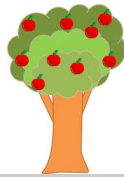


# September 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	2 Labor Day- Church Offices Closed	3 10am Bible Study (L) Heidi-off	4 5:15pm Worship Committee Mtg. (L) Heidi-off	5 2pm Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting (P) Heidi-off	6 Heidi-off	7 4pm Knott wedding rehearsal (S)
8 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 3pm Knott Wedding	9 Heidi- off	10 10am Bible Study (L) 5:15pm Session Meeting	11	12 11:30am Trinity Lunch	13	14 7:00pm Organ Concert with Joshua Goines
15 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Joshua Goines in worship	16 10:30am Cong. Life Committee Meeting (L)	17 10am Bible Study (L) 6pm PW Evening Circle (L)	18 10am -12pm Home Goods Pantry	19 Newsletter Deadline -October	20	21 12pm Reception for Brad Furr (FH)
22 11am Outdoor Worship (Lawn) FB Live BBQ Lunch on the lawn- immed. after worship	23	24 10am Bible Study (L) WSO- bringing instruments late (S)	25	26	27	28 5pm WSO Concert (S) 10am- 10pm QCMM
29 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 9am-5pm QCMM	30					

S=sanctuary; L= library; P=parlor; FH=Fellowship Hall

# First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian  
Church  
Staunton, Virginia

September 2024



## Letter from the Pastor

### Building for Hope

On August 13<sup>th</sup> Session approved an application for the *Building for Hope* program, which has been accepted to begin in 2025!

What is the *Building for Hope* program, you may ask? Here is a brief description from their website:

- Building for Hope is a two-year program for churches and their leadership funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. The program guides congregations through a journey of repurposing their underutilized facilities and other physical assets – in order to advance each congregation’s mission. The program is a response to the epidemic of underutilized church facilities across the US: by reorienting these spaces, congregations and their surrounding communities are equipped to flourish.
- The vision of Building for Hope is to create a movement of sustained revitalization through creative, community-based uses of underutilized church facilities. Building for Hope will help congregations see the space they inhabit in their neighborhoods as sacred spaces that should be utilized for the best and highest good for the glory of God and the blessing of others.



(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. Dr. Jeff Binder, Interim Minister

## Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

### Building for Hope

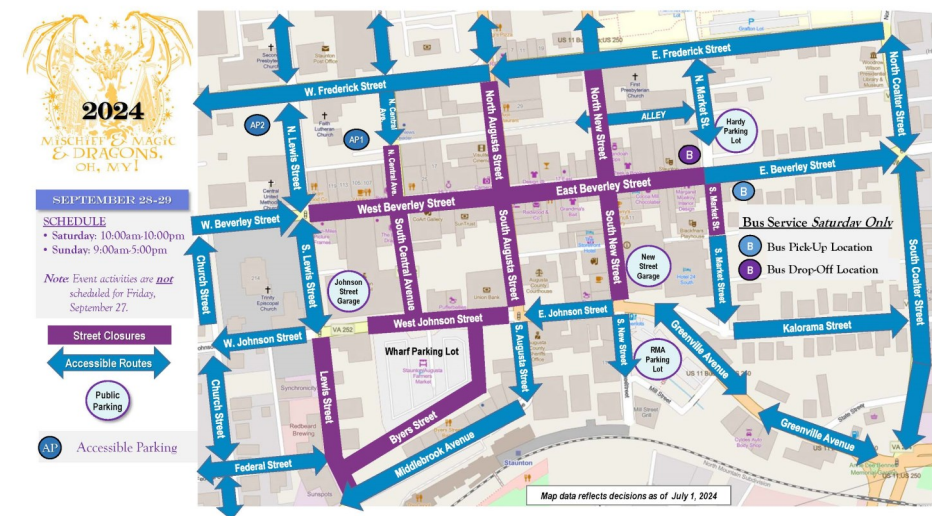
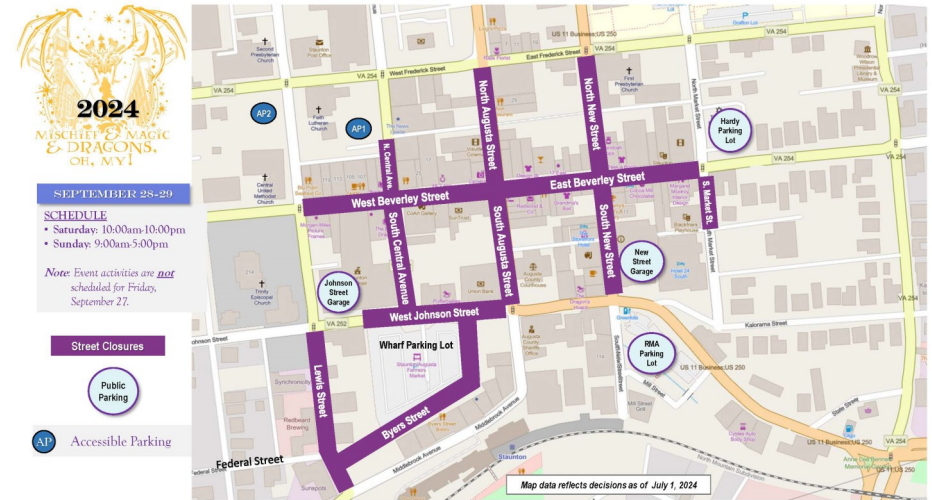
Over the course of the next two years, three church leaders will attend conversations that will help First Presbyterian discern possible options on how to most faithfully use the church campus for the glory of God.

