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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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.



2nd Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025 @ 11:00am A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" *Chris Nicholson & Dr. Huff, piano duet by Peter Tchaikovsky, arr. by Catherine Rollin* © 2000 *Alfred Music Pub.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder

Chancel Choir

INTROIT "Call to Advent"

Quodlibet on plainsongs Veni Emanuel and Picardy ©1980 Hope Pub. Co.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Joe Surratt & Mark Shore

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"

(verses 1-2)

WORDS OF PRAISE

Psalm 72 (selected verses)

Eddie Homes

Give the king your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to a king's son.

May he judge your people with righteousness,

and your poor with justice.

May he live while the sun endures,

and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

In his days may righteousness flourish

and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's glorious name forever;

may God's glory fill the whole earth.

*Opening Hymn #347 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

*OPENING PRAYER Unison

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation, yet we turn away from your guidance time and time again. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy.

Give us grace to heed the prophets' warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer.

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Because of who God is through Jesus Christ, we're forgiven.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.

Let us all be lovers of the light.

Thanks be to God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #581 "C

"Glory Be to the Father"
Luke 1 selected verses

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE READING

ANTHEM "He Is Born"

Chancel Choir

Il est Ne trad. carol arr. by Roger Wagner © 1957 by Lawson-Gould Music Pub.

SERMON "Parents of the Messenger"

Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #97 "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Margaret Armstrong

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Bless the Lord, O My Soul/I Will Love Thee O Lord

Handbell Choir

by Judy Hunnicutt © 1984 Agape

*Doxology #606 "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing in the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Communion

*CLOSING HYMN #129 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

*Blessing & Sending

May the God of peace make us holy and the power of the Spirit sustain us.

We wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Alleluia! Amen.

*Postlude "Hallelujah Chorus"

Chris Nicholson, Organ

Hymnal #559

Hymnal pg. 35

from Handel's Messiah

+++

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>CHRISTMAS LUNCH TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7</u> There will be a Christmas lunch immediately following worship today, Sunday, December 7. There will be delicious food, fellowship, and Christmas carols. All are welcome!

BLUE RIDGE CASA FOR CHILDREN SPECIAL OFFERING Mission & Outreach 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

<u>FIRST PRES IS OFFERING A GIFT TREE</u> 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. 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

PW CHRISTMAS GATHERING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 Presbyterian Women will have a Christmas party on Tuesday, December 9 at 12:30 pm in the library. Finger foods and other refreshments will be served. Please contact Alice Herbst if you can make it. All are welcome. Please join us!

<u>Prayer List</u>

Please send out prayers for: Cindy Sokol; family of Trish and Ari Causey & SCA; Ron Lowman; Fay Knicley; Mary Meade; Molly Cox; Mona Tate; Jim Koi; 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.