

November 2023



First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
Staunton, Virginia
November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7pm MBU Choir Concert (S) piano tuning am	2	3	4
5 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Bill Reinhold preaching Flowers/ Kegleys	6 7pm Handbell rehearsal (HR)	7	8 9-11 Pastor Jeff— sermon prep	9	10	11
12 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 3pm SHS & Shelburne Choir Concert (S)	13 7pm Handbell rehearsal (HR)	14 5:00pm Session Meeting (L)	15 10am- 12pm Home Goods Pantry Newsletter Deadline Dec. 6pm PW (L) 9-11 Pastor Jeff—sermon prep	16 7pm WSO Chamber Music Dress Rehearsal (S)	17	18 7:30pm WSO Chamber Music Concert (S)
19 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	20 7pm Handbell rehearsal (HR)	21	22 9-11 Pastor Jeff— sermon prep Heidi-off	23 Church Offices Closed	24 Thanksgiving Church Offices closed	25
26 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	27	28	29	30		

Letter from the Pastor

Interim Focus Point #4: Connections & Relationships

What does it mean to be Presbyterian today? I often have a conversation with people I meet for the first time that goes something like this: "So you're a pastor...like a priest?"

"Well, not exactly. I'm Presbyterian, so it's a bit different than being Catholic."

"Okay. What do Presbyterians believe?"

Then, based on my reading of the situation and the sincerity of the question, I gauge my response accordingly.

Has anyone asked you about being Presbyterian? What do you tell them? One of the tasks of transitional ministry is to explore connections and relationships with our partners in ministry, but what does this mean, exactly? Long story short, the interim period (time between installed pastors) is a good time to be reminded of the relationships beyond the walls of this congregation that are an essential part of our missional identity—what we call *the connectional church*. Presbyterians structure themselves in a series of ongoing relationships with one another. We see this in our form of government (polity) with different levels of governance. For example, our Presbytery (regional level) continues to work in



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FIRST IMPRESSIONS is a publication of First Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Jeff Binder, Interim Minister

Interim Focus Point #4: Connections & Relationships

relationship with First Presbyterian throughout the transitional process by helping with our assessment, offering resources, supporting me as your interim pastor, and when the time comes, the presbytery will assist in navigating the many ministry options moving forward for this congregation. While at the same time this coming summer, our General Assembly (national level), comprised of representatives from the various presbyteries and congregations (including our own General Presbyter and elected commissioners), will gather to legislate the life of the denomination for the next two years.

The interim period is a good reminder that we as Presbyterians are in constant, ongoing, relationships with other congregations and governing bodies, from just down Frederick Street, to throughout the nation. It's exciting to know that church members here at First can help to make decisions on the presbytery, synod, or general assembly level!

Are you interested in learning more about what it means to be Presbyterian? I'm happy to sit down and discuss in detail the ins and outs of being Presbyterian anytime (again, I'll gauge my responses based on your eyes glazing over). There are also many great books on the subject, or you can always go to the Presbyterian Church (USA) website to learn more. Just use the following link: <https://www.pcusa.org/> to read all about the PC(USA).

Together, let's find some time during this period in the life of First to be reminded that we, as Presbyterians, are never alone. As the Apostle Paul writes, we are surrounded by "a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1) to support and encourage us as we move into a new chapter of life and ministry ahead!

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

Staunton Christmas Parade

and fifteen organizations and businesses as participants. We are looking forward to families and friends joining us again this year as the parade makes its way through downtown Staunton, Monday, November 27 beginning at 7:00PM!"

The SDDA Promotions Committee has selected "A Cozy Christmas" as the theme for the 2023 Staunton Christmas Parade. The Staunton Christmas Parade is organized by the SDDA with support from the Staunton Kiwanis Club. As marshals of the parade, the Staunton Kiwanis Club members coordinate the pre-parade line-up. They also help with keeping the parade moving and on schedule. The parade begins with an official ribbon cutting with a few special holiday friends at the corner of Frederick and New streets in downtown Staunton.

