

August 2023



First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
Staunton, Virginia
August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 11am Worship Chapel FB Live Town Hall- after worship	7	8 6pm Session Meeting (L)	9	10	11	12
13 11am Worship Chapel FB Live	14	15 6:00pm PW Evening Circle (L)	16 10am- 12pm Home Goods Pantry	17 Pastor Jeff- Presbytery Meeting (all day)	18 Newsletter Deadline— September	19
20 11am Worship Chapel FB Live	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 11am Worship Chapel FB Live	28	29	30	31		

Letter from the Pastor

Celebrating Our History

I've been reading *The History of First Presbyterian Church: Staunton Virginia, 1804-2004* by Dorothy A. Boyd-Rush and Katharine L. Brown over the past few weeks. Many of our members have been part of this history over the years. You may have read the book yourself (if you haven't yet, come and get a free copy!)



As "the new guy" in town, I wonder what stories stick out for you. *If we were to make a timeline of church events over the past one hundred years, what would you include? Would you include your own family history? Maybe a baptism, wedding, or funeral? Would you include a tenure of a beloved previous pastor? Would you include a special program, event, or trip that you participated with? Are there events or moments that we should also include, that maybe are hard to talk about? If we continued the book from 2004 to today, what should we include?*

Part of our interim journey together is celebrating our history. But alongside that, part of our journey also involves talking about both the good and bad of our past.

(cont. on p. 2)

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
Rev. Jeff Binder, Interim Minister

Celebrating Our History

So consider this an invitation! I would LOVE to take you out for coffee or a meal, and hear about the history of First Presbyterian! Or if you would like, I'd LOVE to join you for a visit at your home! Let's be sure to celebrate our history, to be honest about our past and present, and to pray for God's voice calling us faithfully into the future.

On Sunday, August 6th, I would also like to invite you to a "town hall" gathering following worship. I'd like to further introduce myself, share with you a little more about the interim ministry process, and perhaps answer any questions you may have at this time (as long as I have the answers!) Stay tuned for more information.

In the meantime, I hope to see you at the church soon! Please continue to wear name tags and introduce yourself; this is most helpful!

In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Church Attendance for Past Month - 2023

(in person and online)

June 25: 28

July 2: 42

July 9: 32

July 16: 36

TOTAL: 138

The Church and Gun Violence Program

- ◆ Welcome & Introductions
- ◆ Worship
 - Scripture
 - Hymn
 - Prayers
- ◆ Statistics & Facts about Gun Violence in America
- ◆ Augusta County Sheriff Donald Smith
- ◆ Questions, Comments & Conversation
 - During this time, we will dialogue to share our thoughts and ideas with one another. A whiteboard will be used to list key observations and ideas.
- ◆ Worship
 - Prayers
 - Hymn
 - Blessing

**The Jason Lovins Band at Cavalry Baptist Church
Sunday, August 6, 2023**

Calvary Baptist Church invites you and your congregation to an evening of worship with the Jason Lovins Band in concert on Sunday, August 6 at 6:00pm.

Cavalry Baptist Church
105 Garland Dr., Staunton
540-885-5512/www.cbcstaunton.org
cavalrybaptist@cbcstaunton.org

**Staunton Music Festival at Central United
Methodist Church in August!**



The six Staunton Music Festival concerts originally planned for First Presbyterian have been moved to Central United Methodist Church. All concerts are free and open to the public, and will take place at noon on the following dates: August 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 19.

Around Our Community

The Church and Gun Violence

A workshop to discuss the Church's voice in addressing gun violence in America

Saturday, August 19

9:30-11:00am

Verona United Methodist Church

407 Lee Hwy, Verona, VA

540-248-7777/www.veronaumc.net

Pastor: Ed Rigg

You're invited to participate in a workshop on Saturday, August 19 to discuss what the Church's role and voice should be in speaking to the prevalence of gun violence in our nation. Churches in Augusta County and Staunton are all invited to send members.

The purpose of this event is to encourage conversations about how Christ's Church can address the epidemic of gun violence that plagues our communities and our nation.

