

February 12 is Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday!

We love our big games, but we love our valley neighbors more! That is why Covenant is proud to once again support the **Souper Bowl of Caring** and to fill the Presbyterian Community Center's pantry with cans of soup!

This year is a free-for-all: Bring any soup, and we'll see if we can beat last year's numbers! In 2022 we collected 2,120 cans of soup, plus \$400 in monetary donations.

Bring your soup donations to worship services or drop them off just inside the main parking lot doors between now and February 12. You can also make a monetary donation by check or online at covenantroanoke.org/donation-page (select "Souper Bowl of Caring" fund.)

Join us on Sunday, February 12 at 10:30 AM for a special worship service led by our youth with music provided by the Covenant Band! Afterwards head into the Fellowship Hall for a fabulous soup luncheon. You won't want to miss this!



The "Super Bowl/Souper Bowl" lunch returns on Sunday, February 12 right after worship!

This is always a favorite Covenant event and the perfect time to invite friends! Signup sheets for soup, bread, & dessert are in Heritage Hall.



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

Seeking . . .

What questions of faith do you have?

How might you go deeper in trying to answer them?

Starting with Ash Wednesday on February 22 and guiding us on our Lenten journey to Easter Sunday on April 9, our spiritual theme for the journey will be *Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith*.

Here are some questions God will use during our worship time together to lead us to deeper understanding:

Ash Wednesday, 2/22	Is this the fast that I choose?
Lent 1, 2/26	Who will you listen to?
Lent 2, 3/5	How do we begin again?
Lent 3, 3/12	Will you give me a drink?
Lent 4, 3/19	Who sinned?
Lent 5, 3/26	Can these bones live?
Palm/Passion Sunday, 4/2	Where are you headed?
Maundy Thursday, 4/6	Will you wash my feet?
Good Friday, 4/7	Why have you forsaken me?
Easter, 4/9	Who are you looking for?

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary following our Wednesday night dinner.

This 45-minute service will include song, scripture readings, prayer, silence, meditation, candles, and the imposition of ashes as worshippers exit the sanctuary.

The format for this service will be based on the Taizé tradition. This style of worship was developed at Taizé, a monastic community located in Taizé, France, founded in the 1940's by a Swiss named Roger Louis Schütz-Marsauche or Brother Roger. The "brothers" of the community have taken a vow of celibacy and are committed to a lifetime of simplicity, service, and community. There is an ecumenical emphasis at Taizé, which says the community "wants its life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and between separated peoples."



Let Us Pray . . .

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ~ Philippians 4:6-7

Church Members: Audrey Bashlor, Christine Beck, Tricia Cronise, John Fedison, Mary Jane Fisher, Susan Foard, Lynnmarie Hancock, Tricia McMahon, Lindsey Nanz, Ann Cecil Renick, Amy Ridenour, Carol Ryan, Jaswant Singh, June and Forrest Smith, Colette Strother, Roger Tims, Jo Wilson, caregivers, military service members and families.

Family and Friends: Kenneth Benner, Martha Brumfield, Rosanna Crist, Patrick Dooley, Dickie Hinchee, Tyler and Rochelle Holm, Erik Johnson, Jay Johnson, the people of Malawi, Rich Moreau, Mike Overacker, Cordell Parvin, Phil Peters, Mair Rubin, Jeffrey Scaggs, Joseph "Joe" Wallace, Mary Whitehead, Daniel Woodbury.

Please send prayer requests for the prayer list to: gails@covroanoke.org. Requests will be shared with the pastor and the Congregational Care Team. Names will remain on the prayer list for three weeks, unless otherwise requested.



All women are invited to join the Women's Bible Study group, a fellowship and study group that **meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 10:30 AM until noon**. This year's curriculum is the "Drive Thru History: Acts to Revelation" video series. Our next meeting is on Monday, February 13th in the Blue Room. For more information, please contact Sharon Nanz or the church office.

