

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.



1st Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024 @ 11:00am

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE #116 "The Snow Lay on the Ground"

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scott Wilson

INTROIT #153 "In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy"

WORDS OF PRAISE

Matthew 11:28-30

Mary Meade

If you are tired and heavy burdened, come to me and I will give you rest.
Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me.
I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest.
This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light.

Christ calls us to come to worship

To rest from the things that are troubling us.

To learn what Christ can teach of life.

To realize what we can offer to others.

And so to return into the world to serve.

Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN #134** "Joy to the World"

***OPENING PRAYER**

***ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE** Isaiah 35:10

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness.

Sing a song of redemption!

Let sorrow and sighing be no more.

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 #137**

“He Came Down”

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2 selected verses

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“Angels We Have Heard on High” *Piano duet Gary Havens & Renee Huff
by James R. Murray, arr. By Jerry Ray, © 1989 Alfred Pub.*

SERMON

“Following the Star”

Scott Wilson & Mary Meade

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #347**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Brief Statement of Faith (1983)

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Hymnal P. 35

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY #115

“Away in a Manger” *piano duet Gary Havens and Renee Huff*

***DOXOLOGY #606**

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

***PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

***CLOSING HYMN #119**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

***BLESSING & SENDING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

Today and evermore. Amen.

***POSTLUDE #150**

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKS TO SCOTT WILSON AND MARY MEADE, who will be leading worship today.

TIME OFF FOR STAFF & HOLIDAY Pastor Jeff will be off Monday, December 30 and Tuesday, December 31. Heidi will be off Monday, December 30. The church offices will be closed Wednesday, January 1 for New Year’s Day. Happy New Year to everyone!

THERE WILL BE A MISSIONS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday, January 2 at 2pm in the parlor.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE WILL MEET Sunday, January 5, immediately following worship in the library.

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.