This is no small task! As you know, there are many factors involved when it comes to utilizing a space as old and large as these buildings. My hope is that this program will give this church the tools and resources needed to make faithful decisions moving forward.

There may be additional questions that you may be asking yourself at this time. I am most happy to sit down and discuss these questions with you at any time! In the meantime, here are a few FAQs:

- Who is involved with this program?** This program is part of a larger grant from the *Lilly* foundation, which seeks to support Christian ministry. They have awarded a grant to *Old Town Community Church* based in Alexandria, Virginia, who is organizing this program to invite about 8-12 churches nationwide to share in this discernment. The consultants for these conversations are *Rooted Good*, and *Center for Healthy Churches*, both of which work nationally with churches to help in this sort of discernment so that the congregations may faithfully serve their communities.
- Will this cost the church money?** The short answer is no...not initially. The program itself is free and covered by a grant to cover the expenses of travel, lodging, and the consulting services from nationally known organizations that specialize in church facilities. The long-term costs will be based on any action following the program which Session and the congregation decide to take moving forward. Remember, simply maintaining the church campus in its present state

## Around Our Community



### Queen City Mischief & Magic Festival

The Queen City Mischief & Magic Festival will take place in downtown Staunton **Saturday, September 28, 10:00am-10:00pm and Sunday, September 29, 9:00am-5:00pm.**

We will have worship on Sunday, September 29, during the festival. If you choose to come in person, please note that parking will be limited. There will be parking on the left side of the street, and there will be signs stating "Reserved for First Presbyterian." You can also park on the grass, if needed. A map showing street closures is shown on the next page. Of course, there is also the option to attend online. We hope to see you there!

### Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 2)

#### Building for Hope

costs the congregation thousands of dollars each year.

The campus itself is a tool for ministry and mission, and there will always be costs involved.

3. ***Are we required to "do something" following the initial program?*** Again, yes and no. Yes, the congregation will be expected to participate in providing feedback during the discernment stage (Year 1: 2025). We want to hear from you! But no, following the completion of the discernment stage, there is no requirement to take any action if the congregation does not deem it warranted (although the hope is that we *do* discern some actions to take from such a process, as we know that taking *no* action is not helpful for the church campus or the vitality of our congregation moving forward).

Again, I welcome your thoughts, questions, and feedback.

I realize that there have been similar conversations and projects in years past. My belief is that this discernment will be different in the sense that we will be supported by professional consultants who have experience in helping churches implement what visions God is sharing. We also will be sharing this journey with other like-minded congregations who will be supporting one another throughout this process. Such a program opportunity is fitting during this transitional space for First Presbyterian as we continue to pray for vision and clarity in the days and years ahead.

