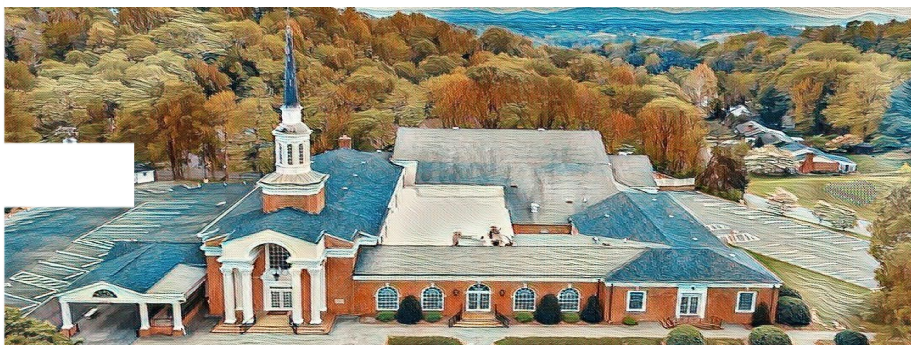


OCTOBER 20, 2025  
STAUNTON, VA



# COVENANT CONNECTION

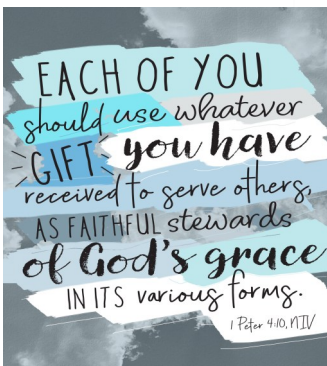
A PUBLICATION OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

This fall, I celebrated my 50th high school reunion and our 30 years in ministry together here at Covenant. It has offered a time to reflect on the changes that have taken place across those years – not only in me and my family, but also in the larger society and church. When I began here in July of 1995, my office was where the library is now. Worship was at 10:00, followed by Sunday School at 11:15, which meant that anyone attending Sunday School could not beat the Baptists and Episcopalians to lunch! There was no Great Hall, no Memorial Garden, no covered entrance, and the playground was in the woods on the neighbor's property. Our total budget for that year was a little over \$300,000, with \$22,000 of that for Outreach. There were no cell phones of note, and my computer took a while to boot up in the morning. The sanctuary carpet was gold; there were no cutouts in the pews for wheelchairs and no elevator to access the Fellowship Hall downstairs. I had hair on my head!

A lot has happened in these past 30 years, not only in the expansion of our building, the addition of a second weekly worship service, the calling of associate pastors, growth in our preschool, and funding of a budget which is proposed this year to crest \$700,000 with over \$90,000 for Outreach. Lives have been changed, faith nurtured, new members welcomed, neighbors helped, the Gospel proclaimed, saints laid to rest, and a boatload of infants, youth, and

*(continued on page 3)*



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

*Serving*  
**GOD**  
*Together*



### **GREETERS**

OCTOBER 26 -

8:30 AM....Cindy Bowman

10:30 AM....Dan Drumheller, Janet Surratt

NOVEMBER 2 -

8:30 AM....Joan & John Sayers

10:30 AM....Dan Drumheller, Sally Griffith,  
Janet Surratt

### **FLOWER COORDINATORS**

Susan Polly and Christy Davis

### **CHURCH OPENING and CLOSING**

OCTOBER — Bill Terry

NOVEMBER — Adam Campbell

## **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.



# **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/3MD9wXO> at least two weeks before your desired date.

Questions? Contact Susan Polly or Christy Davis.



The next  
**Equal Exchange**  
Sale is **Sunday,**  
**November 2**

Available are:

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

Make your purchase between the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM worship services and after the 10:30 service.

You can place a pre-order by contacting 540-290-1089 or [bettyandcliff@gmail.com](mailto:bettyandcliff@gmail.com).



*Saturdays, Oct. 25th,  
Nov. 1, Nov. 8, & Nov. 22  
from 9:00 am to noon*

## **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)

adults baptized! The stories of God's hand at work in individual lives and in our life together is the real story of these three decades, because that is why we are here – to be the church, a vibrant Covenant community that seeks to follow wherever God leads us. On Sunday, we heard three of our folks share their stories of wrestling with God; the church is where that wrestling should happen, among siblings in Christ who share this faith journey and support one another along the way.

