

Elders

Class of 2025

Hugh Sproul, Property
Barbara Richardson, Congregational Life

Class of 2026

Susie Lendermon, Mission & Outreach
Martha Tillen, Worship
Cindy Cooke, Administration

Class of 2027

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

Clerk

Martha Tillen

Treasurers

Scott Wilson
Amanda Avery

Staff

Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Pastor
Dr. Renee Huff, Minister of Music
Heidi Marsh, Office Manager

Buildings & Grounds

John & Teresa Sheaves

Sound & Video

Sam Clem

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchStaunton

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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 Advent

November 30th, 2025 @ 11:00am

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

"Away in a Manger"

Chris Nicolson, organ

by Diane Bish © 2013 Lorenz Pub. Co.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder

INTROIT #100

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Christopher Nicolson & Robert Richardson

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 #88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

(verse 1)

WORDS OF PRAISE

Psalm 122 (selected verses)

Dick Cox

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "Peace be within your walls."

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

***OPENING HYMN #82**

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

***OPENING PRAYER**

Unison

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming, and longs for the day of his return in glory. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes. Cleanse us from all that leads us to turn away from him, trusting instead in ourselves to make our future good. Empower us by your Spirit to prepare ourselves for Christ's return by doing the work to which he has commissioned us, until your reign is revealed in all its fullness and power.

***ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

Isaiah 35

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.

The people of God will return with joy and singing.

Receive God's rich blessing of peace and hope in Christ Jesus – we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #581** “Glory Be to the Father”

SCRIPTURE READINGS Matthew 1:1-17

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM “God is Working His Purpose Out”

by A.C. Ainger, adapted by Carlton Young © 1970 Hope Pub. Co.

SERMON “A New Beginning” *Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #93** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *LaughingBird* *Unison*

We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfillment of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY “O Tannebaum” *(trad.)*
arr. by Vince Guaraldi © 1966 Lee Mendelson Film Inc.

***DOXOLOGY #606** “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

***PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

***CLOSING HYMN #88** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

***BLESSING & SENDING**

May God our creator bring peace to us this season of Advent.

May Christ our savior teach us patience and perseverance.

May the Spirit move within us to share God’s unconditional love with the world.

And may our lives be forever changed by such love and grace.

Go out into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluia! Amen.

***POSTLUDE** “#1 Toccata in G on Come Thou Long-expected Jesus” *Chris Nicholson*
arr. By Joel Raney © 2020 Hope Pub.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST PRES IS OFFERING A GIFT TREE to help older adults in the area. The gift ornaments are provided by the Shenandoah Valley Social Services Adult Services group and are on a Christmas tree in the sanctuary. Please sign up for a gift or two (there will be at least 30 gift ornaments). Please bring each gift in an open gift bag with the ornament attached to the sanctuary next to the tree or to the church front office in the Fraser building. All gifts must be returned by **December 11.**

- Thank you! The Mission & Outreach Committee

MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY CHOIR CONCERT Please join us for a concert presented by the Mary Baldwin University Choir on Wednesday, December 3 at 7:00pm in our sanctuary. We hope you can be there!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 There will be a Thanksgiving/Christmas lunch immediately following worship on Sunday, December 7. All food and drinks will be provided by the church, so there’s no need to bring anything! **Members and friends are asked to RSVP to Heidi at stauntonfirst@gmail.com or 540-886-0704 by Saturday, December 1,** so we will know how much food to prepare. There will be delicious food, fellowship, and Christmas carols! All are welcome!

BLUE RIDGE CASA FOR CHILDREN SPECIAL OFFERING The Mission & Outreach Committee is asking for donations to Blue Ridge CASA for Children this holiday season. Blue Ridge CASA for Children is a nonprofit organization advocating for children who have experienced abuse and/or neglect. Our special offering will be taken all through December up to Christmas Eve.

Thank you for your support! - The Mission & outreach Committee

CHRISTMAS WITH MASSANETTA SPRINGS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 13 for this catered meal followed by a concert with Banrigh Celtic Harp Ensemble. Tickets are on sale until 12/5 at their website: <https://massanettasprings.org/programs/christmas>, or make a reservation by phone: 540-434-3829.

KEYS We are currently running low on keys. If you have a set that you’re not using, please return to the office as soon as you are able. Thank you!

Prayer List

Please send out prayers for: Cindy Sokol; family of Trish and Ari Causey & SCA; Ron Lowman; Fay Knicley; Mary Meade; Molly Cox; Mona Tate; Sandra; Collin Parrish; Danny Anson

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.