

# October 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:15pm Worship Committee Meeting (L) 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	2	3 MBU Founder's Day-rain location (S)	4
5 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 12:15pm "Being a Presbyterian" class (L)	6 10:30am Cong. Life Comm. Mtg. (L)	7 10am Bible Study (L) 2pm M&O Committee Meeting (P)	8 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	9 11:30am Trinity Lunch 5pm WSO Dress Rehearsal	10	11 7:30pm WSO Concert (S)
12 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 12:15pm Admin. Comm. Mtg. (L)	13 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	14 10am Bible Study (L) 12:30 PW Meeting (L)	15 10am Home Goods Pantry 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	16 Newsletter Deadline— October	17	18
19 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 12:15 Pizza & Pumpkin Party (FH)	20	21 10am Bible Study (L)	22 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	23	24	25
26 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 12:15 Congreg. Meeting	27	28 10am Bible Study (L)	29 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	30	31 Halloween	

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

# First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian  
Church

Staunton, Virginia

October 2025



## Letter from the Pastor

### *Building for Hope* Updates

There has been a lot going on here at First Presbyterian!

I was amazed after reflecting on my workday a few weeks back. On that particular day, this church was hosting a conversation with city leaders and WARM on the need for a day center to create a safe space for those experiencing homelessness. In the sanctuary we had the Heifetz Institute wrapping up, and the Staunton Music Festival gathering for their first rehearsals. Just down the hall, the American Shakespeare Center was hard at work finalizing costume choices for this fall's production of *Romeo & Juliet*. And up above the church office, there was a team of families helping to prepare space for the "Sacred Heart Academy" school program to begin welcoming students. Not to mention a typical pastoral day of facilitating Bible study, checking in on church members, sermon preparation, and committee projects, and it is safe to say that this is an active church these days!



(cont. on p. 2)

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS** is a publication of First Presbyterian Church  
100 East Frederick St., Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 886-0704  
[stauntonfirst@gmail.com](mailto:stauntonfirst@gmail.com) and [www.1stpres-staunton.org](http://www.1stpres-staunton.org)  
Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Pastor

## Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

### *Building for Hope* Updates

Last year when Session applied to be part of the *Building for Hope* program, one of the first things we decided was that we wanted to partner with local community organizations that shared our values; we call this the “Plug & Play” strategy. We realized that many of our members are not as available to start programs on our own (although our Home Goods pantry continues to thrive!), and so one of the best ways we can partner with others is by opening our church property, so that First Presbyterian can indirectly serve even more people who need to experience God’s love and grace through these services and programs being provided.

I just mentioned a few of our community partners these days, but believe it or not, there are even more. We are trying a new thing here at First Presbyterian, and we want you as members and friends to be part of it. Here are a few ways that you can continue to support the *Building for Hope* efforts:

- ◆ Continue with forming community partnerships and relationships.
- ◆ Welcome new faces that are around the property.
- ◆ Let others know about what great things your church is doing to bless the community.
- ◆ Pray for these organizations and our church community.

We look forward to seeing what is next!

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

### **Congregational Meeting Sunday, October 26**

We will have a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 26, immediately following worship for the purpose of electing officers.

## Around Our Community

(cont. fr. p. 10)

### FROM THE SHEPHERD’S CROOK. By: Eddie Homes



So! The lil’ lambs which the Tillen, Meade, Wilson, & other families and visitors held and cradled ~ back last March/April ( ’25 ), are now fat and ready for market; on Saturday, September 20th, these last seven lambs were in good shape, and ready. Off to the SHENANDOAH VALLEY LIVESTOCK, Inc., up in Harrisonburg, Virginia, they were hauled! Good prices ~ I hope; the feed for finishing out market lambs has not gotten any less pricey.

I am @ 77 Homes Lane, Staunton. Anytime a drive to the beautiful, bucolic, picturesque countryside near Spring Hill, interests “Ewe,” please come! The gate to the barnyard and the meadow gates are always unlocked, and generally, I am home ~ well, maybe NOT generally! Regardless.....

### **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.

## Around Our Community

FROM THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK. By: Eddie Homes



Late summer is the time of year for the sheep farmer who does not bale his own hay, to procure hay for the flock for the winter months. Look at this load of green, leafy alfalfa square bales! I went to Swoope, Virginia, on Labour Day! Look what I purchased from my fellow-farm- shepherds, Dougie and Donna Riley of "Rocking R Farms!" Word has it, I will likely get another load of the Riley's alfalfa square bales, sooner, rather than later. Good deals!