Holy Hunch Brunch & Bible Study meets weekly on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in the Blue Room. Join us for coffee, scripture discussions, and a light brunch, led by Kyle Allen and Jewel Aagaard. All are welcome!

The Men's Bible Study & Fellowship meets on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays @ 8 AM. Our next meeting will be Saturday, February 4th in the Red Room. Please join us for coffee & conversation! Contact Jeff Cutright or John McMillen with questions.

Dear Friends,

Did any of you grow up with the phrase **down home**? Webster's defines **down home** in this way: *of, relating to, or having qualities (such as informality and simplicity) associated with rural or small-town people especially of the Southern U.S.*

I grew up around people like that, and I have always appreciated that being a part of my upbringing. I came across a **down-home** story recently that I thought might mean something to you. In its informality, simplicity, and honesty, there is wisdom in this story which beckons us to pay close attention:

A pastor asked an old farmer, decked in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk," the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard."

Now the pastor was growing even more concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued . . . "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw, white flour."

The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he was not the only one growing uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together, and bake them, I do love warm, fresh biscuits. So, Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you're done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

Now there's a little **down-home spiritual cooking** we can all sink our teeth into! In the mix of daily life, especially when things get all mixed up and we don't know what to believe, think, or do, may we ask for, and be graced by, the **down-home** daily bread of wisdom God eagerly waits to give us.

In Christ,
Kyle

Circle of Friends met in January and our project was scholarships for girls in Malawi. Money was donated by our members to fund tuition for day school or boarding schools. Several members donated enough for a full year scholarship at a boarding school.

We will meet again on Tuesday, February 14th at 6:30 PM in the Red Room. Our project for February will be items for The Turning Point, a shelter for abused women and children, sponsored by the Salvation Army. For more information about the meetings or our projects, please contact Carol Gentry.

New Adult Sunday School Class begins February 5th!



In February and March, the class will study *How to Eat Bread: 21 Nourishing Ways to Read the Bible* by Anglican vicar Miranda Threlfall-Holmes. This book provides 3 different ways to “eat bread”:

From the Larder – ways that scripture itself uses other parts of scripture, or models and demonstrates different ways of reading; **Grandma’s Recipe Book** – historical methods of biblical interpretation, and **Molecular Gastronomy** – the insights and methods of modern theological hermeneutics.

Jewel Aagaard has a few copies available to read, so send her an email to reserve one if you’re interested. You don’t have to read the book to enjoy the study; we’ll give an overview and practice the methods of bread eating (or bible reading) that the book highlights. **Please join us in this interesting study, starting February 5th!**

Parents Night Out is back! Friday, February 10 from 5 – 8 pm



Jewel and Kevin Aagaard are looking for a few parents to join them in running February’s Parents Night Out. This is our way of showing our volunteers some **love**. They’ve done an amazing job of handling the Fall Parents Night Out and we want to give them a break (or hang out with them and have a fun night in!). If you choose to volunteer, you get a coupon for a free PNO to use in the future 😊.

If you’re interested in dropping your kids off, sign up at <https://bit.ly/CovenantPNO>.

Email Jewel at jaagaard@covroanoke.org if you want to volunteer!



Heads up! The Parlor will be transforming into a multi-use space that will serve on Sundays as a Parents Room for families needing a spot to get away during our worship services. If your toddler is wiggly (or needs a diaper change), you want to rock your baby to sleep, or just take a break with your kid from the

service, you will be able to go to the Parents Room. There will be a TV monitor showing the service in there for anyone who might need to step out!

We are in need of a diaper changing table or dresser to which a diaper changing topper could be added. If you have something that would work, please email jaagaard@covroanoke.org or call the church to let us know!

Wednesday Night Dinners Return February 8th at 5:30 PM



– with Baked Ziti from Chef Jim, and Trivia and Games for all ages with Jewel! This spring we’re hoping to encourage more members and families to join us for dinner; to that end, we’re making most of our meals **free, with optional donation**. You will still need to RSVP. Take-out meals will need to be paid for (you’ll get a discount if you bring your own carry out containers!). Every so often we’ll have a big-ticket dinner (think gumbo, pot roast, lasagna!) that will return to our paid meal pricing to help us catch up on costs.

