

**Elders**

**Class of 2024**

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

**Class of 2025**

Stephany Morgan, Administration, Missions & Outreach  
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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**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.



**2nd Sunday of Advent**

**December 8, 2024 @ 11:00am**

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

**PRELUDE #107** "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

**INTROIT – PSALM 100** "Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord" *Handbell Choir*  
*(from Psalms for Bells) by Judy Hunnicutt © 1980 Agape*

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING** *Mary Meade & Gary Wilson*

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** Psalm 96:10-13 *Dick Cox*

Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!  
**The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.**  
**God will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

**let the sea roar and all that fills it;**

**let the field exult and everything in it.**

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for he is coming,

**for God is coming to judge the earth.**

The Lord will judge the world with righteousness

**and the peoples with his truth.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #97** "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE      Isaiah 35

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing.

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 3:1-17

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM      "Veni Emmanuel" (15th C. Plainsong)      *Handbell Choir*  
*arr. by Julia R. Neufeld © 1941 Psalter Music*

SERMON      "Peace"      *Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #105      "People, Look East"      *Vs. 1, 2*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH      *The Confession of 1967*

**In Jesus of Nazareth true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes.**

**Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all people.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER      *Hymnal P. 35*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY      "Come Emmanuel Come"      *Chancel Choir*  
*by Nancy Price and Don Besig © 1989 Harold Flammer, Inc.*

\*DOXOLOGY #649      "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

\*PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

\*CLOSING HYMN #105      "People, Look East"      *Vs. 3, 4, & 5*

\*BLESSING & SENDING      Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**May the peace of Christ Jesus dwell within us and within all whom we encounter this week.**

Prepare the way of the Lord!

**Alleluia! Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE #106      "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS LUNCH TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 Our annual Christmas Lunch will take place today, Sunday, December 8, immediately following worship. All are welcome. Please join us!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE Please join us in sharing Christmas with adults in our community! The Christmas Giving Tree is currently in the back of the sanctuary. The purpose is to give a gift to those adults in our community with few resources and little to no family support. Folks are encouraged to select an ornament with someone's name on it, shop, and return the gift (and the ornament) by **Wednesday, December 11**. You can put the gift under the tree or bring it into the office. Please do not wrap the gift. Instead, please put it in a gift bag. Thank you!

THERE WILL BE A SESSION MEETING Tuesday, December 10 at 5:15pm in the library.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE The deadline for submissions for the January 2025 issue of First Impressions is Monday, December 16. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

*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.*