The Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church

Covenant Connections

September 2023

Friends, where did the summer go?!

It is hard to believe that the Fall season is upon us, but the increase in activity around the church and the slightly cooler temps reveal that summer is wrapping up. The flurry of meetings this past week points to Bible studies, Sunday school classes, and various events soon to be filling the calendar for Covenant's Fall programs. This newsletter will share about some of the good things that are on the horizon for Covenant. I am excited for all that is in store for you in the coming season! I am also immensely grateful for my time with you this summer. I want to thank you all for the many ways you welcomed me this summer and I so appreciate the opportunity to be a part of Covenant's community.

It is truly a privilege to walk alongside a church for a season, even if just for a few quick summer months. There is a great energy at Covenant, and I hope you all feel it too! You have committed and hopeful leaders. You have a vibrant preschool that brings such joy to the hallways of the church. You have a building and grounds that reflect God's beauty. You have so many talented musicians and folks willing to share their gifts of music which makes your worship lively and expressive. I encourage you all to find ways to live out your faith both at Covenant and in your community.



As Kyle prepares to return, I pray that you will share with him the joyous, hopeful spirit that you shared with me. The gift of a time of sabbatical, which you graciously shared with your pastor, means that your pastor will return with some fresh perspectives and ideas, a rested spirit, and a readiness for what lies ahead. I pray that you continue to look for creative and new ways to share God's good news with the neighbors around you. Continue to build on the joyful momentum that you have and trust that God is doing many wonderful things at and through Covenant Presbyterian Church. Thank you again for the opportunity to walk, laugh, worship, and serve alongside of you this summer. I give thanks for the words of C.S. Lewis, who sums it up best, "Christians never say goodbye, they only say until we meet again!" That is the gift of the body of Christ and being the connectional church, and it is with joy that I know I will get to see you in our good work around this presbytery!



Rally Day: Rejoice! Join us for a joyful brunch following our 10:30 AM service on Sunday, September 10th where we will celebrate the beginning of our Faith Formation year with a *PIE-luck*. Sign up in Heritage Hall or online at <u>https://bit.ly/Pieluck</u> to bring **quiches or pies** of all varieties for a delicious brunch! We'll have fun games and prizes throughout our meal to keep us in a joyful mood.

Welcome Back, Kyle! Dr. Kyle Allen will be back with us in worship on Rally Day, following his Summer Sabbatical.

Sunday School is BACK! Our Christian Education school year starts up on September 17th, kicking off at 9:15 AM. There's something for everyone! Our youngest kids, Preschool to 5th grade, will meet in the Green Room and will be learning about the life and teachings of Jesus this year! Our teens will meet in the youth room and will continue working through the Old Testament.

Young (or young at heart) adults will be meeting in the Red Room and will be discussing ideas from Michael Shur's book How to Be Perfect: The Correct Answer to Everything. Adults will be meeting in the Blue Room watching and studying The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul by Adam Hamilton.

You'll also be greeted with freshly made coffee or tea in the Kitchenette! Children under 3 (or who aren't up for sitting still in Sunday School) are welcome to hang out in our nursery! I hope you'll join us – it's going to be a great year!





God's peace be with you, Rachel

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. ~ Philippians 4:6

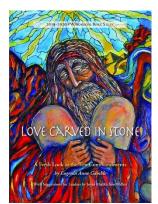
Church Members: Audrey Bashlor, Judi and Jerry Barnes, Christine Beck, Bette Brand, Rick Cranwell, Tricia Cronise, Mary Jane Fisher, Lynnmarie Hancock, Jerry Lawson, Lindsey Nanz, Ann Cecil Renick, Carol Ryan, June and Forrest Smith, Roger Tims, Jo Wilson, caregivers, military service members and families **Family & Friends:** Rob Ahlers, Kenneth Benner, Chuck Burgdorf, Mike Cummings, Jorja Davis, Patrick Dooley, Cesia Enriquez, Peggy Evans, Heather Ford, Tyler and Rochelle Holm, the people of Malawi, Jim McGill, Rich Moreau, Mike Overacker, Paula, Phil Peters, Mair Rubin, Jeffrey Scaggs, Jean Schneider, Joseph "Joe" Wallace, Daniel Woodbury, Religious violence against Christians in northeast India

Requests for the prayer list may be sent to: gails@covroanoke.org. Requests will be shared with the pastor and the Congregational Care Team. Please take a moment to review the prayer list and let the church office know if any names should be removed.

Covenant's Women's Circle of Friends will resume our monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm.