Stewardship season is not the sexiest season of the church year, startling as that news may be to you! There are no seasonal colors for it – the green is for Ordinary Time, not dollars for Stewardship – and there are no soaring anthems to celebrate it. It is a season for us to take stock of our blessings, to consider the vision God is setting before us, and to commit to helping make that vision a reality by sharing our gifts. It is a season to recall what God is doing in our lives and in our life together, and to celebrate the new stories which are being written daily – stories of faith and faithfulness, stories that include you!



### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Be on the look out for a letter and pledge card coming to your mailbox soon. If you prefer you can complete your pledge online at <https://bit.ly/pledgefor2026>

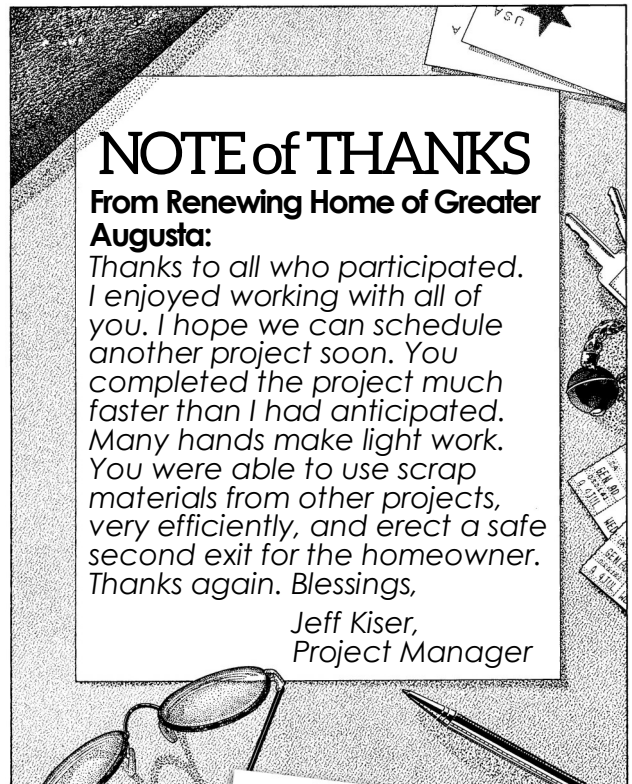
Items for the next newsletter are due by **9:00 AM on Friday, October 31st.**

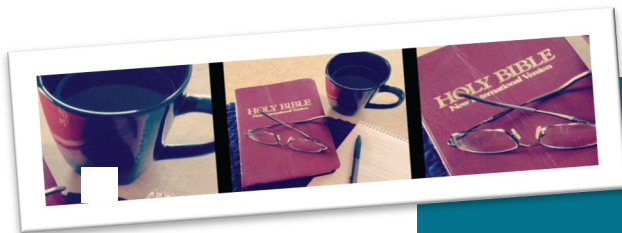
Please email Martha at: [covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com](mailto:covenantpcusastaunton@gmail.com)

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its called meeting on October 19, the Session took the following actions:

- ◆ Approved several requests for use of Covenant facilities
- ◆ Removed from the rolls Tom Altizer at his request
- ◆ Discussed arrangements for the upcoming presbytery meeting at Covenant





## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**RACHEL WATSON • (540) 885-2138**  
[revrachelwatson@gmail.com](mailto:revrachelwatson@gmail.com)

There is a place for everyone!  
 Come grow in faith with us!

