

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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www.1stpres-staunton.org  
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.

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**2nd Sunday of Christmas**

**January 4, 2024 @ 11:00am/Epiphany Sunday**  
**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

**PRELUDE**

"Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light"  
*harmony by Johann Rist and Johann Schop/by JS Bach © 1981 Ardee Music Pub.*

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

**INTROIT #127**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**WORDS OF PRAISE**

Isaiah 60 selected verses  
Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
**and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.**  
Nations shall come to your light,  
**and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**  
Lift up your eyes and look around;  
**they all gather together, they come to you.**  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
**your heart shall thrill and rejoice,**  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
**the wealth of the nations shall come to you.**  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
**and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.**

*Scott Wilson*

**\*OPENING HYMN #151** "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

*Unison*

**Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations.**  
**Your ways are always highest and best, yet we have tried to fashion and follow our own ways. We have clung to our darkness, rather than following your light. Forgive our selfish waywardness, and help us by your Spirit to follow the light of your son.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE** John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.  
God's Word is here among us—Emmanuel.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Alleluia!

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #389** "Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord"

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Matthew 2:1-12  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM #138** "Who Would Think That What Was Needed"

**SERMON** "Foolishness"

*Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #147** "The First Nowell"

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY #135** "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"

**\*DOXOLOGY #559** "Holy, Holy, Holy"

**\*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"

**Hymnal #559**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Hymnal pg. 35**

**Words of Institution**

**Sharing in the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer After Communion**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #152** "What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

**\*BLESSING & SENDING**

Go from this place to share the light of Christ with the world!

**May we be lovers of the light, sharing and receiving God's love wherever we go.**

May God's peace, Christ's love, and the Spirit's inspiration be with you now and always.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

"March of the Kings "

*arr. by Noble Cain, Trad. © 1934 G. Schirmer*

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GAMES & REFRESHMENTS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL SUNDAY, JANUARY 18!** Mark your calendars for games & refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, January 18! 2nd & 3rd Pres have been invited to join with us for an afternoon of fun.

Please come and bring a friend! Also, please bring a snack to share and any games you would like to play. We hope to see you there!

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY** The deadline for submissions for the February 2026 issue of First Impressions is Thursday, January 15. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

**UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDED** Please provide updated info to the church office regarding your address, phone number, and email address for our 2026 directory. Also, if you no longer have a landline, please inform us of that as well. Thank you!

**Prayer List**

Please send out prayers for: Cindy Sokol; family of Trish and Ari Causey & SCA; Robin Knott; 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.*