Here are a few exciting things coming to Wednesday Night Dinners:

- **February 15:** Generational Connections with Jerry Barnes – hear about Jerry’s newest book and share stories about your life in conversations with Covenant children and youth!
- **February 22:** Ash Wednesday potluck and worship service
- **March 1:** Paint by Numbers for Adults (with easier ones for kids, or less artistic adults!)
- **Coming in March**
 - **Parenting Small Group:** Jewel will be hosting a small group for parents. We’ll have thoughtful conversations about the most challenging aspects of parenting: parenting styles + love languages, how to handle tantrums, setting (and holding!) loving boundaries for our kids, and how to parent with your partner. This group is open to ANYONE, not just Covenant parents. You don’t need to be a regular attendee or a Christian to come to this small group! We want to learn and grow together as people from all walks of life.
 - There will be entertaining and thought-provoking programs for those who are not involved in the small group! March will bring you another piano/voice concert by Caroline Moledar (she wow-ed us in the fall, you won’t want to miss this!), an Earth Care Master Gardener event, a travelogue night, and a presentation on the famous Passion Play in Germany (Oberammergau).



Saturday, February 25th is "Super Hero Night" at the Dawg's hockey game!



Our Rail Yard Dawgs are having a great season! Get your tickets at this special link set up just for our Covenant group:

[Covenant Presbyterian Group Outing, February 25th](#)

This allows us to each purchase our own tickets in advance and be able sit together. The church bus will leave Covenant's parking lot at 6 PM.

Congratulations to our Chili Cook-Off Winners!



The "Chili Chefs" for 2023 have been crowned! In the Classic category, 1st place was taken by Gene Collier, with Seth Kepley awarded 2nd place. There was a tie in the Creative category with Lee Cutright and Laura Jane Ramsburg taking the honors. Thanks to all who participated in this year's event on January 13th!



Nine very full folks enjoyed the fabulous cooking at Gina's on Main Street in Salem in January! Be sure to watch your Sunday bulletin and Monday newsletters for more opportunities for great food and fellowship.

Youth Connection continues with our teens joining forces with the teens from Windsor Hills UMC. Upcoming events include a weekend retreat, a Youth Sunday, and more Youth Connection Sunday evenings. Christmas parties full of crafts, Santa exchanges, and great food fueled our holiday spirits.

Youth Sunday School is beginning an orderly series of the Old Testament. This follows a fall introduction into the timeline of Biblical events and world history.

Beyond Words: Jan Kraybill's 24th Annual Super Bowl Sunday Organ Concert

Dear Covenant friends,



I would like to introduce you to Dr. Jan Kraybill, an organist friend from Kansas City, Missouri. Grammy-nominated artist **Jan Kraybill** is a musical leader and dynamic speaker; a concert organist, pianist, and harpsichordist; an educator, church musician, and consultant; and an enthusiastic advocate for the power of music to change lives for the better.

Jan will be presenting her 24th Annual Super Bowl Concert entitled *Beyond Words* on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12 @ 2:00 PM CST (3:00 PM EST).

Jan has invited me to share with you her website: www.jankraybill.com and this link to see & hear her concert live only on that day:

www.youtube.com/live/Kr9tLUInIqU?feature=share

Be sure to visit her bio and read what an amazing musician she is. Absolutely incredible! Dr. Kraybill has inspired me as an organist and I learn from her tremendously, not only from her playing but from the amazing positive speaker she is, with the power behind music that brings hope for a better world. Dr. Kraybill in my book is one of the finest organists of today. It is a rare opportunity to hear this special concert live, so I hope you will be able to tune in. Enjoy!