Our first meeting will be in the Red Room at the Church. We will continue our fellowship time, mission projects, and Bible study. Our Bible Study this year is *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments.*

Our group is open to all women of Covenant – members and friends. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Carol Gentry at <u>carolg5@cox.net</u> or 540-354-9054.



Covenant's Men's Bible Study & Fellowship will meet on Saturday, September 16th at 8 AM in the Red Room, continuing on the first and third Saturday of each month. Please contact John McMillen (<u>mcmilljd@gmail.com</u>) or Jeff Cutright (jcutright4@msn.com) for more information.



Holy Hunch Brunch meets on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM in the Blue Room, starting on September 19th! Join Jewel and Pastor Kyle for coffee,

food, and thoughtful conversation focused on the scriptures for each week's worship service.



As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. ~ 1 Peter 4:10

Rachel,

You definitely have a gift and we have been blessed by it. On behalf of the members and friends of Covenant, we thank you for your leadership, preaching, kindness, and smile over the past three months. God placed you to be with us and we are forever thankful. May God continue to watch over you, protect you, and bless you in your life journey.

Covenant Ad Hoc Team

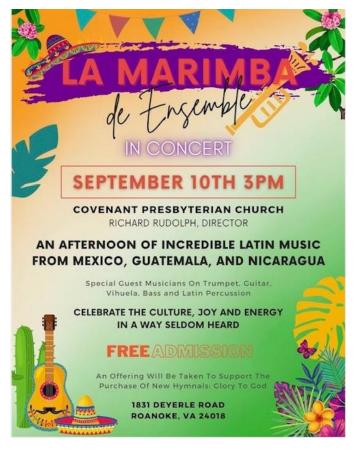
Women, if you enjoy making new friends and catching up with old ones, and if you enjoy learning, then Covenant's Women's Bible Study is a good fit for you!



We are a group of women who meet for fellowship, learning, and discussion. This year we will be using the *Drive Thru History: Ends of the Earth* video series curriculum, which chronicles the

dramatic spread of Christianity from its origins in Israel to nearly every region of the world. Entertaining host Dave Stotts travels the globe to tell the 2,000-year story of how the Gospel of Jesus Christ reached the ends of the Earth.

The group's first meeting of the fall will be Monday, September 25, from 10:30 AM – noon in Covenant's Blue Room. Thereafter, meetings will be on the second and fourth Mondays of each month through May. Please contact Sharon Nanz for more information (<u>slnanz@aol.com</u>).



Plan now to attend a benefit concert to raise money for our new *Glory to God* hymnals!

Join us Sunday afternoon September 10th at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary for a concert the likes of which you have never heard before! La Marimba Ensemble and guest musicians will present a high energy concert of Latin music from Mexico, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. The ensemble is under the direction of our own Richard Rudolph.

Come hear the music and learn about the rich culture of these countries and their peoples! There will be marimbas, trumpets, guitars, vihuelas, bass, and Latin percussion – and hopefully YOU. Don't miss this chance to support a good cause and have a wonderful afternoon!



Glory to God Hymnal Dedication

During our worship service on Sunday, September 17th we will dedicate our new hymnals, with gratitude and joy for the wonderful ministry they will provide. From old favorites to new, less-familiar hymns, this hymnal holds a diversity of styles, genres, and languages. It contains 800+ songs with about 50% from the current hymnal. We are so excited to have this new addition to our worship services!



Wednesday Night Dinners

Looking for a night off from cooking? Join us **Wednesday nights from 5:30 – 7:00 PM starting September 20**, for a free meal (with suggested donation to cover costs). This year we're discontinuing take-outs to encourage fellowship and cut back on plastics. HOWEVER, if you don't have time to stay, but want to enjoy Jim and Linda Eaton's cooking, you're welcome to bring your own Tupperware and walk through the line! See below for dates and menus – stay tuned for a list of activities!

> September 20 Pulled Pork + Mac & Cheese

September 27 Lasagna, Garlic Bread + Caesar Salad

October 4 – Oktoberfest! Bratwurst, Sauerkraut + German Potato Salad

> October 11 Baked Potato + Salad Bar

October 18 – Mediterranean Night! Chicken Shawarma + Greek Orange Honey Cake

> October 25 – Halloween! Taco Bar

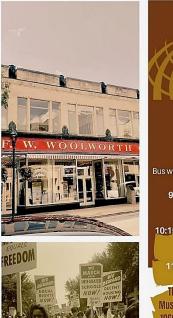
November 1 Baked Ziti, Garlic Bread + Caesar Salad

November 8 – Veterans Tribute Catered Dinner with Special Program



Parent's Night Out! Friday, September 29th from 5 PM – 8 PM Watch for sign up details coming soon!







