.seedtotail.com

+234 802 745 0065
www.decapoliscenter.org

Decapolis Community Development Center
hello@decapoliscenter.org



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 **3572 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 BEGINNING SOON - LET'S RESTOCK THE PANTRY

School starts August 6th, and it would be great if the pantry was fully stocked to cover a range of needs to help the kids/families who have not had that support all summer get 'caught up.' 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!

Hot Cakes & Hot Rods

Sunday, August 10 @ 9:15 AM

Upper Parking Lot



*Come see the old &
new while enjoying
a treat!*



During the Happy Half Hour, between services, join us for the Annual Covenant Cruise-In. Folks in our congregation will be bringing antique, classic, and newer vehicles for you to see, ask questions about, and perhaps share a memory or two. Some of the cars date back to the 1930's and perhaps beyond, others are classic cars from later years, and newer cars with some interesting features. Plan to come early or stay after the worship service. Remember that the late service begins at 10:00AM, so please allow enough time to see what you want to see and get to the worship before the closing hymn!

THE CAPPS HAVE MOVED!

We spent the last 30 days selecting a new home and making a cross country move to Atlanta, GA. We found a lovely Senior Living Facility that we have been able to move into near Holly, our daughter, and are already making friends. But we DO MISS OUR COVENANT FAMILY! We left in such a hurry that we were unable to say goodbye to each of you, but we want you to know that you will never be forgotten. Speed was necessary to secure our new home, so we let the LORD guide us and moved quickly. We leave love, devotion, fun times, and especially the close, warm feeling that you can only have for the special relationships in life. LOVE AND GOD'S PEACE! — Ron & Rish Capps

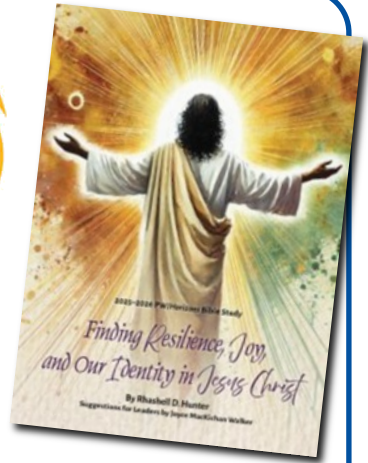
New Address:
650 Phipps Blvd. NE
Apt. 6109
Atlanta, GA 30326



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.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSiNG

Walk in kindness, shine
with courage, go with God.

Ephesians 4:32



The next
Equal Exchange
Sale is **Sunday,**
August 3rd.

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.

BLESSING



OF
THE

BACKPACKS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM SERVICES

Students, including college students, teachers, and professors, are encouraged to bring their backpacks or briefcases with them to worship so we can ask God's blessing on the backpacks and those who tote them.

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



Presbyterian
Church

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MATTHEW 25

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

