

July 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10am Bible Study (L) 2pm Mission & Outreach Committee Mtg. (P)	2 5:15pm Worship Committee Meeting (L)	3 Heidi-out	4 Church Offices Closed	5
6 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	7 10:30am Cong. Life Comm. Meeting (L) 3-5pm Heifetz rehearsals (S)	8 10am Bible Study (L) 12:30 PW Meeting (L) 3-5pm Heifetz rehearsals (S)	9 3-5pm Heifetz rehearsals (S)	10 11:30am Trinity Lunch 3-5pm Heifetz rehearsals (S) 6pm Picnic w/ 2nd & 3rd-Gypsy Hill Park	11	12
13 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 12:15pm Admin. Committee Meeting (L)	14 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	15 10am Bible Study (L)	16 10am Home Goods Pantry	17 Newsletter Deadline—August	18 Pastor Jeff-Montreat	19 Pastor Jeff-Montreat
20 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Kevin Moore preaching	21 3-5pm Heifetz rehearsals (S) Pastor Jeff-Montreat	22 10am Bible Study (L) Pastor Jeff-Montreat	23 3-5pm Heifetz rehearsals (S) Pastor Jeff-Montreat	24 Pastor Jeff-Montreat	25 Pastor Jeff-Montreat	26 Pastor Jeff-Montreat
27 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	28 3-5pm Heifetz rehearsals (S)	29 10am Bible Study (L) 3-5pm Heifetz rehearsals (S)	30 3-5pm Heifetz rehearsals (S)	31 3-5pm Heifetz rehearsals (S)		

S=sanctuary; L= library; P=parlor; FH=Fellowship Hall; Ch=chapel

First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

Staunton, Virginia

July 2025



Letter from the Pastor

Won't You Be My Neighbor

"And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)

This question inspires Jesus to share with the crowd the story of the Good Samaritan, as he teaches all about the priorities of loving God and loving our neighbors.

So, how do the teachings from Jesus about loving our neighbors relate to First Presbyterian?

Our involvement with the *Building for Hope* program is in direct response to Jesus's teaching to love our neighbors as ourselves. One of the marks of a "successful" program will be our congregation partnering with other local community groups that share our values to lift up our neighbors. This has been a part of the life of First Presbyterian in years past with previous building use agreements and mission programs, and this is something that we are in a unique position to continue to provide in the days ahead.

Because we have so much underutilized space within our downtown church property, we are seeking to bless our community partners with such space, while they bless us by

(cont. on p. 2)



FIRST IMPRESSIONS is a publication of First Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Pastor

Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

Won't You Be My Neighbor

partnering with us in helping to strengthen the Staunton community. Over the course of the next few months, my hope is that we as First Presbyterian Church will continue to meet our neighbors here in the Staunton community.

If you are spending any time around our property these days, things are quite busy! Over the course of the past few months, we have been intentionally partnering with more organizations that cover a breadth of the community. We are currently hosting the *Heifetz* music program through the beginning of August, only to be followed by more amazing musicians with the *Staunton Music Festival*! And this September we hope to welcome additional community groups, including a segment of a nearby home schooling program, and a day center program hosted by *WARM* that will help meet the needs of those experiencing houselessness in the region. As we welcome these groups into our space, we begin to understand the "First Presbyterian family" is much larger than merely our official church membership. We are participating in God's kingdom being realized here today.

Are you interested in helping to join in supporting our community partnerships? We are always looking for volunteers and advocates. Reach out to Pastor Jeff with any questions you may have.

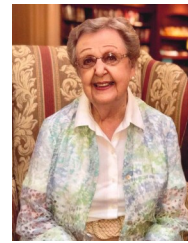
In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

In Memoriam

(cont. fr. p. 10)



Opal F. Homan

January 11, 1930–June 4, 2025

Opal Winters Fauber Homan, 95, passed away on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at the Legacy at North Augusta in Staunton.

She was born on January 11, 1930, in Rockbridge County to the late John Bunyan and Beulah Beadles Coffey Fauber.

Opal was a devoted wife to Charles Edward Homan, who passed away on March 2, 2011.

Throughout her life, she held several notable positions, including secretary at Robert E. Lee High School, legislative aide to State Senator Frank W. Nolen, and a dedicated employee at the Augusta County Government Center.

She was a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church, and she also sang in the chancel choir for many years, sharing her love of music and faith with the community.

