

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.



4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024 @ 11:00am

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE #101

"No Wind at the Window"

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder

INTROIT #98

"To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Amanda Avery & Cindy Cooke

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 150

Sharon Wilson

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in the sanctuary;

Praise God in the mighty firmament!

Praise God for mighty deeds;

praise God according to surpassing greatness!

Let everyone who has breath praise the Lord!

***OPENING HYMN #143**

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

***OPENING PRAYER**

Lord of Christmas Peace, despite our best efforts, we continue to do wrong. We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see your light. We have not allowed your love to break the bonds of the world's anger, fear, and hate.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin, free us from our captivity, free us to a life lived in joy and love through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE** Psalm 80:7

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
The good news is worth shouting from the mountaintops: in Jesus Christ 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" vs. 4

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-56

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

ANTHEM "Breath of Heaven" *Duet by Kyle LeGore & Dr. Renee Huff*

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

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #146** "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed* (ecumenical version)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

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

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Mary Did You Know?" *Kyle LeGore, soloist*

***DOXOLOGY #609** "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

***PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

***CLOSING HYMN #133** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

***BLESSING & SENDING**

Let us go from this place proclaiming God's love for the world.
Let us go from this place living out God's grace in our lives.
May God strengthen you, Christ renew you, and the Holy Spirit transform you.
Go out into the world to love and serve the Lord.
Alleluia! Amen.

***POSTLUDE #152** "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE WELCOME KYLE LEGORE, who is singing for us in worship today.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP on Tuesday, December 24 at 4:30pm in the sanctuary. There will be beautiful preservice music, followed by our worship service. All are welcome. We hope you can join us!

THE CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas Day. Pastor Jeff will be off Thursday, December 26-Tuesday, December 31. Heidi will be off Monday, December 23-Monday, December 30. Merry Christmas to everyone!

Prayer List

Please send out prayers for: Helen Wood; family of Sidney Supple; Eleanor Supple; Jim Cooke; Collin Parrish; Danny Anson; the family of Shannon Taylor

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.