

# June 2024



# First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church  
Staunton, Virginia

June 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Admin Comm. Mtg- immed. after worship	3 Heidi-off	4 10am Bible Study (L)	5	6 2pm Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting (P)	7	8
9 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 2-5pm Session Retreat- Wilson's	10	11 10am Bible Study (L) 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	12	13 11:30am Trinity Lunch	14	15
16 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Pres Church Warminster staying in Fraser	17	18 Pastor Jeff- Massanetta 6pm PW Evening Circle (L)	19 10am Home Goods Pantry Pastor Jeff- Massanetta	20 Newsletter Deadline -July Pastor Jeff- Massanetta	21 Pastor Jeff- Massanetta	22 Pastor Jeff- Massanetta
23 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	24	25 Pastor Jeff- vacation	26 Pastor Jeff- vacation	27 Pastor Jeff- vacation	28 Pastor Jeff- vacation	29 Pastor Jeff -vacation
30 Pastor Jeff- vacation 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live						

S=sanctuary; L= library; P=parlor

## Letter from the Pastor

### Year Two

If you haven't yet heard, I have good news to share! Session and I have agreed for me to renew my annual contract with First Presbyterian as your Interim Minister! This is good news for several reasons. It's also a wonderful time for us to be reminded of what is coming up ahead.



First, the good stuff. I'm excited to continue to build upon some wonderful relationships that we have developed over the past 11 months at this point. I hope that my continued presence helps to ease any anxiety of church members and friends who may be wondering just who is serving in the role as pastor for First Presbyterian in the immediate future. This is also a reminder that if you have been waiting for the dust to settle before returning to church, now is a wonderful opportunity to re-engage with the First Presbyterian community.

So, what's next for year two? While I believe that we have made some wonderful positive strides as a congregation these past few months, there is still quite a bit of work that needs to be done. Realizing the potential for such a congregation takes the effort of many people, including each of us!

*(cont. on p. 2)*

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Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Interim Minister

## Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

### Year Two

Our primary goal over the next year will be for the congregation to make formal decisions on the direction of the church for the foreseeable future. Session continues to meet to discern and discuss such options and will continue to report and reflect such findings with the congregation as a whole. Our next event will be for Session to meet on June 9th to draft some of our future formal steps as a congregation. Please be sure to let them know your thoughts on how you believe God is calling this congregation forward in faith!

On top of the very important work of discernment and strategic planning moving forward, the ongoing day-to-day needs of the church persist as well. There are committees that help facilitate the programs and mission of First Presbyterian. Pastoral needs continue to be met by both Pastor and members alike. Worship continues to be organized. Meals planned and enjoyed. And yes, there is a physical property that continues to require maintenance and care.

Will you join me in serving First Presbyterian Church for this second year of interim ministry?

Please reach out and let me or a Session member know how you wish to join in all that God continues to call us toward as the church in the days ahead!

In Christ

Pastor Jeff

## Church News

### Session Meeting

There will be a Session meeting Tuesday, June 11 at 5:15pm in the library.

## Church News

### Congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder!

Pastor Jeff recently received his doctorate degree, graduating on May 19. The Congregational Life Committee (and Scott Wilson) presented him with a plaque to commemorate this great achievement. Congratulations Pastor Jeff!



The Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder and Scott Wilson with Pastor Jeff's plaque



Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder celebrating graduation on Sunday, May 19

## Church News

### First Pres Covered Dish Lunch & Town Hall Gathering Sunday, April 28

During our covered dish luncheon and Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, April 28, an award and gift basket were presented to Mona Tate for her many years of service and dedication (April 1989-December 2023!) to the care of our children at the church.



Mona receiving award and gift basket from Martha Tillen and Stephany Morgan



Mona and daughter Libby with her gift basket and award

## Church News

### Highlights of May 14, 2024 Session Meeting

- Pastor Jeff has renewed his contract with us for another year! We look forward to a great year of work, worship and moving forward at FPC.
- The Session will hold a planning retreat on the afternoon of June 9.
- Sharon and Scott Wilson have graciously offered to host us at their home.
- Session members are eager for input from everyone concerning how best to move forward in the pastoral transition. Several options were outlined at our luncheon on April 28. Please let a session member know your thoughts before our retreat, if you haven't already.
- Would you like to help usher and greet folks arriving at church? Barbara Richardson and Martha Tillen are reworking our ushering plan to create a more regular schedule. Please contact Martha at [amtillen@comcast.net](mailto:amtillen@comcast.net) if you'd like to help out once a month. If you've already spoken to Barbara, then we will have you on the list and you'll be hearing from Martha soon. Thanks!
- Don't miss the famous Stonewall Brigade Band in concert in our sanctuary on Monday, May 27 at 7:30 pm!!

### Presbytery Meeting May 14, 2024

Shenandoah Presbytery met on May 14th at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro. Stephany Morgan, as session elected Commissioner, and Pastor Jeff attended. The meeting adjourned before lunch with lunch offered as a time of fellowship and outreach.

Interesting points from the meeting:

- Worship with Communion was a joint effort of Waynesboro Presbyterian Churches, which have come together under the umbrella of 'Better Together'.
- Waynesboro First Presbyterian has sold their facility to Fishburne with the stipulation that the congregation has use of the building for worship, Sunday School, and other events.
- It is required that all churches adopt and implement policies on sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, child and youth protection, and antiracism, as well as boundary training.
- Break out session offered opportunity to learn about a book entitled "Why Presbyterians are Like That".

As a Commissioner, it offered an opportunity for me to learn about other churches in our Presbytery, learn of and participate in actions by the Presbytery that affect us, and obtain resources that may be helpful in our journey.—Stephany Morgan, Commissioner

## Church News

### June Birthdays



- 3 Collin Caywood  
Laura Knott Cromer
- 6 June Jordan
- 10 Scott Wilson
- 16 Andy Clem
- 18 Anne-Charles Dod
- 19 Melinda Avery
- 20 Evy Harmon
- 23 Chase Caywood

### Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be an Missions & Outreach Committee meeting on Thursday, June 6 at 2pm in the library.

### Newsletter Deadline for July 2024

The deadline for submissions for the July issue of First Impressions is **Thursday, June 20**. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

### Trinity Lunch Volunteers Needed!

First Presbyterian needs folks to help to volunteer with Trinity Lunch every two months on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Please contact Heidi at [stauntonfirst@gmail.com](mailto:stauntonfirst@gmail.com) or 540-886-0704 if you can help. Thank you!

### Church Attendance for April-May 2024

(in person and online)

<b>April 28</b>	<b>In person:</b> 28	<b>Online:</b> 6
<b>May 5</b>	<b>In person:</b> 28	<b>Online:</b> 7
<b>May 12</b>	<b>In person:</b> 26	<b>Online:</b> 3
<b>May 19</b>	<b>In person:</b> 22	<b>Online:</b> 4

**Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 31**

## Church News

### Presbyterian Women



PW Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, June 18 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 18th!

### Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, June 19

Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, June 19. 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), laundry detergent pods (12-pack), and disinfectant wipes.

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

### Keys

We are currently running low on keys. If you have a set that you're not using, please return to the office as soon as you are able. We will need extra sets for the Staunton Music Festival when they perform here in August, so this is urgent. Thank you!

### Thermostats

We recently had a problem with some of our thermostats, which affected the A/C. Charlie is authorized to program the thermostats, and he is the only person who should handle these. If there are any problems, please contact Charlie or the church office. Thank you!