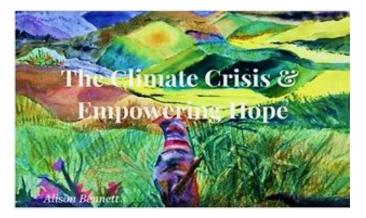
see the Peaks Presbytery website to reserve your seat *bus transportation and museum admission included Justice and Mercy Commission Racial Equity Subcommittee Blacksburg Presbyterian Church

Bus Trip to the International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro on Saturday, October 7th

Organized by the Presbytery of the Peaks Justice and Mercy Commission. Space is limited and registration closes on Thursday, September 21st. A chartered bus will leave from Peace Presbyterian-Roanoke at 9 AM, to arrive in Greensboro by 11:30 AM for a guided tour of the museum. After the tour, the group will gather for a meal and discussion before returning to Roanoke. Find more details and registration information in Heritage Hall and at peakspresbytery.org/event/bus-trip-international-civil-rightscenter-museum



On "TV Night" watched a fun "Frazier" episode and learned more about the Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build.



There's exciting news for anyone who cares about the Earth, and that should be everyone!

Hosted by the national organization Presbyterians for Earth Care, you can join Presbyterians around the country for an inspiring conference: **"The Climate Crisis & Empowering Hope"** taking place September 20-23, 2023!

There are options for participating in-person and virtually, and you can attend just one day or multiple days. In-person activities are in Harrisonburg, Virginia (as well as Arkansas, Minnesota, and California), but you can attend online from the comfort of your home!

Through fellowship, worship, study, and workshops, the conference offers opportunities to learn more about the current climate crisis and how we as individuals, congregations, and a denomination can make a difference. There's a diverse range of workshops! A few examples are: Eating and Living for a Healthy Climate, Home Energy Conservation: Electrifying Everything, and Faithful Banking & Investment. More conference details can be found at this link:

presbyearthcare.org/2023-conference

Save the Date – Saturday, November 4th Trip to the D-Day Memorial and Lunch

The church bus will take us to Bedford to this beautiful, meaningful memorial. Please go to the website and read about the planning and significance of this major event in WWII: <u>The National D-Day Memorial (dday.org)</u>



Watch for more details about departure time and tickets in the near future. A signup sheet will be in Heritage Hall.

Covenant Presbyterian Preschool

Anne Craig, Director



Save the Date!!! Saturday, October 21

At Covenant Presbyterian Church the congregation is making a commitment to build a strong relationship with the preschool and the families that attend our preschool. We are grateful for the many good things our preschool brings to our church.

This fall we are having a **Spaghetti Dinner, Art Auction & Raffle on Saturday, October 21 from 5:30-7:30 pm.** The funds raised will be used for the pressing needs of the preschool in ways to develop and encourage each child through an enriched program of spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental growth.

Watch for ways that you can help and participate in the fall fundraiser for Covenant Presbyterian Preschool.

Please mark your calendar and come support Covenant Preschool's Spaghetti Dinner, Raffle & Art Auction!

Help our Preschool by donating these needed supplies:

- Baby Wipes
- Clorox Wipes
- Paper Towels
- Tissues
- Pump Hand Sanitizer
- Gallon-size Ziploc bags.

A collection box is in the church vestibule. Thank you for supporting our Preschool!

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Support our Preschool with Kroger Community Rewards

This program is a great **free** way for the Preschool to raise extra funds! All you need to do is link your Kroger card and the Preschool will receive funds quarterly from Kroger. It's that easy. Log in to Kroger.com, click "Community Rewards" and "Enroll Now." The Preschool organization number is **LR616**. We appreciate your support!

Preschool Fall Fundraiser Saturday, October 21

Here Is How You Can Help with the Fall Preschool Fundraiser!!!

We will be creating **Raffle Theme Baskets**! Below are a few ideas for items we could use to fill the raffle baskets but feel free to be creative. If you would like to donate an item to help fill a basket, plan to spend around \$10 per item. There will be a basket in Heritage Hall to collect items from September 17 to October 8.