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

Highlights of August 13, 2024 Session Meeting

- ◆ Session had a presentation from MBU president, Jeff Stein. A discussion followed, brainstorming ways to best continue our long relationship with MBU.
- ◆ The Nominating Committee is hard at work preparing a slate of elders for next year's Session class. If you are asked to serve, it means that the committee feels that you have something important that you can bring to the group. Please prayerfully consider serving the church. Thank you to those who have already agreed!
- ◆ Congregational Life is preparing for a lunch time cookout on September 22, following an outdoor worship service that day. Members are asked to bring a chair and a side dish or dessert to share. Hot dogs on the grill will be provided.
- ◆ Mission and Outreach continues to work hard on serving our neighbors through the stocking and operating of our Home Goods pantry, as well as meeting with community groups that may need our help.
- ◆ The Staunton Music Festival will be performing in our sanctuary August 17 and August 19-24 at 12 noon. The concerts are free and open to the public. Plans are underway for a concert featuring our former organist, Joshua Goines, on the evening of September 14. Joshua will also assist in the Sunday service on September 15.
- ◆ Session received a new Mission and Vision Statement for the church which was crafted by a Session subcommittee based on the ideas and priorities outlined by Session at their June retreat. Session will hold another retreat for the purpose of future planning on November 3.

OUTDOOR CHURCH WORSHIP & BARBEQUE



WHEN: Sunday, September 22 11:00am

WHERE: On the Lawn 100 E. Frederick St., Staunton

Please join us for outdoor worship on the lawn, followed by a BBQ & covered dish lunch! The church will provide hot dogs, lemonade, coffee, plates, cups, and napkins.

The congregation is asked to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. Don't forget your lawn chair!

Come and bring a friend!

All are welcome, especially Mary Baldwin students, faculty, and staff! We hope to see you there!

First Presbyterian Church 100 E. Frederick St. Staunton, VA 24401 540-886-0704 stauntonfirst@gmail.com 1stpres-staunton.org



Please RSVP to the church office at stauntonfirst@gmail.com or 540-886-0704 so we will know how many hot dogs to prepare.

Graveside Service and Memorial Reception for Brad Furr Saturday, September 21 There will be a graveside memorial service for Brad Furr on Saturday, September 21 at 11:00am, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00pm.

## Church News

### Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Concert

Please join us for a concert presented by the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, September 28 at 5:00pm in our sanctuary. We hope you can join us!



### 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!

### 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!

### Newsletter Deadline for October 2024

The deadline for submissions for the September issue of First Impressions is **Thursday, September 19**. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

### 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!



### Heidi—Vacation


Heidi will be off Friday, August 30–Monday, September 9, returning Tuesday, September 10. Fay Knicley will kindly be filling in during this time.

## Church News

### September Birthday List



- |    |                                |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 5  | Julie Furr                     |
| 6  | Wyatt Hollar<br>Sarah Kullman  |
| 11 | Kitty Tillen                   |
| 13 | Carolyn Hoaster                |
| 14 | Cynthia Hughes                 |
| 16 | Patt Hollar                    |
| 20 | Andra Borrell<br>Sharon Wilson |
| 22 | Mary Huffard Kegley            |
| 29 | Roger Knott                    |
| 30 | Collin Lendermon               |



The church offices will be closed on Monday, September 2 for Labor Day. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday!

### Worship Committee Meeting

There will be a Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 4 at 5:15pm in the library.

### Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be a Mission & Outreach Committee meeting on Thursday, September 5 at 2:00pm in the parlor.

### Session Meeting Tuesday, September 10

There will be a Session meeting on Tuesday, September 10 at 5:15pm in the library.

### Congregational Life Committee Meeting

There will be a Congregational Life Committee meeting on Monday, September 16 at 10:30am in the library.

## Church News

Church Attendance for July–August 2024 (in person and online)

July 28	In person: 30	Online: 5
August 4	In person: 29	Online: 6
August 11	In person: 29	Online: 4
August 18	In person: 42	Online: 4
Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 37		

### Presbyterian Women

PW Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, September 17 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 don't hesitate to contact Alice.

We look forward to seeing you on the 17th!

### Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, September 18



Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, September 18. Financial and product donations are always welcomed.

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!

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN UPLIFTING EVENING

with

### MAESTRO ORGANIST JOSHUA GOINES



**Saturday, September 14, 2024  
7 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church  
100 East Frederick Street  
Staunton, Virginia**



Info (540) 294-2474  
1stpres-staunton.org

FirstPresbyterianChurchStaunton

**Free-will offering  
will be donated to the  
Staunton  
African-American  
Heritage Festival**



Joshua will also be performing on the organ for us during worship on Sunday, September 15. We hope you can join us!