Ronn Lowe





**Valentine's Day Care Packages
for our College Students –
Your Help Is Needed!**

This year we are inviting our congregation to support our project to send Valentine's Day Care packages to our college students. **We need your help to provide items for the packages, and to assemble the packages on Sunday, February 5 after worship.** Details about what items are needed were distributed by email on January 21st. There are also printed copies of the items needed on the table in Heritage Hall where the donation box is located. **All donated items are needed by Sunday, February 5.** Contact Teresa Wulff with questions. This project is sponsored by the Missions Team. (Any surplus items collected will be donated to the Pathways for Youth program at the Presbyterian Community Center in SE Roanoke.)



It Takes a Village – or a Congregation!!!

Many thanks to all who volunteered to make this first 2023 Family Promise week a success. We provided, food, shelter, listening ears, an opportunity to sing with the choir; a baby carriage (thanks to Cheryl and Tom Floyd) and diapers to name a few things.

Breakfast: Anne Currin, Carol Dibling, Kitty Mortara

Dinners: Mary Glenn Aydlett, Gail Trussell, Anne Hoge, Linda Thomas, Jim & Linda Eaton, Pattie Muller

Dinner Hosts: Meg & John Munton, Debbie McClure, Barbara Ann Boyd, Erin Woods, Kathy Barnhill, Pattie Muller

Evening Hosts: Debbie McClure, Maggie Moen, Lee Cutright, Erin Woods

Overnight Hosts: Cheryl & Tom Floyd; Lee & Jeff Cutright, Roger Dickenson, Laura Jane & Devon Ramsburg

Loaner Guitar: John McMillen

All were appreciative of the support and kindness bestowed by all church members. This mission serves as a safety net for families as they learn different coping strategies, budgeting strategies, life skills, job seeking, and ways of tapping into various community resources.

Our church family is blessed with so many who are willing to support these families in a non-judgmental way during a period of crisis in their lives.

Blessings to all,
Maggie Moen & Lee Cutright

"... I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly." – John 10:10

"Spirit of Giving" 2022 Program Results

The generosity of Covenant's congregation during the "Spirit of Giving" 2022 program will benefit many people in need in Guatemala and Malawi. **The total amount of funds collected was over \$10,000.** The Two Cents-a-Meal Grants from the Presbytery of the Peaks were \$1,500 for Guatemala and \$1,500 for Malawi. The Guatemala hospital and HALO programs will both receive funds; Marion Medical Missions will receive funds for shallow wells; our Mission Co-Worker Tyler Holm will receive fund; Malawi will receive funds to be used within the Kalikumbi congregations for the church and supplies, the hospital/clinic and hospital vehicle upkeep, secondary school fees, school materials, and other congregational needs to be determined by the Kalikumbi congregation committees. **Thank you to all those that have supported this Advent program with your gifts and prayers.**

Earth Care News



Flowers for Mom? Chocolates for your spouse? A valentine for a friend? How about some love for Mother Earth? In February, show your love of our Mother Earth, and join us on the Earth Care Team!

You don't need any special skills or a green thumb, just the desire to help the planet **and** our community. We can work with your schedule, availability, and interests. We have fun and do interesting things!

- Our Covenant vegetable garden is a "growing" success. We'd love to expand it, and we could do that with a larger team.
- We also plan Earth Care Sunday, create fun and educational projects for the youth, and obtain interesting speakers for the congregation, such as master gardeners and scientists.
- We ensure our facility is as "green" as possible and that we remain an Earth Care Certified Congregation.
- We collaborate with the Earth Care Teams at other Presbyterian churches to stage terrific events such as last year's Earth Care Summit.
- We have so many other amazing ideas, but we need your help!

We'd like suggestions for guest speaker topics – but we'd also love to have you join us on the Earth Care Team! Please see the Bulletin Board and our table in Heritage Hall for more information, or speak with any of our team members: Carol Merritt, Judy Barnes, Jerry Barnes, Ed Mahler, Deborah Patterson, Tomi Nave, Lisa Warden, & Kathy Barnhill.

The Covenant Library is developing a Resource Center!

