

October 2024



First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
Staunton, Virginia



October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2	1 10am Bible Study (L) 5pm WSO Rehearsal (S)	2 5:15pm Worship Committee Mtg. (L)	3 2pm Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting (P) 6:30pm Session Boundary Training (Zoom)	4	5 7:30pm WSO Concert (S)
6 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	7	8 10am Bible Study (L) 12pm MBU Founder's Day rain location (S) 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	9	10 11:30am Trinity Lunch	11	12 2024 Lucky Penny Apple Butter-Garrison's
13 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Melissa Harmon preaching	14 10:30am Cong. Life Committee Meeting (L)	15 10am Bible Study (L) 6pm PW Evening Circle (L)	16 10am -12pm Home Goods Pantry	17 Newsletter Deadline -November	18	19
20 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	21	22 10am Bible Study (L)	23	24	25	26
27 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Church Lunch & Town Hall-after worship	28	29 10am Bible Study (L) 2:30pm WSO Rehearsal	30	31 12:30 WSO Rehearsal (S) 4:30pm Morris wedding rehearsal (S)		

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

Letter from the Pastor

Prayer Celebrating History & Tradition

*One generation shall extol your works to another
and shall declare your mighty acts.
They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works I will meditate.
They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.
They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. (Psalm 145:4-7)*



During this month of October we continue our *Season of Prayer* as we reflect on our **history and tradition**. Each of us has an "origin" story: how we first arrived at First Presbyterian—what is your story? *Did someone bring you to church as an infant? Did you marry into the Presbyterian tradition? Did you find this congregation after years of searching for a spiritual home?*

(cont. on p. 2)

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

Prayer Celebrating History & Tradition

Churches traditionally celebrate Reformation Sunday the last weekend of October. Some churches celebrate figures like Martin Luther or John Calvin. Others wear kilts and present tartans to celebrate our Scottish ancestry as Presbyterians. It's amazing for me to think of the many generations of Christians that have helped to shape the church into what it is today.

Who are you thankful for as part of your faith story?

We often wonder what the church might look like 1, 5, 20, 50, or even 100 years from now. It's my hunch that church might not look anything like we are accustomed to. Yes, back in the 1920s there might have been an organ, and we might have sat in the same pews, but church was quite different! Take it back even further, and I bet the Apostle Paul would be downright speechless (a very hard thing for Paul!) to see how much the Christian Church has changed and evolved since his mission nearly 2,000 years ago.

So this month, let's take a moment to pray being thankful for our ancestors—those who got us to this place and time as First Presbyterian. And perhaps with the next breath, let's be praying for God to open our hearts to what new things might be in store for First Presbyterian and the Christian Church in the days and years ahead.

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. (F-2.02, *Book of Order*)

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

Hilltop's Lucky Penny Apple Butter

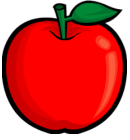
We will provide a lunch meal that starts when we feel like it and then sprawls all afternoon. We provide a main course of some sort, chips, sodas and some other stuff. Please bring something you think someone else would enjoy to add to our spread. You earn points for something unusual, lose points if it's no good. As always, we reserve the right to ridicule what you bring and to make profoundly unfair judgments based upon same. We will endeavor to be creative when communicating such judgments, but no promises.

Directions are provided below. Show up whenever and leave whenever. Bring a friend. Bring a chair or two.

Directions to 528 Whiskey Creek Road, Churchville, VA, 540-430-3484 or 540 280-9071:

- Take Route 250 from Staunton to Churchville, about 6 miles.
- In the middle of Churchville, turn left on Route 42 (South).
- About one mile after leaving Churchville and crossing Whisky Creek, take first right turn, Route 725 (Whisky Creek Road). Continue on Whisky Creek Road about a mile to the first intersection.
- At intersection take left hand fork, which is Route 723 and remains Whisky Creek Road. Continue about 1/4 mile passing two white houses and barn on your left directly on road. 300 yards beyond barn is entrance with cattle guard and post with street numbers attached on the right hand side of the gate. Enter and follow farm road to top of hill. Park in field beside house at top of hill.

Church News



Hilltop's Lucky Penny Apple Butter

The Garrison Family invites you to join them at some point during the day of Saturday, October 12, to assist in producing this year's run of **Hilltop's Lucky Penny Apple Butter**.

This is the first year the old farts in the family are empty nesting, so no telling who amongst the offspring will show. Since the party relies on slave labor from offspring, we warn you in advance that our amenities may be somewhat "ahem" reduced this year. But that's ok because they never amounted to much anyway. We promise to cut the grass. How about that?

As always, the crazies will be starting at 0-dark-30 and quitting just before dinner time, probably around 6pm. The less twisted of our regulars start showing up around 11am and trickle in and out all day. It is our objective and practice to display an impressive level of disorganization to all of our neighbors, and to have them shaking their heads and mumbling to themselves, though not calling the police. Or throwing rocks at us.

This year's rule: No politics. Federal, state or local. Don't care how clever your comment, unconcerned with how right you are and how wrong the other guys are. Guests who insist on political chat will be sent down to the pond with our golden retriever. As long as you are willing to throw a stick into the pond, Tater will listen to and agree with whatever it is you have to say.

And, as we have said before, this event insists on being highly unstructured and children of all ages are welcome. Dogs that don't fight are welcome. We will be offering apples, fresh cider and free turns at the stirring pot. Also there may be some Fireball cocktails, though no promises there. Something to do with supply and demand. We should also have some apple butter left over from last year available: first come, first served. We hope to have some music after lunch.

Church News

Highlights of September 10, 2024 Session Meeting

- ◆ Session approved an updated Mission and Vision statement based on brainstorming that was done at their summer retreat
- ◆ The Administration Committee announced that nominations are nearly complete for next year's class of elders, and a congregational meeting was called for September 29 for the purpose of electing this slate. In addition, the incorporation process is complete now that we have received all of the necessary documents. Many thanks to all who have been involved with the process over the last several years!
- ◆ Congregational Life finalized their plans for the church picnic following worship on September 22. Please join in for outdoor worship on the lawn and freshly grilled hot dogs.
- ◆ Worship & Music discussed the plans for the upcoming evening concert and Sunday service with Joshua Goines, and also the memorial reception at the church honoring Brad Furr.
- ◆ Pastor Jeff reminded everyone of the November 3 Session retreat, and Session discussed several items to add to the agenda for that day.

Session Meeting Tuesday, October 8

There will be a Session meeting on Tuesday, October 8 at 5:15pm in the library.

Church News

Church Luncheon & Town Hall Sunday, October 27

Please join us for a church luncheon and town hall Sunday, October 27, immediately following worship. More details will be provided soon.

All are welcome. We hope you can join us!

Worship Committee Meeting

There will be a Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 2 at 5:15pm in the library.

Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be a Mission & Outreach Committee meeting on Thursday, October 3 at 2:00pm in the parlor.

Congregational Life Committee Meeting

There will be a Congregational Life Committee meeting on Monday, October 14 at 10:30am in the library.

Church Attendance for August-September 2024

(in person and online)

August 25	In person: 28	Online: 2
September 1	In person: 26	Online: 6
September 8	In person: 29	Online: 10
September 15	In person: 31	Online: 6
September 22	In person: 29	Online: 4
Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 34		

Health News

Guide to 2024 Fall Vaccines: When to Get Your COVID, Flu, and RSV Shots

As the weather cools down and seasonal illnesses start circulating, now is the time to start thinking about vaccines.

THE BASICS

Flu Vaccine

Who should get it: Everyone 6 months and older; people 65 and older should opt for a high-dose vaccine.

COVID Vaccine

Who should get it: Everyone 6 months and older

When to get it: ASAP. If you've recently had COVID, you may wait up to three months to get an updated vaccine.

RSV Vaccine

Who should get it: All adults 75 and older; some adults ages 60-74; pregnant people who are 32 through 36 weeks pregnant.

Church News

Trinity Lunch Volunteers Needed!

First Presbyterian needs folks 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!

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 November 2024

The deadline for submissions for the November issue of First Impressions is **Thursday, October 17**. 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!

Church News

Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Concert

Please join us for a concert presented by the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, October 5 at 7:30pm in our sanctuary. We hope you can be there!



Presbyterian Women

PW Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, October 15 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 15th!

October Birthdays

1	Amanda Avery Geoff Coleman Robert Richmond IV	25	Richard Dietrich Mary Meade Martha Tillen
2	Anthony Caywood	29	James Garrison Sue Ann McAllister
6	Ruth Clem		
20	Shelia Fox JoAnn Tigert		
21	Chuck Lendermon		
22	Nellie Garrison		



Church News

Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, October 16



Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, October 16. 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!

First Presbyterian Church, Staunton, VA

Mission & Vision Statement

Adopted on September 10, 2024

We open our hearts and our doors to worshipping Christ in downtown Staunton as a visible witness to the Gospel.

We are called to be a congregation that...

1. Invites all people to faith in Christ.
2. Worships God in a vibrant community through discipleship, music, and fellowship.
3. Uses our resources, time, and talents in the service of the least of these.
4. Nurtures and strengthens those within and outside of our community.
5. Makes the best use of our historic downtown property to benefit others.

Church News

Reflections on Our Home Goods Community Pantry

I was asked to share my experiences with the Home Goods Community Pantry. When I first began volunteering, I didn't know what to expect. I didn't realize that being able to purchase toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, kitchen trash bags, dish soap, laundry detergent, and disinfectant wipes was a hardship for many individuals. These products were something I took being able to buy for granted. However, I soon learned how many people did without these basic items.

The pantry serves men, women, and children who have fallen on hard times. 53 people came in August for these items. Over 100 family members were helped. We are growing in our outreach.

I'll never forget the look on an older gentleman's face when I gave him a bag. He was so shocked and had the biggest smile on his face when I told him he could have everything that was in the bag. He didn't have to do anything but come to the pantry. This is the reaction most people have when they come to the pantry. They constantly say thank you and God bless you.

Because our church is the only place in the community where these items are given out to those in need, your help is greatly needed to keep the pantry running. We need more volunteers who love to shop, pack bags, stock shelves, or help hand out bags. Also, financial help is needed. Thank you to all those who have already donated. You are greatly appreciated!

- Sue Ann McAllister