Those of "Ewe" who know "Shepherd Edward," he decorates for all seasons out here @ "Walden Woods." Fixing a fall motif for my entrance gate to the barnyard has taken priority. This is what "Ewe," see, if "Ewe" wish to ride out into the County, and wind up @ 77 Homes Lane. And there, "Ewe" are!

(cont. on. p. 11)

## Church News

### Highlights of September 8 Session Meeting

- ♦ Session approved a request from Mary Baldwin to use the sanctuary as a rain location for their Founder's Day event on October 3rd.
- ♦ Session approved a request from MBU to use the sanctuary for choir concerts and rehearsals this school year. In addition, Session will suggest a donation of \$200 per concert.
- ♦ Session removed the following members from the active membership roll: Steve Hollar, Patt Hollar, Paul Jenkins, Gary Wilson (transfer).
- ♦ Session approved sending a membership inquiry letter to the following members: Cynthia Ashbridge, Geoff Coleman, Rodney Griffith, Anna Griffith, George Laase, Jesse Laase, Caroline Lowman, Michael Palmer, Thomas Rhea, Reese Roper.
- ♦ Session called for a congregational meeting on October 26th for the purpose of electing officers.
- ♦ Session accepted Susie Lendermon's resignation from Session at the end of this calendar year.

### October Birthdays

1	Amanda Avery	25	Richard Dietrich
	Geoff Coleman		Mary Meade
2	Anthony Caywood		Martha Tillen
6	Ruth Clem	29	James Garrison
20	Shelia Fox		Sue Ann McAllister
21	Chuck Lendermon		
	Heidi Marsh		
22	Nellie Garrison		





### Building for Our Future: Stewardship Message

This year we have learned about a program called *Building for Hope*, which works (I'm quoting here) to "create a movement of sustained revitalization through creative community-based uses of underutilized church facilities. *Building for Hope* will help congregations see the space they inhabit in their neighborhoods as sacred spaces that should be utilized for the best and highest good for the glory of God and the blessing of others." First Presbyterian was fortunate to be accepted into this program. Our cohorts for *Building for Hope* have included Pastor Jeff, Dick Cox, and Scott Wilson. They've attended several multi-day workshops with other representatives from congregations across the country, and have worked closely with Session and other community leaders to determine how best to advance our congregation's mission and connection to our community.

In a few weeks our stewardship season will begin. This fall as we look to the year ahead, keep in mind our Mission and Vision Statement as it pertains to the *Building for Hope* program and how we can refresh and renew the sacred spaces that are First Presbyterian Church. Let's call the 2025 Stewardship Campaign *Building for Our Future*. The Stewardship Committee has reached out to partners in our community with a vested interest in the physical and spiritual resources that we have to offer, to (Mission & Vision Statement) "worship God in a vibrant community through discipleship, music, and fellowship," to "nurture and strengthen those within and outside of our community," and to "make the best use of our historic downtown property to benefit others."

Through our Stewardship Moments in the weeks ahead, you will hear comments from our partners, current and future, about what First Pres means for their organizations, and how our sacred spaces enable them to fulfill their own respective missions and visions. As you listen to these messages, remember that *Building for Our Future* doesn't happen in a vacuum.

(cont. on p. 5)

### Hilltop's Lucky Penny Apple Butter

We will provide a lunch meal that starts when we feel like it and then sprawls all afternoon. We provide a main course of some sort, chips, sodas and some other stuff. Please bring something you think someone else would enjoy to add to our spread. You earn points for something unusual, lose points if it's no good. As always, we reserve the right to ridicule what you bring and to make profoundly unfair judgments based upon same. We will endeavor to be creative when communicating such judgments, but no promises.

Directions are provided below. Show up whenever and leave whenever. Bring a friend. Bring a chair or two.

### Directions to 528 Whiskey Creek Road, Churchville, VA, 540-430-3484 or 540 280-9071:

- ◆ Take Route 250 from Staunton to Churchville, about 6 miles.
- ◆ In the middle of Churchville, turn left on Route 42 (South).
- ◆ About one mile after leaving Churchville and crossing Whisky Creek, take first right turn, Route 725 (Whisky Creek Road). Continue on Whisky Creek Road about a mile to the first intersection.
- ◆ At intersection take left hand fork, which is Route 723 and remains Whisky Creek Road. Continue about 1/4 mile passing two white houses and barn on your left directly on road. 300 yards beyond barn is entrance with cattle guard and post with street numbers attached on the right hand side of the gate. Enter and follow farm road to top of hill. Park in field beside house at top of hill.