Thanks to the generous donation of 7 large bookcases from Peace Church in Cloverdale, **and** the gracious, strong, and remarkably cheerful two men who spent hours hauling the bookcases to Covenant, the Resource Center is a reality and should be ready for use within the next few months. **Thank You**, John Munton and Lynn McGhee – you were truly “Angels with Wheels!”



John Munton & Lynn McGhee loading bookcases and other furnishings from Peace Church for Covenant's New Resource Center

One exciting feature in our new Resource Center is a section for Book Club selections. **All of you Book Clubbers can help us with this!** Whenever you and your own book clubs read exceptional books, we would be delighted to receive as many copies as possible. The books do not need to have a religious basis, they just need to be books that you would love to share for other book clubs to read.

Stay tuned to the weekly bulletins and Monday emails for our other library updates. We will be featuring books of the week. Our library is full of four- and five-star books. Take some home! And check out our new interactive display in Heritage Hall! Ideas, comments, and questions are always welcome! Contact us at LibraryGuild@covroanoke.org.



Covenant Conversations, the Book Club announces its new book study!

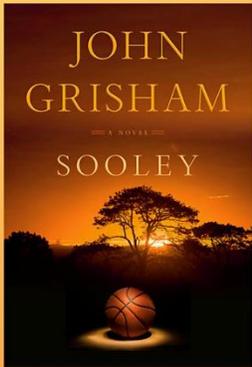
Sooley, the often Cinderella-like story of a South Sudanese teenager with rare, raw basketball talent, is a thrilling sports story and vivid depiction of life in the war-ravaged country of South Sudan. John Grisham, best-selling author of legal thrillers, takes us into a different kind of court with his first novel about basketball. This novel is an exciting page-turner with heart! You will cheer with Sooley as he gains basketball success, and you will weep with him when he is homesick for his family.

Covenant Conversations will meet at 7 PM on Thursday nights beginning February 9th via Zoom. The schedule is for 4 sessions of one hour each. Sign up in Heritage Hall or talk with/email Jewel to receive the Zoom link and reading assignments. Get your book and start reading today!

Covenant Conversations Book Club

Thursdays @ 7 PM on Zoom

beginning February 9th



Dear Covenant Family,

We deeply appreciate your many kind words, cards, and expressions of sympathy following the recent death of Bruce's brother, Michael Johnson. During a difficult time, we have been comforted by your compassion and Christian love; we have felt blessed in many ways by your care . . .

Thank You!

Bruce and Ruth Johnson

Elders Available Following Worship

An assigned Elder of the Month will be available just outside the Parlor/Kitchen area following morning worship service to take questions or hear comments regarding Covenant and will assist with information from any member or friend of the congregation as well as visitors. If an answer is not known, the Elder will follow-up with a response in a timely manner.

The Elder of the Month for February is Bruce Johnson.

Posting of Session Highlights

Session Highlights will no longer be included in the Covenant Connection newsletter.

Session Highlights were included in the newsletter as a way to keep Covenant members and friends of the congregation informed of actions taken by Session. With the link to the Covenant Connections newsletter now being available on Facebook, etc., it has been determined that some of the information posted in the session highlights is not appropriate for sharing with the wider social network.

Session Highlights, along with a link to an approved copy of the prior month's Session meeting minutes will now be shared with members and friends of the congregation via a separate email from Covenant sent out by office staff shortly after Session meets. For those interested, approved Session meeting minutes are available for viewing in a binder in the church library.

Meg Munton
Clerk of Session

Pastor's Sabbatical Leave: Information Update

The Terms of Call approved by Covenant's congregation in 2017, when Kyle became pastor, included an obligation for Kyle to receive a three-month sabbatical. An email was sent in September 2022 informing the members and friends of the congregation that Kyle would be taking a sabbatical leave during June, July, and August of 2023.

