

## 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](http://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!

The flowers today are given by Eileen Cooper and Cathy Ryan  
in memory of Charles, Lillian, and Chuck Ryan.  
You are forever in our hearts and in our lives!

### 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

AUGUST 31, 2025

10:00 AM

*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..... Hayes

*Simple Gifts*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

HYMN SING

### WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 107)

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good!

**People: God's steadfast love endures forever!**

Leader: The Lord redeems and saves us in times of trouble!

**People: Give thanks to the Lord for the marvelous things  
God has done for us all!**

\*HYMN No. 2020..... Sleeth  
*Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet*



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\*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We do the very things you tell us not to do, and fail to do what you ask of us. We do not curb our selfish appetites and desires, but satisfy them to excess while our neighbors struggle to meet their most basic needs. Our priorities are skewed, Lord. We lack self-control, yet dare to criticize those around us who fall victim to their own excesses. Forgive us. By your Spirit, inspire us to reorder our priorities, to be more faithful, and to serve humbly, generously, and selflessly to your glory in Christ. Lord, hear our prayer . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen

\*DECLARATION OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – Hymn 447

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.  
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

GROWING IN FAITH

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING.....Pg. 233 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*  
Galatians 5:22-23

SECOND READING.....Pg. 94 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*  
Luke 14:7-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON .....JOHN PETERSON  
“FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: SELF-CONTROL”

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. 2176.....Willard

*Make Me a Servant*

SERVING IN LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

FOUR CENTS PER MEAL

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 172.....Haas

*Blest Are They*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE.....*Glory to God* (Hymn No. 582, Stanza 1)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen*

POSTLUDE.....Raney

*We Bow Down*

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

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

*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.*

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*(Hymns and streaming used by permission One License A-715880)*

HYMN No. 2020

*Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet*

*Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,  
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,  
praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.*

*Praise the Lord in the field and forest,  
praise the Lord in the city square,  
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.*

*Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,  
praise the Lord in the dark of night,  
praise the Lord in the rain or snow  
or in the morning light.*

*Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,  
praise the Lord on the highest hill,  
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.*

*Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,  
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,  
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.*

*Praise the Lord on a week-day morning,  
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,  
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.*

*Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,  
praise the Lord in the time of joy,  
praise the Lord every moment;  
nothing let your praise destroy.*

*Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,  
praise the Lord in your work or play,  
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!*

HYMN No. 2176

*Make Me a Servant*

*Make me a servant, humble and meek,  
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.  
And may the prayer of my heart always be:  
Make me a servant, make me a servant,  
make me a servant today.*

HYMN No. 172

*Blest Are They*

*Blest are they, the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Blest are they, full of sorrow;  
they shall be consoled.*

*Refrain:*

*Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessed are you; holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours is the kingdom of God!*

*Blest are they, the lowly ones;  
they shall inherit the earth.  
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;  
they shall have their fill.  
(Refrain)*

*Blest are they who show mercy;  
mercy shall be theirs.  
Blest are they, the pure of heart;  
they shall see God.  
(Refrain)*

*Blest are they who seek peace;  
they are the children of God.  
Blest are they who suffer in faith;  
the glory of God is theirs.  
(Refrain)*

*Blest are you who suffer hate,  
all because of me.  
Rejoice, be glad; yours is the kingdom;  
shine for all to see.  
(Refrain)*