## Around Our Community



The Garrison Family invites you to join them at some point during the day of Saturday, October 11, 2025 to assist in producing this year's run of Hilltop's Lucky Penny Apple Butter.

So, we survived the first year of empty nesting. Everyone is still speaking to each other mostly, and Tater reigns supreme down at the pond with all things political. As always, the crazies will be starting at 0-dark-30 and quitting just before dinner time, probably around 6 p.m. The less twisted of our regulars start showing up around 11 a.m and trickle in and out all day. It is our objective and practice to display an impressive level of disorganization to all of our neighbors, and to have them shaking their heads and mumbling to themselves, though not calling the police.

**Apple Butter Party Rule: No politics.** Federal, state or local. Issues or politicians. Don't care how clever your comment, unconcerned with how right you are and how wrong the other guys are. Guests who insist on political chat will be sent down to the pond where they can assist Tater with his podcast "WHY YOU SHOULD THROW THE BALL NOW". Tater will listen to and agree with whatever it is you have to say as long as you are willing to throw.

And, as we have said before, this event insists on being highly unstructured and children of all ages are welcome. Dogs that don't fight are welcome. We will be offering apples, fresh cider and free turns at the stirring pot. Also there may be some Fireball cocktails, though no promises there. Something to do with supply and demand. We should also have some apple butter left over from last year available: first come, first served. We hope to have some music after lunch.

(cont. on p. 9)

## Church News

(cont. fr. p. 4)

### Building for Our Future Stewardship Message

It requires resources, both financial and human, and the time and talent of a congregation that may be small in numbers, but can nonetheless, open its hearts and doors to the abundant opportunities to worship God in an inclusive, compassionate, and unique historic downtown setting. We urge you to re-evaluate your current financial support. As we re-evaluate our church assets through the Building for Hope program, we should also re-think our own giving as a measure of its success. Please contribute this year with the spirit and faith of those who have gone before us, and look forward to our sacred spaces filled with life, vitality, and the joy of being a "visible witness to the Gospel." Won't you join us in *Building for Our Future*?

Lucinda (Cindy) Cooke  
Stewardship Coordinator

### Pizza and Pumpkins in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, October 19!

On Sunday, October 19, please bring children and friends to the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship to enjoy pizza, salad, and treats.



Let's see who can carve the scariest pumpkin! All are welcome. We hope to see you there!



### Church Attendance for August-September 2025

(in person and online)

August 31	In person: 31	Online: 7
September 7	In person: 29	Online: 8
September 14	In person: 28	Online: 8
September 21	In person: 26	Online: unknown

Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 34

## Church News

### Presbyterian Women Tuesday, October 14

PW Circle will meet Tuesday, October 14 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, October 15



Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, October 15. 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. We ask that donations be limited to the following items, including:

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.

Cash offerings are also welcomed.

Thank you to those who have already donated. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

### Shoppers Needed for Home Goods Pantry!

Our Home Goods Pantry has been a huge success for our community. Due to high demand, shoppers are needed to help supply our pantry. Members and friends who are willing to shop should contact the church office at [stauntonfirst@gmail.com](mailto:stauntonfirst@gmail.com) or 540-886-0704. Thank you!

### Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Concert

Please join us for a concert presented by the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, October 11 at 7:30pm in our sanctuary. We hope you can join us!



## Church News

### Worship Committee Meeting

There will be a Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 1, at 5:15pm in the library.

### "Being a Presbyterian" Class Sunday, October 5

A "Being a Presbyterian" class will be held Sunday, October 5 following worship at 12:15pm in the library.

### Congregational Life Committee Meeting

There will be a Congregational Life Committee meeting on Monday, October 6 at 10:30am in the library.

### Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be a Mission & Outreach Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 7, at 2:00pm in the parlor.

### Administration Committee Meeting

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

### Session Meeting Monday, October 13

There will be a Session meeting on Monday, October 13, at 5:15pm in the library.

### Newsletter Deadline for November 2025

The deadline for submissions for the November 2025 issue of First Impressions is Thursday, October 16. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

### 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!