Outdoor Fun Basket

Sidewalk chalk Bubbles & bubble wands Bug kit Binoculars Kid's garden tools & gloves Birdhouse painting kit Picnic Blanket Gift card (Target/Walmart)

Dress-up/Pretend Basket

Costumes/Tutus Hats/Headbands Play food Cash register/Play money Stuffed animals/Dolls Toy Doctor kit Sports Gear

Baking Basket

Cookie cutters Icing & sprinkles Chocolate chips Marshmallows Baking Mix/Baking sheets Kid-friendly cookbook Kroger gift card Cook's Nook gift card

Coffee & Chocolate Basket

Chocolate bars Box of chocolates Gourmet hot chocolate mix Coffee mugs Specialty coffee/coffee grinder Brownie/Cookie Mix Coffee shop gift card Chocolate shop gift card

Activities Basket

Outdoor games Puzzle/Activity books Board games/Card games Frisbees/Balls Gift card (Target/Walmart) Gift card to local attraction

Arts & Crafts Basket

Paint/Watercolors/Brushes Gel pens/Crayon markers Beads & Craft Kits Playdough/Stickers Craft paper Construction paper Michaels gift card Joann Fabrics gift card

Family Fun at Home & in Roanoke

Gift cards for local restaurants/attractions Movie theater gift card Pizza gift card Blanket Small bottles/cans of soda Candy, popcorn & popcorn bucket

Join us on Saturday, October 21 at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall for A Spaghetti Dinner, Art Auction, Raffle Baskets & Fun!!!

If you have any questions, please contact Anne Currin (540-312-9880 or annecurrin5024@gmail).

Thank you for supporting this fundraiser for Covenant Presbyterian Preschool.

Youth Connection

The youth have had a wonderful summer of water adventures! The teens and parents want to thank the Ridenour family for a July lake day filled with boat rides, tubing, dinner, and hand cranked ice cream. A second day of swimming fun came from the Farthing family as they opened their pool, complete with diving board, for a full afternoon of fun, food, and games in August.

Our teens are now into the school year with academics, band, sports, chorus, robotics, and other extracurricular activities. Stay tuned for more news from our teens as we return to a chronological study of the Old Testament in Sunday School, mission projects, and Sunday evening activities with Windsor Hills UMC!











The Joy of Giving

Dear Covenant Family,

We are entering an exciting time to be a part of our church family for many reasons. First, the Long-Range

Planning Team and congregational leadership have put forth numerous improvements to our church building that will increase our accessibility and ability to reach the community. A new playground, accessible doors, new signage, kitchen upgrades and upgraded video capabilities are the Session approved projects happening now. Covenant has been blessed with generous donations to fund these important projects.

Also, Covenant is beginning to grow in numbers not seen in recent years. Whether it is a church filled with children or numerous new friendly faces, there is a feeling of excitement at Covenant.

Finally, Covenant remains engaged in dynamic and important ministries. For anyone with a heart to serve, there are all kinds of missions to become engaged in, both locally and globally. As demonstrated at the Mission Fair in May, we participate in numerous traditional organizations, as well as providing new mission outreaches.

During this exciting time at Covenant, our dreams and aspirations require teamwork. Please keep up your pledges as this is important to keep funding the mission of Covenant Presbyterian Church. The well-being of the church and our mission initiatives are all attainable if we all work together with our own joys of gratitude. Covenant is unique and blessed to have each and every participant with us. Additional information will be available in the fall regarding specific ways to contribute to our church's journey. Thanks for being a part of our congregation's effort to Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples.

Sincerely,

Your Generosity Team



New Playground Pla n



Main Entrance Sign

Update from the Long-Range Planning Team

Much has happened since the Officer's Retreat in March 2023 when Capital Projects were presented, carefully discussed as they relate to the mission of the Church and finally voted upon. Teams were set up to focus on the projects and amazing things happened:

- 1. The conversion of the Parlor to a Family Room is complete.
- 2. Clearing of the Fellowship Hall stage is near completion.
- 3. The playground upgrade project has been fully funded by a generous donation from a member. New equipment has been ordered and work is scheduled to begin in late fall.
- 4. Installation of accessible front doors is complete. Thanks to another generous member's donation, this project was also fully funded.
- 5. Outdoor and indoor signage is in progress and will be completed shortly. Thank you to Greg and Andrea Stevens for donating their time and talent, as well as their generous donation of all costs.
- 6. Video upgrades in the Sanctuary for better livestreaming will be moving forward shortly thanks to several generous donations.
- 7. Fellowship Hall Kitchen upgrades are underway, also thanks to a generous member's donation.
- 8. Fellowship Hall upgrade/refurbishment is in committee for ongoing consideration.
- 9. The Columbarium project is being reviewed from a feasibility standpoint.
- 10. A solar energy project for Covenant is in committee for ongoing consideration.

All of these things have been accomplished in the last 6 months, for the benefit of our Covenant church family. We are truly blessed!





