

August 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2pm Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting (P) Pastor Jeff-Montreat High School Conference	2	3
4 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Congregational Meeting-immed. after worship	5	6 10am Bible Study (L)	7 5:15pm Worship Committee Meeting (L)	8 11:30am Trinity Lunch	9	10
11 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	12 10am Congregational Life Committee Meeting (L)	13 10am Bible Study (L) 5:15pm Session Meeting (L) SMF rehearsals begin (S)	14 SMF rehearsals (S)	15 Newsletter Deadline -September SMF rehearsals (S)	16 SMF rehearsals (S)	17 12pm SMF free concert (S)
18 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live SMF in worship	19 12pm SMF free concert (S)	20 10am Bible Study (L) 12pm SMF free concert (S) 6pm PW Evening Circle (L)	21 10am Home Goods Pantry 12pm SMF free concert (S)	22 12pm SMF free concert (S) 4:30pm MBU Student Convocation rain location (S)	23 12pm SMF free concert (S)	24 12pm SMF free concert (S)
25 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	26	27 10am Bible Study (L)	28	29	30 Heidi-off	31

S=sanctuary; L= library; P=parlor

First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
Staunton, Virginia

August 2024



Letter from the Pastor

A Season of Prayer

Session recently invited the congregation into a season of prayer for the next year as we discern our future as First Presbyterian.



So...what happens within a season of prayer?

1. The first thing that Session wants us to acknowledge is that our discernment as a congregation is not solely a human endeavor. We are part of God's plans, part of God's work here on this earth. And so, we pray for God's guidance when it comes to the conversations we have, the questions we ask, and the decisions we make.
2. The second aspect of a season of prayer is that each of us is invited to participate in ways that are best for us. Over the next year we hope to create opportunities for both individual and communal prayer, as well as public and private opportunities to pray for the future of this church. This may include formal prayers during worship, "take home" prayers explained in this newsletter or other places, and various opportunities to pray with one another in small groups, committees, and other gatherings.

(cont. on p. 2)

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

Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

A Season of Prayer

3. Each month we will introduce various themes, scripture readings, and particular prayer requests to be lifting up in that month. Through the opportunities provided and within your own prayer life, we understand that a joint prayer effort will return Spirit-filled insight and wisdom that will lead us along the way.

Ultimately, what we are praying for is clarity of mission and vision when it comes to listening for God's plans for First PC. What plans does God have for this church moving forward? How can we utilize these three buildings (Fraser, sanctuary, and Potter) to serve God's kingdom? How might we utilize the endowment that has grown over the ages so that we can serve the least of these? How might the members of First use our time and energy to best reflect Christ's love for the sisters and brothers of our community?

This month I invite you to reflect Psalm 145 as a song of praise to our Creator. Thank God for all that has been provided to First Presbyterian over these years. Pray for the members of this church family. And let's celebrate all that God has done, is currently doing, and will do, with us as a faith community in the days ahead.

¹ *I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.*

² *Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.*

³ *Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
God's greatness is unsearchable. (Psalm 145:1-3)*

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

In Memoriam

Brad was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Staunton, VA for 64 years. He served multiple terms on the session, was the Property Chair, and was an honorary member of the Presbyterian Women in recognition of his service to the church.

One of Brad's many loves was The Gypsy Express. He volunteered as a conductor for over 20 years. He served as a board member from 2022 to 2024. Brad also loved reading, watching movies, anything Harry Potter, playing the piano, listening to jazz music, going to the beach, eating a very rare steak, playing a good game of hearts, and enjoying a good cocktail.

Brad was a stranger to no one and possessed the unique ability to make even a stranger feel as if he/she were part of the family. He will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

The family expresses a special thank you to the doctors and nurses at Augusta Health, especially the ICU team, the UVA ICU Nurse, and the Cardiology ICU Unit at UVA.

A Graveside service will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Thornrose Cemetery in Staunton, VA. A reception will follow at 12 Noon at First Presbyterian Church in Staunton.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to The Gypsy Express. Please contact Bob Roger at toolman@edoppler.com or 540-885-6618.

In Memoriam



Charles Bradford "Brad" Furr (64) of Staunton died Sunday, July 14, 2024 at the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville, Virginia.

He was born September 23, 1959 in Staunton, Virginia. He was the son of Julia S. Furr and Charles E. Furr.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles E. Furr, in 1990.

He is survived by his husband, Gary Ray Wilson, of 37 years whom he married in 2015; his mother, Julia S. Furr of

Staunton, VA; his brother, Rick Furr and his wife, Nancy of Blacksburg, VA; his sister Lissa Dod and her husband Rader of Staunton, VA.