Christian Formation Links are at the Covenant website:

[www.covenantpresstaunton.org/christian-formation-opportunities/](http://www.covenantpresstaunton.org/christian-formation-opportunities/)

### CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**Nursery** | Birth – Age 3 | Nursery |  
 9:30-11:45AM

**Growing Together** | Age 3-Grade 4 |  
 Preschool Wing | 9:30-10:15AM

**Up Next** | Grade 5-6 | Education Wing |  
 9:30-10:15AM

**Holy Disruptions** | Grades 7-12 |  
 Youth Room | 9:30-10:15AM

### CHILDREN & YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

**Faith Explorers** | Grades 3-5 |  
 Fellowship Hall | Second Fridays |  
 6:30-8:00PM

**Middle School Manna** | Grades 6-8 |  
 Fellowship Hall | Third Fridays | 6:30-  
 8:00PM

**High School Mini-Missions** |  
 Grades 9-12 | Great Hall | Typically  
 Third Saturdays | 9:30-11:00am

### ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**Follow Me: Discipleship Study** |  
 Fellowship Hall | Sundays | 9:30-  
 10:15AM

**Faith and Life** | Room 5 | Sundays |  
 9:30-10:15AM

**Monday Morning Bible Study** |  
 Room 6 | Mondays | 10:30-11:30AM

**Presbyterian Women** | Breezeway |  
 Second Tuesdays | 10:30-11:30AM

**Act III Older Adult Ministry** | Chapel |  
 Fridays | 10:30-11:30AM

# Puzzle!

First, write the opposite of each listed word.  
 Then transfer letters to the correct numbered  
 blanks to discover Jesus' messages about love.

|       |    |    |    |    |       |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|-------|----|----|----|----|
| cool  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | soft  | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| under | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | old   | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| out   | 9  | 10 |    |    | after | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 |
| large | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | false | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 |
| quiet | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |       |    |    |    |    |

“  
 14 5 6 7 35 20 7 15 17 36 23 24 5 18 8 28 17 23  
 1 9 35 20 2 16 14 24 5 18 3 20 7 13 8 35 2 10 23  
 1 9 35 20 13 14 16 24 17 37 36 11 5 18 14 2 27 19  
 1 9 35 20 21 15 16 24 17 18 36 11 35 3 30 10 28 35 20  
 2 10 23 1 9 35 20 21 14 16 24 5 37 8 4 9 10 23  
 21 27 23 16 32 6 7 24 5 18 22 10 34 9 28 20 29 17 33  
 13 11 24 25 26 22 11 7 14 31  
 .”

Answer: warm, over, in, small, loud, hard, young,  
 before, true; “Love the Lord your God with all your  
 heart and with all your soul and with all your  
 strength and with all your mind” and “Love your  
 neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27, NIV

# OCTOBER

# NOVEMBER

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | TUESDAY                                          | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                      | THURSDAY                                                                   | FRIDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | SATURDAY                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>26 - ALL SAINT'S DAY</b><br>4 Cents a Meal<br>8:30 AM<br>Worship Service<br>9:30 AM<br>Christian Formation Hour<br>10:30 AM<br>Worship Service<br>and via Live Stream<br>11:45 AM<br>Grief Support Group<br>11:45 AM<br>Fellowship Team<br>12:00 PM<br>Confirmation Class                                      | <b>20</b><br>Covenant Connection<br>Published<br>10:30 AM<br>Monday Morning Bible<br>Study<br>                                                                                                  | <b>21</b><br>5:00 PM<br>Endowment Commit-<br>tee | <b>22</b><br>9:30 AM<br>Yoga Class<br>5:00 PM<br>TOW Talk<br>6:00 PM<br>TOW—Together on<br>Wednesday<br>7:00 PM<br>Bible Study | <b>23</b><br>5:45 PM<br>Bell Choir Rehearsal<br>7:00 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal | <b>24</b><br>10:30 AM<br>Act III Bible Study<br> FAITH FORMATION<br>FOR THE OLDER ADULT YEARS                                                    | <b>25</b><br>9:00 AM<br>Facilities Workday<br>                                                     |
| <b>27</b><br><b>2 - Peanut Butter Sunday</b><br><b>Presbyterian Coffee Project</b><br>8:30 AM<br>Worship Service<br>9:30 AM<br>Christian Formation Hour<br>10:30 AM<br>Worship Service<br>and via Live Stream<br>11:45 AM<br>Grief Support Group<br>11:45 AM<br>Fellowship Team<br>12:00 PM<br>Confirmation Class | <b>3</b><br>Covenant Connection<br>Published<br>10:30 AM<br>Monday Morning Bible<br>Study<br> 5:30 PM<br>Congregational Care<br>Team<br>7:00 PM<br>Facilities Team<br>7:15 PM<br>Worship Team | <b>28</b>                                        | <b>29</b><br>9:30 AM<br>Yoga Class<br>5:30 PM<br>TRUNK OR TREAT<br>6:00 PM<br>TOW—Together on<br>Wednesday                     | <b>30</b><br>5:45 PM<br>Bell Choir Rehearsal<br>7:00 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal | <b>31</b><br>9:00 AM<br>Newsletter<br>Submission<br>Deadline<br>10:30 AM<br>Act III Bible Study<br> FAITH FORMATION<br>FOR THE OLDER ADULT YEARS | <b>NOV. 1</b><br> Fall back, not behind!<br>CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and<br>join us on time for worship. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>4</b>                                         | <b>5</b><br>9:30 AM<br>Yoga Class<br>5:00 PM<br>TOW Talk<br>6:00 PM<br>TOW—Together on<br>Wednesday                            | <b>6</b><br>5:45 PM<br>Bell Choir Rehearsal<br>7:00 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal  | <b>7</b><br>10:30 AM<br>Act III Bible Study<br> FAITH FORMATION<br>FOR THE OLDER ADULT YEARS                                                    | <b>8</b>                                                                                                                                                                           |



