# March 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Melissa Harmon preaching | 6 | 7 | 8 12:45-3 WSO Chamber Music Rehearsal (S) | 9 12:45-3 WSO Chamber Music Rehearsal (S) | 10 | 11 |
| 12 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Elder Mark Wilson preaching | 13 | 14 6pm Session Meeting (L) | 15 | 16 6-10:30 WSO Chamber Music Rehearsal (S) Newsletter Deadline—April 2023 | 17 | 18 7pm WSO Chamber Music Concert |
| 19 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Rev. Janet Onnie preaching 4pm MBU Annual Hymn Festival (S) | 20 | 21 6pm PW Evening Circle | | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Karen Edwards preaching | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |



# First Impressions

*Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church*
*Staunton, Virginia*
March 2023

## Updates from Session

- The Admin Committee is hard at work on the Stewardship Campaign. We thank everyone who has already pledged.
- The Interim Minister Search Committee is hard at work interviewing candidates.
- Worship Committee continues to work to provide pulpit supply.
- Property Committee has arranged repairs to be made to some of the kitchen equipment.
- Mission and Outreach Committee will be placing Presbyterian Disaster Relief information in your bulletins soon.
- Congregational Care is providing coffee and cookies for socializing after the church service.

There will be a Session meeting Tuesday, March 14 at 6:00pm in the Library.

***First Impressions*** is a publication of First Presbyterian Church
100 East Frederick St., Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 886-0704
stauntonfirst@gmail.com and www.1stpres-staunton.org

## Communion Training

**Wondering if you can do anything to help the church right now?**

SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY
A COMMUNITY OF CHRIST FOR WORSHIP, NURTURE & MISSION

### Communion Training for Ruling Elders

On **Saturday, April 29**, Shenandoah Presbytery will host a Training for Ruling Elders to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Every Session is invited to endorse one or two Ruling Elders to receive this training (**they do not need to be currently serving**) but is especially for those congregations without pastoral leadership.

Ruling Elders should fill out the registration form at https://shenpres.breezechms.com/form/elder-communion-April2023 and will, in turn, receive study materials prior to our training. We will meet at the Resource Center, the ground floor of the "Nook" building at Massanetta Springs Conference Center.

NOTE - this training is a 1 day training, 9:30-2:30. It will include discussions about the theology and polity of the Lord's Supper, and also a practicum part (pouring/ praying/presiding). Bring a lunch; snacks will be provided.

If you have any questions, contact the Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao at assocgp@shenpres.org, or call (904) 806-5795.



## Health News

### COVID-19 News

According to the New York Times:

**Latest trends**

- The community level of COVID-19 in Staunton is **low** based on cases and hospitalizations, according to the most recent update from the CDC on February 16, 2023.
- Recent data for **hospitalized COVID patients** has **risen** in the Staunton area. **Deaths** have remained at about the same level.
- Test positivity rate in Staunton is **very high**.

**How to Read COVID Data Now**

Higher test positivity rates are a sign that many infections are not reported—even if they are tested for at home. This results in a more severe undercount of cases.
The number of hospitalized patients with COVID is a more reliable measure, because testing is more consistent in hospitals.

People may choose to wear a mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

**Free at-home COVID-19 tests**

To order free at-home COVID-19 tests, please visit: https://www.covid.gov/tests

## Heifetz News

**Heifetz International Music Institute at Mary Baldwin University**

Heifetz is thrilled to announce the launch of **Heifetz Hear & Now** – a new Sunday afternoon chamber music concert series taking place on the campus of Mary Baldwin University in Staunton, Virginia. Each concert will feature world-renowned Heifetz faculty artists, joined by outstanding alumni participating in the Institute's innovative Heifetz Ensemble in Residence program, performing in the friendly intimacy of MBU"s Francis Auditorium.

**Individual Tickets: $25**
**Free Admission for MBU Students**
*(must register in advance & present valid student ID at the door)*
**$5 tickets for all other students**
*(must register in advance & present valid student ID*

The next concert will take place Sunday, March 5, featuring Ilya Kaler.

For further info, please visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/heifetz-hear-now-ilya-kaler-tickets-419656492867



## PW News

**Exciting News for Presbyterian Women**

To all the wonderful ladies of First Presbyterian:

We have exciting news to share! Presbyterian Women are pleased to announce that we will resume our regular monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of every month, starting on March 21st at 6:00 pm in the church library. We sincerely hope you will join us, as we revitalize this critical piece of the work and worship at First Pres.

PW has always been a place to gather and share in fellowship with others. I saw a great sign outside the Brethren Church near me - "Christ is joy."

We want you to feel this God-given joy each and every month as we share a meal, participate in a meaningful Bible Study, and plan our outreach to the community.

Donna Goble has generously offered to provide a ham for our March meeting, so please bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you do not have time to prepare anything, please come anyway. We always have plenty. We would appreciate a head count, so respond to Heidi if you can make it. And feel free to bring guests - all are welcome!

If you have questions, comments, suggestions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We look forward to seeing you on the 21st.

