<u>Elders</u>

<u>Class of 2024</u> Sam Clem, Discipleship, Congregational Life Mary Meade, Worship Barbara Richardson, Congregational Life

<u>Class of 2025</u> Stephany Morgan, Administration, Missions & Outreach Hugh Sproul, Property

> <u>Class of 2026</u> Susie Lendermon, Missions & Outreach Martha Tillen, Worship

> > <u>Clerk</u> Martha Tillen

<u>Treasurers</u> Scott Wilson Amanda Avery

<u>Staff</u> Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Interim Pastor Dr. Renee Huff, Minister of Music Heidi Marsh, Office Manager

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 100 E. Frederick Street, Staunton, VA 24401 540-886-0704; stauntonfirst@gmail.com www.1stpres-staunton.org Facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchStaunton Please Donate! Scan QR Code



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.



3rd Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024 @ 11:00am A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Prelude	"Gabriel's Oboe"	La Mision
CHIMING OF THE HOUR		
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEM	Jeff Binder	
INTROIT	"There's a Song in the Air"	Harrington
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTIN Watch and wait for Ch		oll & Megan McAllister
We light candles of ho God with prayer.	pe, peace, joy, and love, remembering	g the promises of
ADVENT RESPONSE Come to us, O God, be th O God with us, Emmanu	"Come to Us, O God" (verse 1) e hope within our longing. Dwell within u el.	, 0
is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord let this be known in al Shout aloud and sing fo	's deeds among the nations; proclaim l, for God has done gloriously; l the earth.	Lucinda Cooke that God's name
*OPENING HYMN #129	"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"	
2	that the fruit of our lives does not alw	2

repentance as we prepare our hearts for the Christ Child. We have grown joyless and weak in faith, giving voice to worry rather than continual thanksgiving. Forgive us, O Lord. Renew us in love, joy, and gladness.

angry with me, your anger Surely God is our salvatio our strength and our migh	I will give thanks to you, O Lore turned away, and you comforte on; we will trust and will not be	ed me.		
*PASSING OF THE PEACE The peace of Christ be with And also with you. (Please greet those around	n you. you with the peace of Christ.)			
*Response of Praise #85 "	Light One Candle to Watch for	Messiah" vs. 3		
SCRIPTURE READING This is the word of the Lor Thanks be to God!	Luke 15:1-10 d.			
ANTHEM	"Advent Echo Carol" by Mary Kay Beall	Chancel Choir		
Sermon	"Joy"	Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder		
*Hymn of Response #144	"In the Bleak Midwinter"			
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Confession of Belhar (1986) We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.				
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND	THE LORD'S PRAYER	Hymnal P. 35		
CALL TO OFFERING				
OFFERTORY	"What Child Is This?	English Folk Tune		
*Doxology #609 "Praise	God From Whom All Blessings	Flow"		
*PRAYER OF GRATITUDE				
*Closing Hymn #132	"Good Christian Friends, Rejoid	ce"		

*BLESSING & SENDING Philippians 4:4-7
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
May our gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.
May we not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving may our requests be made known to God.
And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.
Alleluia! Amen.

***POSTLUDE #119** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKS TO GARY HAVENS, who is playing for us in worship today.

PW CIRCLE PW Circle will meet Tuesday, December 17 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! We look forward to seeing you on the 17th.

<u>HOME GOODS COMMUNITY PANTRY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18</u> Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, December 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!

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

<u> Prayer List</u>

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.