## 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 **3720 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)



### LET'S RESTOCK THE SHELburnE PANTRY

Halloween is coming!  
And with it, the usual  
flood of various candy  
that impacts children's

dental health. This month our Shelburne Support Project wants to be sure the school pantry is fully stocked with the basic tools to help strengthen and protect their teeth: toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss. Other items (i.e. hygiene items, canned fruits, veggies, and soups, packaged snacks like trail mix, nuts, dried fruit, and jello) are always appreciated, too. The labeled boxes are outside the church office and in the narthex, ready for you to drop off your items.

*THANK YOU for supporting our community  
through this Outreach program!*



**Wednesdays at 6:00 pm  
in the Great Hall**

**October 8 - December 3**

(no TOW on November 26)

**Menu is Host's Choice**

Make a reservation by noon on the  
Monday before the TOW you plan to  
attend so we know how many  
to prepare to feed.

Sign up online at

<https://bit.ly/45WuRps>

OR sign the Friendship Pad on Sunday

OR contact the church office  
at 540-885-2138.



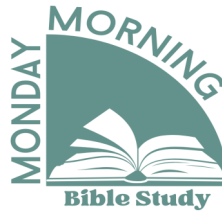
On Saturday, October 11,  
Clay Robinson, Rick Fauerbach,  
Patty Bowers, Troy Kurtz, and  
Clayton Putnam helped  
Renewing Homes with a building  
opportunity. They removed some  
exterior stairs and deck, repaired  
part of the deck, and built  
new stairs for a home in Verona.





**Sunday, October 26  
at 11:45AM in Room 5.**

Whether your loss is recent or happened some time ago, the approaching holidays can be a difficult time for many of us. We provide a caring and supportive environment where you can feel comfortable sharing your experiences and feelings with others on the same journey. If you need further information or have any questions, please contact Eileen Cooper.



**Join us Mondays  
at 10:30 AM  
IN ROOM 6  
OR VIA ZOOM**

We look at the text for the next Sunday's sermon. Come dive a little deeper into God's word, share your insights, and get a head start on the next sermon.

A link to the Zoom meeting is sent out via opt-ins each Sunday.

## OPERATION COLLEGE CARE KITS

It's time to remind our college students how much we care about them by sending snacks, cards, and blankets as they prepare for exams. We have five blankets to

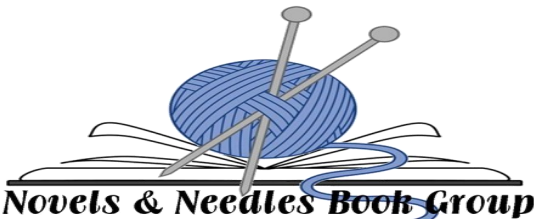


make this year for our college freshmen and more than 20 packages to prepare. We have lots of opportunities for people to help, and at times that fit your schedule best. Operation College Care Kits will take place on Wednesday, November 12th.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP? WE NEED:**

- ◆ People to help prepare the blankets on Wednesday, November 12th, at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ People to tie the blankets after TOW in the Great Hall. Please sign up for the TOW dinner if you plan to eat.
- ◆ People who can write notes at their convenience, to our students, encouraging them as they prepare for their exams.
- ◆ People to pack the care kits for mailing.