At the December 4, 2022, meeting of Session, a motion was approved to create an ad hoc team of individuals, who would be tasked with defining the pastoral services required during Kyle's sabbatical. This team is to identify potential candidates, reach out to them, vet them, interview them, determine the duties and responsibilities of the temporary position, and negotiate compensation and other terms and conditions of employment with the successful candidate.

The ad hoc team consists of the following members: **David Brand**, representing the Personnel and Policy Team; **Gene Collier**, representing Session; **Ginny Fedison**, representing the Worship Team; **Courtney Hoge**, representing the Trustees, and **Paul Weary**, representing the Finance Team. Dr. Kyle Allen will serve as a consultant to the team. The ad hoc team has recently met to begin the process indicated above.

The deadline for the March 2023 Newsletter is Thursday, February 16th @ 12 PM.

Church Office

Monday – Thursday: 9 AM – 4 PM; Friday: 9 AM – 2 PM ♦ Phone: 540-989-3314 ♦ Email: office@covroanoke.org

Preschool

Phone: 540-774-5222 ♦ Email: preschool.admin@covroanoke.org ♦ Website: www.covenantroanoke.org/preschool

FEBRUARY 2023

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

5

9:15am: Sunday School
10:30am: Worship
Bring Bread 

6

9:30am: Preschool Chapel
1:00pm: Preschool Soccer (Fellowship Hall)
4:00pm: Centering Prayer (Zoom)

7

9:30am: Staff Meeting
10:30am: Holy Hunch Brunch 

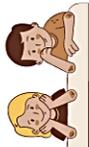
8

1:00pm: Preschool Gymnastics (Fellowship Hall)
7:30pm: Choir Practice
8 9:30am: Preschool Gymnastics (Fellowship Hall)
5:30pm: Fellowship Dinner Trivia + Games with Jewel
7:30pm: Choir Practice

9

7:00pm: Worship Team meets
9 9:30am: Presbytery Committee on Ministry (Zoom) 
7:00pm: Earth Care Team meets (Zoom)

10

5-8pm: Parents Night Out 

11

8am: Men's Bible Study

12

9:15am: Sunday School
10:30am: Worship
Hunger Offering 
Youth Lead Service
11:30am: Soup Luncheon
12pm: Youth deliver soup to PCC
Souper Bowl of Caring

13

9:30am: Preschool Chapel
10:30am: Women's Study meets
1:00pm: Preschool Soccer (Fellowship Hall)
4:00pm: Centering Prayer (Zoom)

14

9:30am: Staff Meeting
10:30am: Holy Hunch Brunch
6:30pm: Circle of Friends Meets

15

1:00pm: Preschool Gymnastics (Fellowship Hall) 
5:30pm: Fellowship Dinner with Jerry Barnes
7:30pm: Choir Practice

16

Presbytery Meeting (Zoom)
7:00pm: Personnel & Policy Team meets (Zoom)

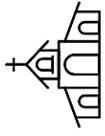
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8am: Men's Bible Study
Youth Retreat with Windsor Hills Youth 

18

8am: Men's Bible Study

19

9:15am: Sunday School
10:30am: Worship 

20

4:00pm: Centering Prayer (Zoom)
7:00pm: Finance Team meets
Communications Team meets

21

9:30am: Staff Meeting
10:30am: Holy Hunch Brunch
6:30pm: Missions Team meets (Zoom)

22

1:00pm: Preschool Gymnastics (Fellowship Hall) 
5:30pm: Fellowship Dinner
6:30pm: **Ash Wednesday** Service
7:30pm: Choir Practice

23

6pm: Church Bus to Rallyard Dawgs Hockey Game
"Super Hero Night!" 

24

25

8am: Men's Bible Study

26

First Sunday in Lent
9:15am: Sunday School
10:30am: Worship 
seeking: new paths for deeper faith

27

9:30am: Preschool Chapel
10:30am: Women's Study meets
1:00pm: Preschool Soccer (Fellowship Hall)
4:00pm: Centering Prayer (Zoom)

28

9:30am: Staff Meeting
10:30am: Holy Hunch Brunch

