

# February 2024



# First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church  
Staunton, Virginia  
February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	5	6 5:30 Choir Rehearsal 7pm Handbell Rehearsal	7 9-11 Pastor Jeff— sermon prep	8	9	10
11 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	12	13 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	14 5:30pm Ash Wed. Service (C) 9-11 Pastor Jeff— sermon prep	15 Newsletter Deadline- March	16	17
18 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	19	20	21 10am- Home Goods Pantry 9-11 Pastor Jeff—sermon prep	22 7pm WSO rehearsal (5:30pm setup) (S)	23	24 7:30pm WSO full orchestra concert (S)
25 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Annual Con- gregational Mtg. & lunch & Town Hall (FH)	26	27	28 9-11 Pastor Jeff— sermon prep	29		

## Letter from the Pastor

### Called in Discipleship

What does it mean to be called by God today? Over the past few weeks, we have been reflecting on this question as we hear stories of different individuals being called in unique ways.



With the new year and the fast-approaching season of Lent comes plenty of opportunities to mentally and spiritually re-commit ourselves to God's call in our lives. Yes, our day-to-day existence may seem very similar to how it was in 2023, but I invite you to embrace this moment as an opportunity for a renewed commitment to follow Jesus in your life.

What new thing is God calling you toward in 2024?

Interested in developing new community? There are groups for all people, all ages—just reach out to the church office to see which group may be a good fit! Not only are there committees and ministries at church, but also opportunities to make new friends to share life with.

*(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](mailto:stauntonfirst@gmail.com) and [www.1stpres-staunton.org](http://www.1stpres-staunton.org)  
Rev. Jeff Binder, Interim Minister

## Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

### Called in Discipleship

Have you missed out with being here at church recently? Join us for any of our upcoming Lenten events, including:

- ◆ Ash Wednesday worship, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30PM in the Chapel.
- ◆ Lenten Bible Study opportunities. (TBD)
- ◆ Congregational meeting, meal, and town hall conversation, February 25<sup>th</sup> following worship.

Interested in service and mission opportunities? Let's sit down for coffee or a meal and see how God may be calling you to an exciting 2024 ahead!

I am excited for not only this month of February as we continue to explore God's call in our lives, but for this entire year as First Presbyterian forges a new path forward, thankful for what has brought us all this way, appreciative for where we find ourselves today, and hopeful for a bright future ahead!

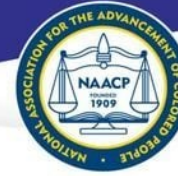
In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

(cont. fr. p. 6)

## Around Our Community



**NAACP**  
Staunton Branch #7119

### 2024 Unity Prayer Breakfast "Together We Stand, Divided We Fall"

**Saturday, February 24, 2024**

**9:00am - 12 pm**

Covenant Presbyterian Church

2001 N. Coalter Street, Staunton, VA 24401

**Keynote Speaker**

**Rev. Edward A. Scott**  
Pastor, Allen Chapel AME Church



**Tickets on Sale NOW!**

\$40/per person or \$240/table of 6

Contact: Susan Venable 614.886.7439, Rebecca Johnson 540.849.6348  
or Kenneth Venable 614.886.7438

## Church News

### Choir Rehearsals Begin Tuesday, February 6!

The first day of choir rehearsals will be Tuesday, February 6 from 5:30-6:30pm, and the handbell choir will begin that same night from 7-8pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome, even if you can't read music. We make a joyful noise to the Lord and have a good time, too. Note: There will be no music rehearsals on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (when Session and other meetings occur). We hope you can join us!

### Newsletter Deadline for March 2024

The deadline for submissions for the March issue of First Impressions is **Thursday, February 15**. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

### February Birthday List



15	W. Rader Dod, II
18	Alan Garrison
24	Hugh Sproul
26	Grace Clem



(cont. on p. 7)

## Church News



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place Sunday, February 25, immediately after worship. We hope you plan to attend! The Annual Report, the 2024 annual budget, and the results of the *Conversations* assessment will be presented.

After the meeting, we will have a light lunch of chili and cornbread. The congregation is asked to provide desserts. There will also be a town hall meeting. Please RSVP to Heidi at [stauntonfirst@gmail.com](mailto:stauntonfirst@gmail.com) or 540-886-0704 if you plan to attend. We hope you can join us!

### Church Attendance for Past Month - 2023-2024

(in person and online)

<b>December 17, 2023</b>	<b>In person:</b> 27	<b>Online:</b> 6
<b>December 24, 2023 (am)</b>	<b>In person:</b> 26	<b>Online:</b> 6
<b>December 24, 2023 (pm)</b>	<b>In person:</b> 58	<b>Online:</b> 5
<b>December 31, 2023</b>	<b>In person:</b> 11	<b>Online:</b> 7
<b>January 7, 2024</b>	<b>In person:</b> 27	<b>Online:</b> Unknown
<b>January 14, 2024</b>	<b>In person:</b> 25	<b>Online:</b> Unknown

**Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 33**

### Ash Wednesday Worship Service Wednesday, February 14 5:30 pm—Chapel

Please join us for our Ash Wednesday worship service on Wednesday, February 14 at 5:30pm in the chapel. All are welcome. We hope you can be there!



## Church News

### Session Highlights

- Session welcomed 2 new members Martha Tillen and Susie Lendermon, having been installed on January 7.
- Session worked on yearly organization - new committee chairs and co-chairs:
- Martha Tillen will be the **Clerk of Session** for 6 months term.
- **Administration:** Chair-Stephany Morgan, Co-Chair-Brett Richie
- **Congregational Life:** Chair-Barbara Richardson, Co-Chair-Sam Clem
- **Discipleship:** Chair-Sam Clem
- **Missions & Outreach:** Chair-Susie Lendermon, Co-Chair-Stephany Morgan

**Property:** Chair-Hugh Sproul

**Worship:** Chair-Mary Meade, Co-Chair-Martha Tillen

- Stephany Morgan will chair the **Officer Nominating Committee** for a 2-year term

### Other Highlights from Committee Reports

- Congregation Life will host a lunch after Worship on 2/25 to hear the results from the *Conversations* Assessment
- Discipleship is working on starting a mid-week class or Bible Study. Contact Sam with ideas or for more information.
- Mission Committee is looking for volunteers to help with meals for the WARM shelter and for the Sacks of Love initiative. Contact Stephany with questions or to help.
- Chancel and handbell choirs are reorganizing with Tuesday rehearsals beginning Feb. 6.
- There is an Ash Wednesday service being planned for February 14 in the Chapel at 5:30pm.

## Church News

### Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, February 21



Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, February 21. Financial and product donations are always welcomed.

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!

### Volunteer Opportunity: Sacks of Love

First Presbyterian Church has been invited by Third Presbyterian to join with them in preparing Sacks of Love meals for Bessie Weller students on Monday, February 5 at 6:30pm at First Baptist. If interested and available please let Heidi know in the office. We need about 5 volunteers. Thanks for your support!



There will be a Session meeting Tuesday, February 13 at 5:15pm in the library.