SDDA recently received a letter from Santa & Mrs. Claus. The letter told us that they are eagerly awaiting their return once again to Staunton for the holiday season. Santa's float is once again sponsored by McKee Foods and is being led through downtown by Bobby's Towing Service Inc.

The inclement weather date for the Staunton Christmas parade has been set for Monday, December 4, 2023. For additional parade information: (540) 332-3867 or info@stauntondowntown.org

Around Our Community



Martha's Meals on Wheels 50th Anniversary

Join us:
Saturday, November 18, 2023
2:30-4:30pm

Covenant Presbyterian Church
2001 N. Coalter St., Staunton, VA

Enjoy music, refreshments, and a silent auction
(Tickets \$20 per person)

Celebrating 50 years of delivering meals to our homebound members!

Staunton Christmas Parade Monday, November 27, 2023

The Staunton Downtown Development Association (SDDA) is pleased to announce that plans are currently underway for the 2023 Staunton Christmas Parade, Monday, November 27 at 7:00PM in downtown Staunton, sponsored by Columbia Gas of Virginia.



"The Staunton Christmas Parade has been a holiday tradition for decades," said Greg A. Beam, SDDA Executive Director "and last year the SDDA, along with the countless spectators lining the streets of downtown enjoyed the highly successful and festive Staunton Christmas Parade, which included over one hundred

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There will be a Session meeting Tuesday, November 14 at 5:00pm in the Library.

Church Attendance for Past Month - 2023

(in person and online)

September 24—In person: 20	Online: unknown
October 1—In person: 26	Online: unknown
October 8—In person: 23	Online: unknown
October 15—In person: 22	Online: unknown

TOTAL (not including online views): 91

Session Highlights for October 2023

1. Session voted to change the meeting time for stated meetings to 5pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Same day, different time.
2. Elder Ron Lowman has been hard at work on our building. The A/C has been repaired. The sanctuary doors are getting worked on, and we now have a gutter cleaning contract.
3. Elder Barbara Richardson was elected as our commissioner for the upcoming Presbytery meeting on November 4th.
4. We will be providing meals for the WARM shelter March 18-25, 2024. Seems far away, but please put it on your calendar now.
5. We will be hosting the Staunton High School Choir Concert on November 1, 2023.
6. Many thanks to Barbara Richardson and the Congregational Life Committee for the meal on October 15, 2023 and all the meals this year! Yum!

- Paige Kullman

Church News

Devotional from Ron Lowman

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come before you today with humble hearts, acknowledging the sin of partiality that often creeps into our lives. Forgive us for the times we have judged others based on their outward appearances, and help us to see people through your eyes, as beloved children created in your image.

Lord, grant us the wisdom and strength to treat all people with love, dignity, and respect. May we be known for our impartiality and our willingness to extend grace and kindness to everyone we encounter.

As we strive to live out our faith in our daily lives, help us to reflect the love and compassion of Jesus Christ, who showed no partiality and welcomed all into His presence.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

PW Evening Circle

Presbyterian Women Evening Circle will meet Wednesday, November 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!



Around Our Community

2023 Fall Arts & Craft Fair | Expo

Sat, Nov 11, 9 AM – Sun, Nov 12, 4 PM

Augusta Expo

277 Expo Rd, Fishersville, VA

The Augusta Expo Fall Arts & Crafts Show 2023 is an annual event organized by Augusta Expo. It is a two-day regional consumer show, taking place on November 11-12, 2023 in Fishersville, VA. Held at Augusta Expo, the event is open to the general public and focuses on Arts, Crafts & Gifts.

This event is the perfect opportunity for exhibitors to showcase their products to a large and diverse audience. With its regional reach, exhibitors can gain exposure to new customers and strengthen their brand. Plus, the event provides a great platform for networking and creating new partnerships.

