

**Elders**

**Class of 2025**

Stephany Morgan, Administration  
Hugh Sproul, Property  
Barbara Richardson, Congregational Life

**Class of 2026**

Susie Lendermon, Missions & Outreach  
Martha Tillen, Worship  
Cindy Cooke, Property

**Class of 2027**

Lisa Caywood, Congregational Life  
Eddie Homes, Discipleship  
Sharon Wilson, Missions & Outreach

**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.



**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 26, 2025 @ 11:00am**

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

**PRELUDE #279**

*“Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove”*

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

**INTROIT**

*“Spirit, Come”  
(worship sequence © 1993, Lillenas Pub.)*

**WORDS OF PRAISE**

Psalm 19:1-4

*Martha Tillen*

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
**and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.**  
Day to day pours forth speech,  
**and night to night declares knowledge.**  
There is no speech, nor are there words;  
**their voice is not heard;**  
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
**and their words to the end of the world.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #401**

*“Here in This Place”*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

*Thomas Merton*

**My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.**  
**But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**      *Thomas Merton*

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Friends, today we celebrate the fact that God never leaves us, no matter where we are led.

I declare to you, in the name of 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**      Luke 4:14-30

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM**      "Famous One"

*by Chris Tomlin and Jesse Reeves, © 2002, Worship Together Pub.*

**SERMON**      "The Spirit of the Lord"

*Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #39**      "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**      *Iona Community*

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the spirit. We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY #438**      "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

**\*DOXOLOGY #606**      "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

**\*PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #462**      "I Love to Tell the Story"

**\*BLESSING & SENDING**      Esther 4:14

We have been called for such a time as this.

**For such a time as now.**

For such a place as here,

**and throughout God's universe.**

Go from this place to love and serve the Lord – you have been called.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*POSTLUDE #839**      "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will take place Sunday, February 16, immediately following worship. After the meeting, we hope you can join us for brunch in the Fellowship Hall! Members of the congregation are asked to bring breakfast foods for the brunch. Drinks will be provided. Please RSVP to Heidi at [stauntonfirst@gmail.com](mailto:stauntonfirst@gmail.com) or 540-886-0704 if you plan to attend. All are welcome!

**BIBLE STUDY EVERY TUESDAY AT 10:00AM** Please join us for Bible Study every Tuesday at 10:00am in the library. Discussions are lively and refreshments are provided. All are welcome. Please join us!

**COFFEE & COOKIES/FELLOWSHIP & FRIENDS** The Congregational Care Committee would like to enlist your help with our coffee hour after worship. We need volunteers to make coffee to be ready at 10:45am and bring it to the sanctuary, arrange cookies, etc., put out napkins and plates and clean up afterwards. All coffee, cookies and paper goods are supplied. Right now, we need volunteers for February 9. All Sundays in March & April are free. Find a Sunday (or two) and sign up!  
- Thank you from the Congregational Care Committee

***Prayer List***

Please send out prayers for: Paul Goble; family of Eleanor Supple; Jim Cooke; Collin Parrish; Danny Anson; Junior and Sandra Rush; family of Jesse Parrot; Jeannette Homes

*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.*