She is survived by her sons, Gregory Charles Homan and his wife, Linnie of Pagosa Springs, Colorado and Tracy Scott Homan and his wife, Tammy Lee; her grandson, Cole Gregory Homan of Seattle, Washington; her sisters-in-law, Frances Burner Fauber of Fishersville and Elaine Homan Barr of Mint Spring; and a special niece and nephew, Becky and Randy Camden of Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia.

In addition to her parents and husband she is preceded in death by her brothers, Carroll and Kenneth Fauber; and her sister, Irene Fauber Camden.

Services will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to Legacy Hospice (650 Peter Jefferson Parkway, Suite 31, Charlottesville, VA 22911) or https://legacy-hospice.com/make_a_donation

Around Our Community

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

If you're looking for a small-town, big-time 4th of July celebration with music, food, fun, a parade, a beauty pageant (on Sunday, June 29), a vesper service, a country music show, and some end-the-night-light-up-the-sky fireworks, then make your way out to Gypsy Hill Park for a wonderful family 3-day event. And it's all FREE!



The only thing you need to bring is your lawn chair. July 4 celebrations will begin the afternoon of Thursday, July 3rd. Happy Birthday America, which is centered around giving back to the community as well as remembering and celebrating America's favorite holiday, was started in 1970 by Staunton's favorite sons, The Statler Brothers. Second-generation country music duo Wilson Fairchild now headlines the event with their show on the night of the 4th with their special music guest. Come wave your red, white, and blue, and we'll see you in the park!

For more info be sure to visit the Happy Birthday America website at <https://www.happybirthdayamerica.org/> or see the story in the News Leader at <https://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/staunton/2025/05/30/stauntons-happy-birthday-america-gearing-up-for-2025-celebration/83917434007/>

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.

Church News

Session Meeting Monday, July 14

There will be a Session meeting on Monday, July 14, at 5:15pm in the library.

Highlights of June 9 Session Meeting

- ♦ The Oratory school from St. Francis has been conditionally approved to rent the upstairs of the Fraser building for the next school year.
- ♦ The Discipleship Committee and Pastor Jeff will be offering a class on Being a Presbyterian.
- ♦ The Property Committee is getting estimates for a number of needed repairs.
- ♦ Betty Kegley has been moved to a skilled nursing location in Wytheville.

Upcoming Schedule for Heidi and Pastor Jeff

- ♦ Heidi will be out of the office Thursday, July 3 for the July 4 holiday.
- ♦ The church offices will be closed Friday, July 4 for Independence Day.
- ♦ Pastor Jeff will be at Montreat Friday, July 18-Saturday, July 26.

Church Attendance for May-June 2025

(in person and online)

May 25	In person: 21	Online: 13
June 1	In person: 20	Online: 2
June 8	In person: 28	Online: 20
June 15	In person: 24	Online: 8
June 22	In person: 21	Online: 8

Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 33

Church News

Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be a Mission & Outreach Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 1, at 2:00pm in the parlor.

Worship Committee Meeting

There will be a Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 2, at 5:15pm in the library.

Congregational Life Committee Meeting

There will be a Congregational Life Committee meeting on Monday, July 7, at 10:30am in the library.

Administration Committee Meeting

There will be an Administration Committee meeting on Sunday, July 13, immediately following worship at 12:15pm in the library.

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!

First Presbyterian Church Picnic at the Wilson's Sunday, June 15



First Presbyterian Church Picnic at the Wilson's
Sunday, June 15 *(cont. fr. p. 11)*



Church News

**FIRST, SECOND, & THIRD PRESBYTERIAN
ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC & COVERED DISH**

WHEN:

**Thursday, July 10
6:00pm**

WHERE:

Gypsy Hill Park

Enter through the Thornrose entrance and meet in the dell on the right, behind the Brigade Band building.



Please join us for food & fellowship! Please bring a dish or dessert to share. Fried chicken, drinks, and paper goods will be provided.

Don't forget your lawn chair!

Come and bring a friend!

All are welcome. We hope to see you there!

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f FirstPresbyterianChurchStaunton

**Please RSVP to the church
office at
stauntonfirst@gmail.com
or 540-886-0704 so we will
know how much chicken
to prepare.**



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Church News

Newsletter Deadline for August 2025

The deadline for submissions for the August 2025 issue of First Impressions is Thursday, July 17. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

Presbyterian Women Tuesday, July 8

PW Circle will meet Tuesday, July 8 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!



Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, July 16

Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, July 16. We served 106 households in June, and we continue to grow. Due to dramatic growth in popularity, financial and product donations are always welcomed and needed.



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-pack), tissues (small pack), trash bags (10 count), dish soap (one bottle), laundry detergent, and disinfectant wipes.

The Home Goods Pantry would also welcome additional volunteers to help with shopping. Please contact Sue Ann McAllister if you can help. Thank you!

First Presbyterian Church Picnic at the Wilson's Sunday, June 15

By the time Sharon and Scott Wilson returned home from church on June 15, the skies had opened up and it was clear that their back deck would not be the site of the church picnic they were about to host. They quickly put their rain plan into play, setting up chairs in the garage.

Guests arrived a bit damp but with smiles and a wonderful assortment of food; Eddie Homes added beautiful flowers; Scott braved the rain to grill delicious hot dogs and hamburgers and then presented Pastor Jeff with a housewarming gift from church members. A good time was had by all—even Dick Cox, who got drenched in the process of moving the tent from the back yard to provide overflow seating!

Many thanks to the Wilsons for opening their beautiful home, providing such a wonderful setting—even in the pouring rain!—and extending such a warm welcome.



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First Presbyterian Church Covered Dish Picnic on the Lawn Sunday, May 18



Church News

What Does It Mean to Be a Presbyterian?

Our Discipleship ministry is interested in having conversations about topics regarding being Presbyterian. Would you like to join us? This series of conversations would be for all people with all levels of "experience." Whether you are a first-time visitor, or a cradle-to-grave Presbyterian, we're sure you will learn something new about what it means to identify as a Presbyterian today.

And for those of you who wonder what it means to be a member of First Presbyterian Church, this is the place for you as well!

Interested in learning more? Contact Pastor Jeff, the church office, or Elder Eddie Homes, and let us know of your interest. Once we get preferred days & times to meet, we will officially advertise this conversation to everyone who is interested. Thank you!

Betty Kegley Turns 92 Friday, July 4!

Betty Kegley turns 92 on Friday, July 4! Cards and messages would be greatly appreciated. You can send these to: Betty Kegley, PO Box 555, Bland, VA 24315. Thank you!



July Birthdays

4	Betty Kegley
14	Eddie Homes
19	Dan Layman
27	Margaret Mackay



Church News

FROM THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK. By: Eddie Homes

The landscape out N the meadow and in the fields at "Walden Woods," is presently verdant and lush. The recent June rains "hath provided" a genial atmosphere . The ewes and lambs are out on green pastures this time of year. Very little attention is given to the flock @ this season. Other than checking for signs of enemia from pesty internal parasites, other shepherding is minimal ~ close attention to getting a head count daily to see that "everyone" is up and "on hoof" ~ nothing else.

The big barnyard event this month was the scheduled "shearing of the sheep!" An arduous task, shearing is REQUIRED, annually. My shearer from down 'round Raphine, Virginia, arrived @ 9:45 AM, promptly on Thursday, June 5th. My shearer is very skilled. In fact, it is an art. Eric, by name, has been able to come annually for the past six Spring Seasons. And, I had excellent help from my neighbour who lives down at "Riverbend," a nearby property. In fact, Sue owns four of the ewes and a handsome young ram, named "Gray



Fawn and Tawny

Charles" of the flock. As said, shearing is an arduous task ~ involving catching each sheep, presenting it to the shearer, and packing the fleeces in a large burlap bag, provided by the Augusta County Farm Agency, Headquartered in Verona, Virginia. It's all good work! Tasks I have completed since a young boy growing up on the farm with no less than sixty beautiful Suffolk ewes and a couple or three buck sheep in the huge flock, back then! As a boy, my Daddy, a staunch Farmer himself since his childhood, handed over our sheep operation to me; and, my experiences of the 1950s and 1960s carry on at this time!

In conclusion, I wish to include an article which appeared N my devotional last month. And it was printed N our church bulletin on "GOOD SHEPHERD SABBATH," May the 11th.

Church News

FROM THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK. By: Eddie Homes

It reads: "The Lord is my shepherd," the Psalmist says. "I lack nothing" (23:1). This line provides the foundation upon which the rest of the Psalm ~ and our entire lives ~ rests. These words don't ignore the grim realities most of us face. Rather, these comforting words announce a profound assertion: Because we have a good Shepherd, we possess everything we need. Our Shepherd guides us into verdant green pastures and alongside quiet, healing waters. He refreshes our weary, sorrowful, and anxious souls.

This completes my account this month from "The Shepherd's Crook!" Should any queries arise, feel free to reach out.

Here is a picture of Jackson Davis, who lives in Charlotte, NC. Jackson is the grandson of Scott & Sharon Wilson, and the son of Kimberly Davis. The Wilsons visited "Walden Woods" on April 18th. And this picture of Jackson was taken during their visit. Nice!