- Susie Lendermon

## PW News

**Shenandoah Presbytery Presbyterian Women 2023 Spring Gathering**

**Saturday, April 15 Massanetta Springs**

All women are invited from throughout Shenandoah Presbytery as Presbyterian Women meet on April 15th at Massanetta Springs to celebrate, fellowship and worship together. The registration deadline is April 1st. Please feel free to contact Pam Snyder, Leadership Coordinator for PW in Shenandoah Presbytery at pamsnyder1063@gmail.com if you have questions or need additional information about the PW Spring Gathering.

**REGISTRATION:**

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Home Church: _____

**Arrangement for Special Assistance:**

*Golf cart shuttle will be available*

☐ Special needs (dietary, mobility)

_____

_____

☐ Medical issues:

_____

_____

Emergency contact & phone:

_____

Been to Spring Gathering before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*The Annual Spring Gathering is open to **ALL** women (teen to adult). You do not have to be a member of a PW group.*

*(cont. on. p. 5)*



## Church News & General Info

**Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Performing at First Pres!**

Please join us for a chamber music concert presented by the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, March 18 at 7:00pm in our sanctuary. We hope you can join us!

**Newsletter Deadline for April 2023**

The deadline for submissions for the April issue of First Impressions is **Thursday, March 16.** Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

**Time to Spring Forward!**

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12 at 2:00am. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour.

## Church News

### March Birthdays

| | |
|---|---|
| 7 | Cord Lowman |
| 8 | Sharon Driscoll |
| | Daniel Garrison |
| 9 | Dick Cox |
| 14 | Paige Kullman |
| 16 | Steve Hollar |
| 23 | Lucinda Cooke |
| 24 | Will Dod III |
| | Caroline Lowman |
| 28 | Molly Cox |
| 29 | Maggie Lowman |
| 31 | Debra Norville |

### In the Pulpit March 2023

**March 5**: Melissa Harmon
**March 12**: Elder Mark Wilson
**March19**: Janet Onnie
**March 26**: Karen Edwards

**Happy Valentine's Day from Congregational Life!**

Congregational Life delivered seven rosebuds to the following homebound members for Valentine's Day: Nancy Carey, Nancy Hall, Doris Dixon, Sandy Kirtley, Opal Homan, Julie Furr, and Eleanor and Sidney Supple.

If you know anyone else who should be on this list, is sick or in the hospital, please notify Barbara Richardson or Alice Herbst. Thank you!



## PW News

*(cont. fr.. p. 4)*

**"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." - Colossians 3:12**

**8:30 am**
*Registration, exhibits, and refreshments*

**9:45 am**
*Meeting, worship, installation of officers, communion, and music*

**12:30 pm**
*Luncheon*

**WORSHIP SPEAKER & COMMUNION:**

Rev. Joel Thornton

The son of a Presbyterian minister and a public school educator, Rev. Thornton was born and raised in the mountains of southwestern Virginia. A graduate of Virginia Tech and Columbia Theological Seminary, he served as an interpreter for humanitarian missions to Ukraine and Romania before his ordination to the ministry. Rev. Thornton has been a PC(USA) minister for 25 years. He currently serves churches in Lost City and Wardensville, WV.

**SPECIAL MUSIC WILL BE PROVIDED!**

**EXHIBITORS**

- Massanetta Springs Camp & Conference Center
- Sunnyside Communities
- First Step Virginia
- LDA Creations/Silver Lake Workshops
- More to come

*(cont. on. p. 6)*

## PW News

*(cont. fr.. p. 5)*

Offering collected for the day will go to the Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission to support their building fund.

**COST:**

**Registration fee:**
**#** of Adults ____ x $5.00 = $_____

**Joining us for Lunch:**
Adult or youth 13+___ x $13.00= $____
Youth ages 3 to 12 ___ x $8.00 = $____
Under age 3 _____ FREE

**Childcare**: (List # of Children and Ages)
Number: ____ Ages:_____

**TOTAL:** $_____

Please send form with check made payable to Presbyterian Women no later than **April 1, 2023** to:

Karen Stevens
Treasurer
Shenandoah Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team
251 Rosser Avenue
Waynesboro, VA 22980

**Questions:** Contact Karen Stevens at 540-430-1626, stevenskr2005@yahoo.com or Connie Wood @ 304-897-5469, farmwood@hardynet.com

**Come enjoy a day of fellowship and worship!**



## Missions

### Syria-Turkey Earthquake

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in the aftermath of the 7.8- magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks in Syria and Turkey. Thousands are reported dead and injured, numbers that will rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria.

PDA is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas. PDA will remain active throughout the recovery process, accompanying our partners as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the "GAP" for the people affected by this catastrophic earthquake?

**GIVE:** PDA's emergency response and specialization in long-term recovery is fueled by your generous gifts. Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/give-STearthquake, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR999999-ST earthquake" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

**PRAY:** *God of mercy, we join in prayer for our siblings in Syria and Turkey, and all other regions affected. In the face of the terrible images that come to us, we ask that your Spirit, O God, once again move in the midst of chaos and destruction. May you provide protection, energy and strength through your presence.*

❍ $500 ❍ $125 ❍ $50 ❍ $25 ❍ Other $_____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/PIN _____

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

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