

March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri 1	Sat 2
3 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	4	5 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handbells Rehearsal (S)	6 9-11am Pastor Jeff— sermon prep	7 7-10pm WSO Rehearsal (S) (5:30pm setup)	8	9 7:30pm WSO Chamber Music Concert (S)
10 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	11	12 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	13 9- 11am Pastor Jeff— sermon prep	14	15	16
17 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	18	19 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handbells Rehearsal (S) 6pm PW Evening Circle (L)	20 9-11am Pastor Jeff— sermon prep 10am Home Goods Pantry	21 Newsletter Deadline- April	22	23
24 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live- WARM Shelter eve meal	25 WARM Shelter breakfast & lunch meals	26 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handbells Rehearsal	27 9- 11am Pastor Jeff— sermon prep	28 6pm Maundy Thurs meal 7pm (FH) Worship service	29	30
31 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live						

First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian
Church
Staunton, Virginia

March 2024



Letter from the Pastor

The Church Transformed

The church affirms *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbum Dei*, that is, "The church reformed, always to be reformed according to the Word of God" in the power of the Spirit.

--PC(USA) Book of Order (F-2.02)

What does transformation look like in 2024 for First Presbyterian Church? It's a big question; one with many different options for response.

We can choose to focus on individual transformation; how our daily lives evolve to walk more closely with God.

We can reflect on how the congregation is seeking transformation during this intentional interim period.

We can look to the larger Christian Church when thinking about how the church is "...always to be reformed according to the Word of God" according to our Book of Order.



(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

Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

The Church Transformed

Sometimes transformation happens to us; outside life events change the very fabric of who we are as a people of faith.

Other times we are intentional about seeking transformation. Just like going to the gym, when we engage in spiritual practice (Bible study, prayer, worship, music, meditation, etc.), we are able to see the results of our efforts in our lives.

During this season of Lent, we are invited into transformation both as individuals and as the church. We are invited to follow Jesus to the cross, and to never be the same. We are invited to reflect on God's word in our lives through scripture and prayer. We are invited to act out our faith through our mission and service projects. We are invited to allow God's voice to speak to us through words of life and grace within our spiritual journeys.

What new things does God have to say to us this year during this Lenten season? As always, I'm eager to hear how God is moving in your life. Let's grab a cup of coffee or lunch and share how God is moving to transform the church today!

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

Church News



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

Around Our Community



Passed Both Houses

The bill VICPP has been championing for the last 3 years, creating an unconscious bias training requirements for healthcare professionals who deal with pregnant moms, passed both chambers, which means it is ready to go to the Governor for his signature.

Passed One Chamber

The minimum wage bill passed the house and the Senate bill is anticipated to pass this week. In addition, tenant reform bills passed either the House or Senate, the bill to create an oversight office for the Dept. of Corrections passed the Senate, and the bill to remove the farmworker exemption from the minimum wage passed the House and will go to the Senate.

Expected to Pass

The Restricting Attack Dogs bill (VICPP helped lead on this-expected to pass the House), and eight tenant reform bills are expected to pass the House or Senate.

Referred to the Housing Commission

Most bills requiring money (except for minimum wage bills) have been killed or continued to next year. Virginia's budget is tight, largely because of last year's tax cuts, declining federal support, and no serious commitment to develop a more progressive tax base that can fund needed investments in schools, childcare, housing, or many of the more modest budget requests that VICPP has supported.

Kim Bobo, Executive Director of VICPP, thanks everyone for their advocacy.

Church News

FPC Men's Brotherhood

Friends, remember the FPC Men's Breakfast Club or possibly the Men's Brotherhood?

I've been thinking about starting the Men's group again. This is intended to check our pulse and see if there's enough interest for me to organize it and get it started.

In my day, we met one Saturday morning per month for breakfast at the church, took care of any business, and often invited a guest speaker. We don't have to do things the same way, but we can figure that out once we know we have interest.

Please call, text, or email Sam Clem at sam.clem@comcast.net or contact the church office at stauntonfirst@gmail.com or 540-886-0704 to acknowledge your interest. Thank you!
- Sam Clem



Time to Spring Forward!

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10 at 2:00am. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour.

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



Church News

Church Attendance for January-February-2024

(in person and online)

January 21, 2024	In person: 27	Online: 7
January 28, 2024	In person: 25	Online: 10
February 4, 2024	In person: 23	Online: 6
February 11, 2024	In person: 26	Online: 9
February 14, 2024 (Ash Wed.)	In person: 20	Online: 3
February 18, 2024	In person: 28	Online: 8

Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 32

New Bible Study Class Starting Tuesday, March 5!

Please mark your calendars and come to our new weekly Bible discussion class beginning Tuesday, March 10 at 10:00am in the library. Pastor Jeff will lead with the Book of Mark as our initial study. Expect coffee!



All are invited! Please mark your calendars. We hope to see you there.

Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, March 20



Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, March 20. 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. Demand is high, and your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Newsletter Deadline for April 2024

The deadline for submissions for the April issue of First Impressions is **Thursday, March 21**. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

Church News

Session Highlights

- ◆ Session members received the results of our recent "Conversations" survey from Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyter of Shenandoah Presbytery. Details of the survey will be shared with the congregation at a meeting on February 25.
- ◆ Pastor Jeff asked for updates on the health of Hugh Sproul and Susie Lendermon.
- ◆ Barbara Richardson reported that the Congregational Life Committee had recently taken Valentine flowers to our home-bound members (VIPs). A contribution from Martins grocery stores covered the cost of the flowers. Sign-ups for our congregational lunch on February 25 are going well. Anyone who has not signed up is encouraged to join us.
- ◆ Sam Clem reported that the Discipleship Committee and Pastor Jeff are beginning a mid-week Bible study. The first meeting will be on March 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the library.
- ◆ Mary Meade reported that the Worship & Music Committee is planning a Maundy Thursday service for March 28. Details will be coming soon.

Bread for the World

Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization with the purpose of alleviating hunger in our nation and the world. The organization advocates for programs and policies that support state and community actions to attack hunger. A few programs affected in our locality are SNAP (formerly Food Stamps), funds for Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, local farmers markets, and school lunches.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD is inviting churches and other organizations to join with it in reaching out to congressional members by writing letters of support for a bill before congress that affects the continuation of programs like those mentioned above.

If you are interested or want more info, please contact Louise Whipple, 540-849-8293 or louise_whipple@yahoo.com.

Church News

Presbyterian Women

PW Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00pm in the Library. We would appreciate a head count, so please respond to Alice Herbst if you can make it. And feel free to bring guests—all are welcome!

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

We look forward to seeing you on the 19th!



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Choir Rehearsals

The choir will rehearse on Tuesday, March 5, 19, and 26 from 5:30-6:30pm, and the handbell choir will rehearse those same nights from 7-8pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome! 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!

Easter Flowers Insert Correction

Please note that we will be doing traditional flower arrangements, not bulbs, for Easter flowers. Please let us know how much you would like to donate; there's no need to indicate the number of flowers wanted. Thanks!



Congregational Life Committee

The Congregational Life Committee arranged for flowers to be delivered to VIP members for Valentine's Day.

Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Concert

Please join us for a chamber music concert presented by the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, March 9 at 7:00pm in our sanctuary. We hope you can join us!



WAYNESBORO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA