

November 2024



First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
Staunton, Virginia



November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 4:30pm Molly Morris' wedding (S)	2
3 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 2-5pm Session Retreat — Hugh Sproul's home	4 10:30am Cong. Life Committee Meeting (L)	5 10am Bible Study (L)	6 5:15pm Worship Committee Meeting (L)	7 2pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting (P)	8	9
10 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	11 4-6pm Officer Training (L)	12 10am Bible Study (L) 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	13	14 11:30am Trinity Lunch 5-10:30pm WSO Rehearsal (S)	15 Newsletter Deadline (Dec)	16 7:30pm WSO Concert (S) - Chamber Groups
17 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	18	19 10am Bible Study (L) 12:30pm PW Circle (L)	20 10am- 12pm Home Goods Pantry	21	22	23
24 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	25	26 10am Bible Study (L)	27 Heidi- off	28 Thanksgiving -Church Offices Closed	29 Church Offices- Closed for Thanksgiving holiday	30

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

Letter from the Pastor

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.*

*Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.*

*The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.*

*May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.*

(Psalm 67:4-7)

During this month of November, we continue our *Season of Prayer* as we reflect on the theme of **thanksgiving**.

We have much to be thankful for in our lives, but sometimes we forget to write it down, or to say it out loud. Our natural inclination is to see what we *don't* have, what we *used* to have, what we *want*, or what we *worry* about needing in the future. Psalm 67 reminds us to be thankful for what is before us. God continues to provide, despite some challenging moments.

(cont. on p. 2)



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Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Interim Minister

Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

It would be very easy to focus on all of the unmet desires of this congregation (just as it is within our personal lives). However, for this month within our season of prayer, I invite all of us to focus on being thankful for the many blessings that surround First Presbyterian.

Let's be thankful for our ancestors that have forged a path for us to enjoy all that we have today. Let's be thankful for the staff members who have served alongside this congregation over the years. Let's be thankful for the memories of old with this church, and the blessings that we enjoy currently. Let's be thankful for the numerous church members and friends that have put their time, talents, and treasures into the vitality of this congregation. Perhaps most importantly, let's be thankful for God in Christ Jesus, who inspires us for the mission at hand.

This month, we be taking additional steps toward further articulating the future for First Presbyterian. Please continue to pray for this church and its leaders as we continue along with such an opportunity. And in all of this discernment and decision making, let's be thankful for God's provisions past, present, and future.

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

Church News



Church News

Outdoor Worship & BBQ on the Lawn Sunday, September 22!

Our outdoor worship and BBQ on Sunday, September 22 was a great success. Much fun and fellowship was had by all!



Church News

Highlights of October 8, 2024 Session Meeting

- Session discussed plans for the future and what long term items would be covered at their November 3 retreat. Session decided to invite members of the incoming class of 2028 to join them at the retreat at the home of Hugh Sproul.
- The Administration Committee presented Session with an updated *Operations Manual* for their first read. The committee provided an update on this fall's stewardship campaign. The theme will be "How Can I Help?". Speakers will give a brief "Moment for Stewardship" each Sunday from October 20 to November 17. A stewardship mailing will go out to members and friends the week of October 21.
- The Congregational Care Committee is making plans for a memorial reception honoring Julie Furr on October 12 and a congregational lunch on October 27.
- The Mission and Outreach Committee continues to reach many families with their *Home Goods Pantry*. Ongoing help is needed with preparation and purchasing for the pantry. The committee was approved by Session to take up a special offering to benefit victims of hurricanes Helene and Milton.
- The Property Committee provided an update on repairs to the broken window in the Fraser building.
- ♦ The Worship Committee met to begin on plans for Advent and Christmas.

Session Meeting Tuesday, November 12

There will be a Session meeting on Tuesday, November 12 at 5:15pm in the library.

Session Retreat & New Officer Training

There will be a Session retreat pm on Sunday, November 3 from 2:00-5:00pm at Hugh Sproul's home. New officer training will take place on Monday, November 11, 4:00-6:00pm in the library.

Church News

Congregational Life Committee Meeting

There will be a Congregational Life Committee meeting on Monday, November 4 at 10:30am in the library.

Worship Committee Meeting

There will be a Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday, November 6 at 5:15pm in the library.

Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be a Mission & Outreach Committee meeting on Thursday, November 7 at 2:00pm in the parlor.

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!

Newsletter Deadline for December 2024

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

Church Attendance for September –October 2024

(in person and online)

September 29	In person: 28	Online: 6
October 6	In person: 25	Online: 10
October 13	In person: 26	Online: 9
October 20	In person: 27	Online: 8
Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 35		

In Memoriam

(cont. fr. p. 8)

She loved Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, Gone with The Wind, plays, music, a good Hanover Tomato Sandwich, Virginia Country Ham, and caramel/chocolate candy.

Julie was the epitome of a true southern lady.

The family expresses a special thanks to the staff at The Legacy at North Augusta and Legacy Hospice for their wonderful care the last three years. A special thank you goes to Holly Baker, Rachel Beachy, Jenn Williamson, and Jen Sowers.

The family asks that memorial contributions be made to The Legacy at N. Augusta 1410A N. Augusta Street, Staunton, VA 24401 or Legacy Hospice 14 Old Oaks Drive Suite 101, Fishersville, VA 22939.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.abettercremation.org

Flowers



The flowers in the sanctuary Sunday, November 3, are given in loving memory of Fulton B. Kegley (May 13, 1931–November 6, 1980) by his family Betty, Mary Huffard, Sarah, and Fulton B. Kegley II.

In Memoriam



Julia Monroe (Spitzer) Furr (93) of Staunton passed away on Friday, September 20th, 2024 at The Legacy at North Augusta in Staunton, Virginia. She was born on September 5th, 1931 in Grottoes, Va. She was the daughter of the late Charles M. and Dorothy S. Spitzer.

Julie was preceded in death in by her husband Charles E. Furr in 1990 whom she married on October 3rd, 1952; a sister Gloria S. Foos; a nephew, Scott Schoenhut; and a son, C. Bradford Furr.

She is survived by her son, Rick Furr, and his wife, Nancy of Blacksburg, VA; son-in-law, Gary Wilson of Staunton, VA; daughter, Lissa Dod, and her husband, Rader of Staunton, VA; granddaughter, Jessica C. Furr of Blacksburg, VA; grandson, James R. Furr of Roanoke, VA; granddaughter, Anne-Charles Moreau and her husband, Miller of Danville, VA; and grandson William R. Dod III of Richmond, VA

Julie was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Staunton, VA for over 70 years. She was a member of the choir for over 60 years, served on the session, and was a member of the Presbyterian Women Evening Circle.

She graduated with honors from Robert E. Lee High School in 1949. Following this she worked as a Dental Assistant for Dr. H.M. Hanna in Staunton, VA until she was married. She later changed careers and went into banking at United Virginia Bank in 1976 from which she retired.

JuJu/Gamma, as her grandchildren fondly called her, was an avid reader and frequented the Staunton Public Library. It wasn't unheard of for her to read 3 novels in one week.

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Church News

Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Concert

Please join us for a concert presented by the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, November 16 at 7:30pm in our sanctuary. We hope you can be there!



Presbyterian Women

PW Evening Circle will meet Tuesday, November 19 at 12:30pm 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 19th!

Thanksgiving Holiday

The church offices will be closed Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for Thanksgiving. Heidi will be off Wednesday, November 27. We hope everyone has a wonderful and safe holiday!



November Birthday List

- 10 Betty Richmond
- 11 Joseph Clem
- 16 Susan Myers
- Bob Driscoll
- 17 Eleanor Supple
- 30 Peter Tillen



Church News

Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, November 20



Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, November 20. 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!

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!

Christmas Flowers



It's that time of year again! If you would like to remember or honor a loved one at Christmas, we will have the poinsettias again during the advent season. An insert will be in the bulletin by which you can give the name or names of the person(s) you wish to remember. Then put your check in the collection plate and mark it "Christmas flowers." The deadline for donating, and to be published in our bulletin insert, is **Monday, November 25**. Thank you for helping our sanctuary look beautiful during this special season!

Church News

Congregation Care Committee News

The Congregational Care Committee delivered a gift to our VIPs last month. Pictured: Nancy Hall enjoying her owl, delivered by Barbara Richardson and Alice Herbst.



Fall Back!

It's that time of year...daylight savings time ends Sunday, November 3. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour!



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.