Mary Blackwell has been Covenant Presbyterian's Sexton for 21 years. Many church members would not know her as she works after 4 PM or on the weekends cleaning primarily the downstairs areas. Mary is retiring at the end of August and cards and gifts will be collected for her through September 17. Checks may be made payable to Debbie McClure and gift cards will be purchased with any donations. Mary plans on doing some home improvements. An envelope is on the Volunteer Desk in Heritage Hall (marked "Debbie McClure"). Thanks for remembering this special long-time employee!

Congratulations to . . .

Gary and Rowena Stein on their recent marriage! After ten years together they had a spring wedding in Vegas, with their children in attendance, and they honeymooned at the Grand Canyon. Welcome, Rowena, to our Covenant family!

Kyle & Beth Allen on the arrival of their 2nd grandson, Adam Turner Preece, on Thursday, August 17th, in Charlotte, NC. Their oldest daughter Courtney, husband Jeffery & 3-year-old Cole welcome baby Adam to the family. Elizabeth is excited to be Aunt to both Cole & little Adam.

With Thanks . . .

I want to thank all of you at CPC for the many thoughts, prayers, and cards that were sent to me during my recent knee surgery. My Covenant family means so much to me. I felt the love from all of you. My healing is going great ... now on with the other knee! Love & Blessings, Betty Young

Dear Covenant Family,

David and I want to thank each of you for your prayers and support as I heal from my accident. Rachael's sermon this past Sunday on "Seeing Jesus" really resonated with me. With every meal, call, email, card, or visit, we saw God's love shining through each of you. We also saw God's love as we learned grace to accept each of the gifts from you. My doctors diagnosed my injuries, but the real healing happened because of our loving church.

Thank you, Bette and David Brand



Toiletries and Clothing Drive

Covenant Presbyterian is coordinating a Toiletries and Clothing Drive for the patients of the Bradley Free Clinic's HOPE Initiative during their rehabilitation. Soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste are especially needed, as well as casual adult clothing (new/gently used), underwear, T-shirts and socks (new). Please bring items to the designated box in the vestibule. Thank you!

Hunger Offering/Two-Cents-A-Meal

On the second Sunday of each month, we receive our special hunger offering to assist the Presbyterian Community Center Food Pantry and other hunger initiatives supported by The Presbytery of the Peaks. So far this year, our congregation has given \$5,499. Thank you for your generosity!





The Warm Heart of Afrika: Malawi Mission News 2023

Variety! This is the word to describe our two-week Malawi mission to Kalikumbi and Embangweni_in June 2023. We had nine members with different expertise, experiences, and talents to share with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rewarding! It was so rewarding to see old friends and make new friends. Rev. BK Kaira is now the pastor in Kalikumbi. Embangweni has new copastors with Rev. Longwe as Head of Station and his wife Rev. Nellie Longwe as the Chaplin at the Embangweni Mission Hospital. This is a first in the CCAP church...sounds familiar to Covenant history! These are very dedicated leaders of many people.





Rev. Longwe & Rev. Nellie Longwe

Rev. John & Florence Gondwe

Activities and Programs! The word variety covers this area again. Our team was involved in "Drip Irrigation" training and garden set-ups in several different village areas; team member Rev. Dick Boswell led many prayers and preached at the church service in Kalikumbi; trips to the hospital "out clinics" for pre- and post-natal women's care and education, DaysForGirls education and distribution 150 of menstrual/hygiene kits in two different schools; two eye clinics for vision evaluation with 191 people seen and referrals for further care and the distribution of reading glasses; four classes in three different schools on the importance of "Earth Care, Bats, and Pollination"; prayer visits to patients and families in the hospital; tutoring students in various classes and schools; a large painting renovation in Deaf School Chapel; and training and sharing time with the leaders and members of SCOM (Student Christians of Malawi) local organization.

Results! The real outcome of this "multi-project" mission is working alongside the people of Malawi in their space and living situations. All of our projects had local people involved in the planning and execution of activities. With "feet and eyes on the ground" we again know what the needs and wants are for continuing our future projects and Christian relationship with Malawi.







Hospital vehicles being pushed into a bay for repair. It will take \$10,000 to get the ambulances and vehicles back into good dependable condition.



Drip irrigation in a new village garden. The buckets are filled with water twice daily, which drips through the hoses next to the seeds and plants.



Eunice Bonda, a trained DFT educator presenting a student with her hygiene kit. This is the Deaf School Chapel that has now been repainted. The Noah's Ark mural has also been restored.



Kalikumbi Eye Care Clinic Fitting reading glasses to Anne, with a minor surgery in the background

