

April 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat 1
2 Palm Sunday 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Elder Mark Wilson	3	4	5	6 Maundy Thursday	7 Good Friday	8
9 Easter Sunday Sanctuary FB Live Elder Mark Wilson preaching	10 Easter Monday Church Office Closed 11am MBU setup, rehearsals 12pm, 5pm (S)	11 6pm Session Meeting (L)	12 10:30am Grace Christian (S) 7pm MBU Spring Choral Concert (S)	13	14	15
16 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Elder Mark Wilson preaching	17	18 6pm PW Evening Circle (L)	19 Newsletter Deadline—May	20	21	22
23 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Rev. Janet Onnie preaching	24	25	26	27 5:15 WSO Rehearsal (S)	28	29 7:30pm WSO Concert (S) 10pm Reception (FH)
30 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Melissa Harmon preaching	27	28	29	30	31	

First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

Staunton, Virginia

April 2023



Updates from Session

- On Saturday, March 11, Barbara Richardson and her committee of volunteers, David Lowman, Robin Dietrich, Sara Anderson, Jamie Morris, Alice Herbst and friend, Sue, inventoried, cleaned, and organized the church kitchen, disposing of items that were out of date or no longer usable.
- Ron Lowman and the Property committee have been busy repairing needed areas in the kitchen and painting cabinets. Also fixed was a broken lamp post outside that is now embedded in concrete.
- Stephany Morgan of the Mission and Outreach Committee met with the pastor of Christ United Methodist Church to discuss collaboration between our churches in service to and with Mary Baldwin students.
- Donna and Paul Goble and Stephany met with the Afghan refugee family to discuss how FPC could assist in their adjustment to living in the US and in Staunton.
- Amanda Avery was named to be Co-Treasurer along with Scott Wilson.

Session Meeting

There will be a Session meeting Tuesday, April 11 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?



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 March 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 **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>

Community News

Eggstravaganza!

- **Date:** April 1, 2023, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- **Location:** Montgomery Hall Park Soccer Complex



Please join for the Annual Egg Hunt and Eggstravaganza Festival, complete with moon bounce, old-fashioned egg coloring, refreshments, arts and crafts activities, face painting, and surprise entertainers. BYOB (bring your own basket). Free event!

Egg Hunt Ages/Times:

2 & 3 years: 10am

4 & 5 years: 10:30am

6 & 7 years: 11am

8 to 10 years: 11:30am

Upcoming Events

Mary Baldwin University Spring Choral Concert

Mary Baldwin University presents their Spring Choral Concert Wednesday, April 12 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. We hope you can join us!



Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Concert

The Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra will perform in concert: "Fate Returns" on Saturday, April 29 at 7:30pm in our sanctuary. For this season's finale concert, they will perform an iconic orchestral masterwork, "Mahler: Symphony No. 5". Admission is free, although donations are gratefully accepted at the door or online by credit card via their website: waynesborosymphonyorchestra.org/ways-to-give



We hope you can be there!

Church News



Church Office Closed Monday, April 10

The church office will be closed Monday, April 10 for Easter Monday. We hope everyone has a wonderful Easter!

PW Evening Circle

Presbyterian Women Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, April 18 at 6:00pm in the Library. Donna Goble will provide a main dish for our April 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 Susie Lendermon.

We look forward to seeing you on the 18th!



In the Pulpit April 2023

April 2/Palm Sunday: Elder Mark Wilson

April 9/Easter Sunday: Elder Mark Wilson

April 16: TBD

April 23: Rev. Janet Onnie

April 30: Melissa Harmon

Montreat News



DISCOVERING RENEWAL

April 10–13, 2023
at Montreat Conference Center

Feeling Burnout? Montreat Can Help!

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." - Matthew 11:28

Our culture values hard work over rest. Burnout is rampant. Our jobs, obligations, and churches often expect us to work relentlessly. Hard work is good, but it is not the goal. We often preach about the importance of Sabbath, but how often do we take our own advice? What we need is to take time to breathe, to engage our senses, to use neglected literal and figurative muscles so that we might discover the renewal Sabbath offers.

Several programs are offered. For further info or to register, please visit <https://montreat.org/events/renewal-2023?mraid=cc>

Around Our Community

Staunton preparing for changes in recycling and trash programs

Please see the following article in the News Leader:

Talking trash: Changes to Staunton's refuse and recycling programs on the way

<https://www.newsleader.com/story/news/2023/03/07/staunton-preparing-for-changes-in-recycling-and-trash-programs/69982187007/>



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
at the door)*

Free Admission for Children 12 and under

The next concert will take place **Sunday, April 9**, featuring
Steven Doane & Rosemary Elliot.

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

Church News

April Birthday List



2	Sherry Cox
	Robin Dietrich
	Elizabeth Lowman
5	Nancy Carey
	Bret Ritchie
8	Kola Danisa
	Fay Knicley
11	Molly Morris
14	Jean Cline
16	Sam A. Clem
17	Evan Lendermon
22	Jenny Dixon
23	Helen Wood
	Stephany Morgan



Newsletter Deadline for May 2023

The deadline for submissions for the May 2023 issue of First
Impressions is Wednesday, April 19. Please submit any info you
would like to include by then. Thank you!

Congregational Life News

Church Kitchen

Thank you to the volunteers and members of the Congregational Life Committee who inventoried, cleaned and organized the church kitchen. Job well done!



Pictured: David Lowman, Robin Dietrich, Barbara Richardson, Alice Herbst, Sara Lewis. Not pictured: Jamie Morris, Sue Meniktos

Around Our Community



Help Protect Your Identity with DCCU Shred Days

Stop by a DCCU branch between 9:00am-12:00pm to have your documents securely shredded for free and support the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.

Our goal is to keep our members and employees safe. If you are planning to attend, please keep these guidelines in mind:

- ♦ Stay in your vehicle
- ♦ Staff will retrieve your items and return any boxes or bags to you
- ♦ If you do not feel well or have recently been exposed to COVID-19, please do not attend
- ♦ Limit the amount of shred to three (3) large trash bags.

Shred Dates and Locations:

April 8

Kaylor, Harrisonburg
Stuarts Draft

April 15

South High, Harrisonburg
Riverside, Waynesboro

April 29

Verona
Woodstock

May 6

Downtown Staunton
Stone Port, Harrisonburg

May 13

Lucy Lane, Waynesboro