The Augusta Expo Fall Arts & Crafts Show 2023 is an event you don't want to miss. It is the perfect place to find unique items, discover new trends, and make connections with other industry professionals. Don't wait, mark your calendars for November 11-12, 2023 and join us at Augusta Expo.

In Memoriam

Bernice F. Price **August 6, 1922-September 25, 2023**



Bernice Mae Fridley Price, 101, widow of Luther Kenneth Price, passed away on Monday, September 25, 2023, at Heritage Hall in Lexington.

Bernice was born on August 6, 1922, to the late Henry Clayton and Mary Mae Nichols Fridley.

She graduated from Craigsville High School with honors.

Bernice was a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church. With over fifty-five years of service, in 1998 she was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Presbyterian Women.

Bernice outlived many of her dear and cherished friends in the Staunton area, where she resided all of her married life. She leaves behind many dear friends at Heritage Hall.

She is survived by her daughter, Karen K. Austin (William); her son, Roger K. Price; her grandsons, Brian W. Austin and Kenneth E. Price (Lynn); and her granddaughters, Angela M. Price and Kimberly Hill.

In addition to her husband, she is preceded in death by her daughter-in-law, Sonya K. Price of Charleston, WV and Norman Hill, husband to her granddaughter, Kimberly Hill of West Virginia.

The family would like to thank the staff and administration of Heritage Hall Lexington for their loving patience, care and compassion they showed her and the family since 2014, and especially during the last years of her life when she suffered with dementia.

There will be no services.

To order memorial trees or send flowers to the family in memory of Bernice F. Price, please visit our flower store (<https://www.henryfuneralhome.net/obituaries/bernice-price>).

Church News

Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, November 15



Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, November 15. Financial and product donations are always welcomed.

Currently, we are in need of:

- -Dishwashing Liquid (small bottles)
- -Boxes of Tissues

Our last pantry day was extremely busy, so word is getting out!

There is a donation basket outside of the sanctuary for your convenience.

Thank you to those who have already donated. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Thanksgiving Holiday

The church offices will be closed Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for

Thanksgiving. Heidi will be off Wednesday, November 22. We hope everyone has a wonderful and safe holiday!



Christmas Flowers



It's that time of year again! If you would like to remember or honor a loved one at Christmas, we will have the poinsettias again during the advent season. An insert will be in the bulletin by which you can give the name or names of the person(s) you wish to remember. Then put your check in the collection plate and mark it "Christmas flowers." The deadline for donating, and to be published in our bulletin insert, is **Monday, December November 27**. Thank you for helping our sanctuary look beautiful during this special season!

Church News

Newsletter Deadline for December 2023

The deadline for submissions for the December issue of First Impressions is **Wednesday, November 15**. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Please note that Heidi will be off Wednesday, November 22-Friday, November 24, so this is a hard deadline. Thank you!

Fall Back!

It's that time of year...daylight savings time ends Sunday, November 5. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour!



Flowers



The flowers in the Sanctuary Sunday, November 5, are given in loving memory of Fulton B. Kegley by his children Mary Huffard, Sarah, and Fulton B. Kegley II.

November Birthday List

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 10 | Betty Richmond |
| 11 | Joseph Clem
Sandy Kirtley |
| 16 | Susan Myers
Bob Driscoll |
| 17 | Eleanor Supple |
| 30 | Peter Tillen |



Concerts at First Presbyterian

Mary Baldwin Choir Concert Wednesday, November 1

The Mary Baldwin University Choir will perform in our sanctuary on Wednesday, November 1 at 7:00pm. We hope you can be there!



Staunton High School and Shelburne Middle School Choir Concert



The Staunton High School and Shelburne Middle School choirs will be performing in our sanctuary on Sunday, November 12 at 3:00pm. We hope you can attend!

Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra at First Pres on Saturday, November 18



The Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra will perform a chamber music concert in our sanctuary on Saturday, November 18 at 7:30pm.

We hope you can join us!