

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 to learn more about our ministries and Covenant life together. We are happy to have you as part of our church family today!

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

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

10:30 AM

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*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..... Callahan

Rock of Ages

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

INTROIT..... MIT FREUDEN ZART

Sing Praises to God Who Reigns Above

WORSHIPING WITH JOY

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 51)

Leader: God's love is steadfast.

People: God's mercy is abundant.

Leader: Let us gather in gladness!

People: Let us worship with joy!

*HYMN No. 634..... Crosby

To God Be the Glory



2001 NORTH COALTER STREET
 STAUNTON, VIRGINIA • 885-2138

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, have mercy on us, according to your steadfast love. Where we have neglected prayer, been apathetic in worship, found reasons to avoid generosity, or lacked compassion, have mercy on us. According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Where we have exploited others, turned a blind eye to oppression, cared too much about what others think, or perpetuated hatred, have mercy on us. Wash away all our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us clean hearts and renew right spirits within us. Where we can love, where we can share, where we can heal, where we can build community, grant a willing spirit to sustain us until the whole world knows the joy of your salvation. Lord, hear our prayer . . . (silent confession) . . . Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – Hymn No. 288

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

GROWING IN FAITH

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING.....Pg. 640 of the Old Testament, *Pew Bible*
Psalm 51:1-10

SECOND READING.....Pg. 253 of the New Testament, *Pew Bible*
1 Timothy 1:12-17

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMONRACHEL WATSON

"HELP! I'VE MADE A MESS OF THIS!"

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — *from Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love, God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, of every gender, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant

people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN No. 417.....SOUTHWELL

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

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.

DEDICATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY.....John Ness Beck

Devotion

PRAYER

*HYMN No. 353.....SOLID ROCK

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE.....GREEN TYLER

O Christ, Surround Me

POSTLUDE.....Raney

To God Be the Glory

(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.

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

HYMN No. 634
To God Be the Glory

*To God be the glory;
great things he has done!
So loved he the world
that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life
an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate
that all may go in.*

*Refrain:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father
through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory:
great things he has done!*

*Great things he has taught us;
great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing
through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher
and greater will be
our wonder, our transport,
when Jesus we see.
(Refrain)*

HYMN No. 417
Lord Jesus, Think on Me

*Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin.
From earth-born passions set me free,
and make me pure within.*

*Lord Jesus, think on me,
amid the battle's strife.
In all my pain and misery
be thou my health and life.*

*Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray.
Through darkness and perplexity
point thou the heavenly way.*

*Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
and share thy joy at last.*

HYMN No. 353
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

*My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*Refrain:
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)*

*His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. (Refrain)*

*When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. (Refrain)*