This is not intended to be a partisan or political event. We are not gathering to debate or take positions on the 2nd amendment, gun control, or gun ownership.

The Church is the body of Christ in the world. As Christ's hands, feet, and voice, we not only proclaim the good news of God's redemption, mercy, and love, but we are also called to speak Christ's peace to the world in the face of violence, fear, pain, and death.

This event is intended to encourage local churches to continue to hold conversations about and identify ways that they can be the voice and presence of Christ's peace in the world. What does it look like for God's people to address the epidemic of gun violence in our culture? How can we support law enforcement? What can we do to lessen the possibility of gun violence in our own community? How can we be faithful in ways that bring Christ's grace, healing, and peace in the event of gun violence?

(cont. on p. 7)

Updates from Session

- ◆ Session met on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 with Rev. Binder serving as moderator.
- ◆ A 2023 budget was presented and approved.
- ◆ The Home Goods Community Pantry will continue. Please let the community know about this wonderful resource.
- ◆ Session will be having a Fall Retreat.
- ◆ The air conditioning units in the Sanctuary are not working. As we gather bids and get things all fixed up, we will be meeting for worship in the Chapel. Please plan to join us in the chapel until the end of September. If things are resolved sooner, we will let you know.

2023 Budget Approved

The Session approved a budget for 2023 at the stated meeting on July 11, 2023. We have been delayed in this task by several factors. Please join with your session in recognition that 2022 was a difficult year and that 2023 has been a time of regrouping and renewal for First Presbyterian. We restructured the Session, our stewardship time was delayed, and we awaited the leadership of an Interim Pastor.

We wish to share with you our projected income, expenses, and expected deficit as reflected in the 2023 approved budget.

2023 TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME **\$203,960**

Our pledged offerings are \$115,060. Other income streams are: unpledged income, rental, trust income and other offerings.

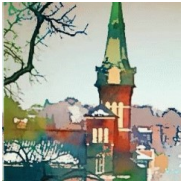
2023 TOTAL PROJECTED BUDGETED EXPENSES **\$257,171**

Expenses include:

Personnel Expenses	\$77,621
Interim Pastor Contract (7/1/23-12/31/23)	\$62,750
Ministries (Committee) Expenses	\$110,000
Presbytery	\$6,800

2023 PROJECTED NET INCOME/ ANNUAL BUDGET DEFICIT
(\$53,211)

Church News



First Presbyterian Home Goods Community Pantry Volunteers & Donations Needed!

Our Home Goods Community Pantry assisted 6 customers with paper and other essential products on Wednesday, July 19th. The word is getting out!



We covet support from each of you.

Volunteers are needed to help with preparing shopping bags and assisting customers on distribution day. Our Pantry is open on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10am-12pm.

Financial donations are needed and can be made to First Presbyterian with HGCP on the memo line. Donations of products are very welcome. There is a basket outside the chapel to collect donations. We are providing the following products in each Pantry bag:

- ◆ Paper towels—2 rolls
- ◆ Toilet paper—4-6 rolls
- ◆ Tissues—1 box
- ◆ Kitchen trash bags—15-20 per box
- ◆ Dish soap—1 regular bottle
- ◆ Liquid hand soap—1 small bottle
- ◆ Laundry detergent pods—12 pack
- ◆ Disinfectant wipes—1 container

We are asking that these products be in the original packaging ready to bag.

Thank you for your support of this service to our community members!

- Mission & Outreach Committee

Church News

PW Evening Circle

Presbyterian Women Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, August 15 at 6:00pm in the Library. We would appreciate a head count, so respond to Alice Herbst 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 Alice.

We look forward to seeing you on the 15th!

Session Meeting

There will be a Session meeting Tuesday, August 8 at 6:00pm in the Library.

Newsletter Deadline for September 2023

The deadline for submissions for the September 2023 issue of First Impressions is Friday, August 18. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

August Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 3 | Alice Herbst |
| 9 | Ron Lowman |
| | Lissa Dod |
| 14 | Robin Knott |
| 19 | Kathleen Garrison |
| 21 | Raymond Hoaster |
| 26 | Lisa Caywood |
| | Mona Tate |
| 28 | Robert Richardson |