Other surviving family members include his sister-in-law, Susan Tuck and her husband, Chris of Radford, VA; his brother-in-law, Tim Wilson of Union, WVA; his mother-in-law, Lenora Wilson of Sinks Grove, WVA; his niece, Jessica Furr of High Point, NC; his nephew, James Furr of Roanoke, VA; his niece Anne-Charles Moreau and her husband, Miller of Danville, VA; his nephew Will Dod of Richmond, VA; his niece Heather Gillilan and her husband, Jed of Crawley, WVA; his great niece Kimber Gillilan of Crawley, WV and his great-nephew, Landon Gillilan of Crawley, WVA; his nephew, Dylan Tuck of DC; and his nephew, Jordan Tuck of Christiansburg, VA; as well as numerous cousins.

Brad graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1978. He attended Blue Ridge Community College. He then moved to Harrisonburg, Virginia and worked for the Virginia ABC. He went on to become the youngest ABC Manager in the State of Virginia at the Monterey, Virginia store in 1984. He retired from Virginia ABC in 2003. Following this, he worked at Marshall's Distribution Center in Bridgewater, Virginia as a Merchandise Controller from 2005 to 2021. He retired from Marshall's Distribution Center in September of 2021.

Highlights of July 9, 2024 Session Meeting

- ◆ The Administration Committee is seeking someone to join the Nominating Committee to help put together a slate of officers for the upcoming Session class. If you would be willing to serve on the Nominating Committee, please contact Stephany Morgan.
- ◆ The Homegoods pantry was able to serve 35 families in June. If you would like to help with this ongoing mission or donate to it, please see Stephany Morgan or Susie Lendermon.
- ◆ Session approved money to used for tree work on the weeping cherry tree near our brick sign.
- ◆ Session approved updated wedding and funeral policies that were submitted by the Worship Committee.
- ◆ MBU was approved to use our sanctuary for an alumni memorial event and as a rain location for their opening convocation in the Fall.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting Sunday, August 4, immediately after worship for the purpose of electing Cindy Cooke as a member of the Nominating Committee.

Session Meeting

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

You Choose the Scripture Reading!

With the summer months in full swing, how about we have some fun in worship?! Do you have a Scripture reading that you have always wanted to have read and preached on? Is there a favorite that you haven't heard in a while? Maybe there is a reading that you would like to learn more about? Or maybe you would just like to try and stump the preacher!

Pastor Jeff is taking suggestions on possible Scripture readings for the end of summer and early fall! Feel free to submit your ideas via our Facebook page, email, phone, or simply stop in and say hello!

Church News

Church Attendance for June-July 2024

(in person and online)

June 30	In person: 26	Online: 6
July 7	In person: 29	Online: 7
July 14	In person: 29	Online: 4
July 21	In person: 28	Online: 5

Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 34

Pastor Jeff's Schedule in July-August

Pastor Jeff will be at the Montreat High School Conference Saturday, July 27-Saturday, August 3, returning Sunday, August 4.

Newsletter Deadline for September 2024

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

Heidi on Vacation

Heidi will be on vacation Friday, August 30-Monday, September 9, returning Tuesday, September 10.

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 or 540-886-0704 if you can help. Thank you!

Church News



Church News

Church Picnic with Second & Third Presbyterian Churches on Thursday, July 11 at Gypsy Hill Park

Great food and fellowship. Much fun was had by all!



Church News

August Birthdays

- 3 Alice Herbst
- 9 Ron Lowman
Lissa Dod
- 14 Robin Knott
- 19 Kathleen Garrison
- 21 Raymond Hoaster
- 26 Lisa Caywood
Mona Tate
- 28 Robert Richardson



Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be a Mission & Outreach Committee meeting on Thursday, August 1 at 2:00pm in the parlor.

Worship Committee Meeting

There will be a Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday, August 7 at 5:15pm in the library.

Congregational Life Committee Meeting

There will be a Congregational Life Committee meeting on Monday, August 12 at 10am in the library.

Bible Study Every Tuesday at 10:00am!

Please join us for Bible Study every Tuesday at 10:00am in the library. Discussions are lively and refreshments are provided. All are welcome! Please join us!

Church News

Staunton Music Festival at First Pres in August!



The Staunton Music Festival will perform in our sanctuary at First Pres Friday, August 17, and August 19-24 from 12:00-1:00pm. All concerts are free and open to the public. SMF will also perform during

our worship service on Sunday, August 18. All are welcome! We hope you can join us.

Presbyterian Women

PW Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, August 20 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 20th!

Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, August 21



Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, August 21. Financial and product donations are always welcomed. Due to high 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 (4-6-pack), tissues (small pack), trash bags (15-20 count), dish soap (one bottle), laundry detergent, and disinfectant wipes.

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

Our Trinity Lunch Team in Action!

One of our Trinity Lunch teams with trays ready to serve on July 11th. We served 36 people that day.



Team members: Margaret Armstrong, Barbara Richardson, Louise Whipple, David Lowman, June Jordan (and photographer, Stephany Morgan). Menu for the day: Mexican pasta bake, side salad, bread, and ice cream sandwich with cookie.

SACRA Volunteer Opportunities

SACRA is currently looking for volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact SACRA at 540-886-3957. They are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00-11:30am. Thank you!