

April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Easter Monday - Church Offices Closed	2 10am Bible Study (L) 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handbells Rehearsal (S) New office hours in effect	3 3pm Missions & Outreach Meeting (L) 7pm Worship & Music Meeting (L)	4	5	6
7 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	8 5:00pm MBU Choir Dress Rehearsal (S)	9 10am Bible Study (L) 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	10 7pm MBU Choir Concert (S)	11	12	13
14 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	15	16 10am Bible Study (L) 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handbells Rehearsal (S) 6pm PW Evening Circle (L)	17 10am Home Goods Pantry	18 Newsletter Deadline-May	19	20
21 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 12:15 Admin Committee Meeting (L)	22	23 10am Bible Study (L) 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handbells Rehearsal (S)	24	25 7-10pm WSO Rehearsal (S) (5:30pm setup)	26	27 7:30pm WSO full orchestral Concert (S)
28 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 12:15 Church Potluck lunch & Town Hall	29	30 10am Bible Study (L) 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Handbells Rehearsal (S)				

First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
Staunton, Virginia

April 2024



Letter from the Pastor

A Season of Celebration and Stewardship

Today's society often focuses on all the ways that the world is falling apart. I wonder...what do we do well these days? There is a process within the consulting world called *Appreciative Inquiry*, and the basic premise begins with a simple question: "What's good about First Presbyterian?"



Think back through First's history; what should we celebrate about our past?

Think about our congregation today. What is something that we do well these days?

Think about your own life, as a member or friend of First, Staunton. What gifts do you share with the church and this community?

There are numerous reasons to celebrate this congregation. We have a celebrated history as one of the foundations of the Staunton community.

Today we have ministries and programs that are worth sharing with others in our neighborhoods.

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

Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

A Season of Celebration and Stewardship

And you and me? God has given us numerous blessings to share with this church community and the world. Our church has accomplished professionals from throughout the county and the region. Many of us have been financially blessed in our lives. Our children and youth are gifted and passionate for a bright future ahead. God has placed desires and interests, talents, and skills, on each of our hearts, calling us to share them with the world.

So, with all of this wonderful history, and many gifts to be thankful and grateful for, how do we share them with the world? In a sense, this is what *Stewardship* is all about. When we identify our blessings and gifts in our lives, God invites us to further the kingdom by sharing ourselves: our time, our talents, and our treasure.

Each year in the fall we have a stewardship campaign where we make pledges for the upcoming annual operating budget—this is essential for us to be able to plan for the years to come. But today, in this spring Easter season, let's take an opportunity to remind ourselves of how much God blesses us each and every day. Today we appreciate all the gifts that make up First Presbyterian for who and what we are as a faith community. Today we celebrate as we envision a bright future ahead.

How would you like to share in this celebration of God's many gifts for First Presbyterian and our lives?

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

Church News

First Presbyterian Serves Meals to WARM!

First Presbyterian folks served breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the residents of the WARM cold weather shelter program on March 24th and March 25th.

Scott Wilson and Dick Cox preparing to deliver meal to WARM residents at Expo on March 24th.



Pastor Jeff and Scott Wilson preparing Roxbury Stew for delivery to Expo to feed residents of WARM cold weather shelter. Sharon Wilson was the photographer and supervisor.

Roxbury Stew, prepared by Sharon and Scott Wilson, assisted by Pastor Jeff and Dick Cox, was a big hit at Expo for WARM residents' Sunday evening meal.



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
16	Rev. Jeff Binder Sam A. Clem
17	Evan Lendermon
22	Jenny Dixon
23	Helen Wood Stephany Morgan



Congregational Life Committee

The Congregational Life Committee delivered little lambs to our VIPs for Easter.



Church News

Church Attendance for February-March 2024

(in person and online)

February 25	In person: 34	Online: 6
March 3	In person: 33	Online: 7
March 10	In person: 23	Online: 5
March 17	In person: 29	Online: 5
March 24	In person: 28	Online: 7

Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 35



There will be a Session meeting Tuesday, April 9 at 5:15pm in the library.

Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, April 17

Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, April 17. Financial and product donations are always welcomed.



Our pantry is undoubtedly fulfilling a need in our community, and demand is high. Due to this demand, donations are needed more than ever.

If you wish to donate items, there is a donation basket outside of the sanctuary for your convenience. Items needed include:

Paper towels (2-pack), toilet paper (6-pack), tissues (small pack), trash bags (15-20 count), dish soap (18-oz. bottle), liquid hand soap (small bottle), laundry detergent pods (12-pack), and disinfectant wipes (regular size).

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

Church News

New Office Hours Starting April 2024

Beginning in April, Heidi will be in the office for the following hours:

Monday through Thursday: 8:00am-2:30pm

Friday: 8:00am-12:00pm

Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be an Missions & Outreach Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 3 at 3pm in the library.

Worship & Music Committee Meeting

There will be an Worship & Music Committee meeting on Wednesday,, April 3 at 7pm in the library.

Administration Committee Meeting

There will be an Administration Committee meeting on Sunday, April 21 at 12:15pm in the library.

Church Offices Closed Monday, April 1



The church offices will be closed Monday, April 1 for Easter Monday. We hope everyone has a great holiday!

Presbyterian Women

PW Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, April 16 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 to not hesitate to contact Alice.

We look forward to seeing you on the 16th!



Church News

Church Potluck Lunch & Town Hall Gathering Sunday, April 28

Please join us for a church potluck and Town Hall gathering on Sunday, April 28 at 12:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.


Choir Rehearsals

The choir will rehearse on Tuesday, April 2, 16, 23, and 30 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!

Newsletter Deadline for May 2024

The deadline for submissions for the May issue of First Impressions is **Thursday, April 18**. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

MBU Choir Concert

 The MBU Choir will perform in our sanctuary on Wednesday, April 10 at 7:00pm. We hope you can be there!

Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Concert

Please join us for a full orchestral concert presented by the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, April 27 at 7:00pm in our sanctuary. We hope you can join us!