Sound like something you want to help with? Click <https://bit.ly/collegecarekits> to pick a job and time slot that works for you. Need more information? Contact Becky Earhart at 540-448-2712.



**Novels & Needles Book Group**

**Novels & Needles Book Club  
will meet at 10:00 AM on  
Friday, November 14  
in the Breezeway.**

**The book being discussed is  
*Those Who Save Us*  
by Jenna Blum**

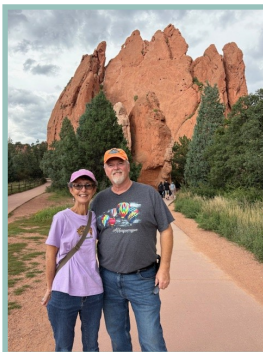
**Members are encouraged to bring  
their knitting or crocheting  
which could benefit  
the Prayer Shawl Ministry.**

***We also welcome those who  
do not knit or crochet.***

**Please join us!**

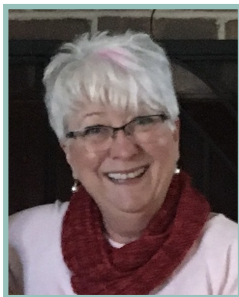
# WELCOME *New Members*

On Sunday, October 12 at the 10:30 service, we welcomed the following new members:



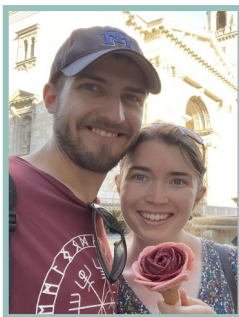
**CINDY &  
CLAYTON PUTNAM**

We were both born in Massachusetts, but we met in Maryland on a blind date in our mid-twenties. We were married on November 15, 1986, and had two daughters, Becky and Jody. Clayton taught high school social studies for over 33 years, and Cindy was an outside technical salesperson. We retired in 2015, sold our Maryland home, and moved to a condo in Maine. We enjoyed our 8 years in Maine, but the distance from our daughters and now grandsons was too great, and we decided to relocate to Virginia between Maryland and North Carolina (between both daughters) and settled in Waynesboro. Clayton enjoys woodworking, cooking, and hiking. Cindy enjoys reading, puzzles, pickleball, golf, and hiking. They are expecting a granddaughter in December.



**PAM MCMILLEN**

I spent my childhood years in Bradenton, Florida and in high school met my future husband, Gary. We spent a wonderful 30 years traveling the world while he served in the US Army. Gary passed after retirement at the age of 50. I remained in Florida, but moved many times from house to house! Once a military wife..... Two hurricanes and a son who lives here brought me to Staunton. I wish I had come here much sooner. I have met such wonderful people I love it here - the town and the church! I have a degree in Elementary Education but now enjoy my time making beaded jewelry (which can be seen at The Geek Boutique). I hope to travel more in the future - there are still places I have not seen.



**HANNAH & HANS  
SLECHTA**

Hannah grew up at Covenant before going off to college, where she met Hans. Hans is originally from Lancaster, PA. Hannah and Hans lived in Ithaca, NY, Athens, GA, and Richmond, VA before deciding to move to Staunton to be closer to Hannah's family (Allen and Cary Dahl). Hannah is an adult education ESL teacher and Hans works on the creative team for a fantasy author. They are also involved in historic building renovation downtown with Hannah's brother, Oliver.



## DECORATED TRUNKS NEEDED

Our goal this year is to have 15 decorated trunks (cars, trucks, etc) for the kids during Trunk or Treat. Please sign up and join the fun! In the comments area, let us know what your theme will be. Thank you! Sign up at <https://bit.ly/CPCTrunk>

### CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED:

Please provide nut-free candy. There will be a collection box inside the church next to the office. Some candy melts so be sure not to leave it in the vestibule area.



## 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*

