

Elders

Class of 2024

Sam Clem, Discipleship, Congregational Life
Mary Meade, Worship
Barbara Richardson, Congregational Life

Class of 2025

Stephany Morgan, Administration, Missions & Outreach
Bret Ritchie, Administration
Hugh Sproul, Property

Class of 2026

Susie Lendermon, Missions & Outreach
Martha Tillen, Worship

Clerk

Martha Tillen

Treasurers

Scott Wilson
Amanda Avery

Staff

Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Interim Pastor
Dr. Renee Huff, Minister of Music
Heidi Marsh, Office Manager

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.1stpres-staunton.org
Facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchStaunton

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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.



1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024 @ 11:00am

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE #86 "The People Who Walked in Darkness"

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder

INTROIT #88 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Robin Knott & Sue Ann McAllister

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

ADVENT RESPONSE

"Come to Us, O God" (verse 1) *comp. Barbara Bridge*

Come to us, O God, be the hope within our longing. Dwell within us, O light of the world: O God with us, Emmanuel.

WORDS OF PRAISE

Sherry Cox

The Lord is coming to us soon.

May our hearts be ready to receive our Savior.

We are caught up in the rush of the holiday season.

Calm us down, Lord. May we breathe in your breath of life.

The Lord is bringing peace to us here this day.

Praise be to God who brings peace to a hectic world.

***OPENING HYMN #88** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

***OPENING PRAYER**

Psalm 80

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises: the earth rejoices in hope of our savior's coming into our lives and into the world. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes. Empower us by your Spirit to prepare ourselves for Christ's return by doing the work to which he has commissioned us, until your reign is revealed in its fullness and power.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

***ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE**

Even in the midst of difficult times, God is with us, bringing hope to us.
Receive God’s rich blessing in Christ Jesus – we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
(Please greet those around you with the peace of Christ.)

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #85** “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 21:25-36

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM “The Days are Really Coming” *Text is by David Gambrell, © 2009
& Dr. Renee Huff, 2024; Original Music by Dr. Huff 11/25/24*

SERMON “Hope ” *Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #82** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY #89 “For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

***DOXOLOGY #606** “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

***PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Lord’s Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing in the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Communion

Hymnal #559

Hymnal pg. 35

***CLOSING HYMN #92** “While We Are Waiting, Come”

***BLESSING & SENDING**

Go out into the world in peace; have courage;

May we hold on to what is good, returning no one evil for evil;

strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering;

honor all people;

Let us love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

***POSTLUDE #100** “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS LUNCH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 Our annual Christmas Lunch will take place on Sunday, December 8, immediately following worship. **Please RSVP to the office** at stauntonfirst@gmail.com or 540-886-0704 if you plan to come. Please join us!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS If you would like to remember or honor a loved one at Christmas, we will have the poinsettias again during the advent season. Please see the insert 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, has been extended to **Monday, December 2**. Thank you for helping our sanctuary look beautiful during this special season!

NEW CLASSES FORMING? Our Bible Study on Tuesday mornings has been very successful, but we would like to accommodate all schedules. We will gladly offer another class or two if there is sufficient demand. Please contact the church office at stauntonfirst@gmail.com or 540-886-0704 to express your interest in a Sunday morning class, a Sunday after worship class, a weekday evening class, or a monthly seminar series. Also, please let us know what sort of class you would prefer. Some options include Bible study, book study, lecture, discussion, witness, prayer, social...we want to provide whatever you want, so please let us know. Thank you!

MBU CHOIR CONCERT Please join us for a concert presented by the Mary Baldwin University Choir this Wednesday, December 4, at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

Prayer List

Please send out prayers for: Chase Caywood; Helen Wood; Family of Sidney Supple; Eleanor Supple; Jim Cooke; Collin Parrish; Danny Anson

Please contact Heidi in the church office or Pastor Jeff to have names added or removed from the prayer list.

Names will be removed after 6 weeks unless otherwise requested.