

Elders

Class of 2026

Martha Tillen, Worship  
Cindy Cooke, Administration  
Sherry Cox

Class of 2027

Eddie Homes, Discipleship  
Sharon Wilson, Mission & Outreach  
Mark Shore

Class of 2028

Donna Goble  
Robin Knott  
Mary Meade

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.



**MLK Sunday**

**January 18th, 2026 @ 11:00am**

**A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

**PRELUDE #749**

"Come! Live in the Light!"

*Dr. Renee Huff*

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

**INTROIT #626**

"As the Deer"

**WORDS OF PRAISE**

Psalm 40 selected verses

*Amanda Avery*

I waited patiently for the Lord;  
**God inclined to me and heard my cry.**  
The Lord put a new song in my mouth,  
**a song of praise to our God.**  
Many will see and fear  
**and put their trust in the Lord.**  
You have multiplied your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;  
**none can compare with you.**  
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,  
**they would be more than can be counted.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #625**

"O Lord My God"

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

*Unison*

**Most merciful God, we gather this morning celebrating our Christian unity in the midst of a fractured world. We gather as one body, yet most days are filled with divisiveness, mistrust, and fear. This day as we celebrate the life of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Junior, and the gospel of Christ he proclaimed by means of non-violence, people continue to abuse, oppress, and even kill in the name of the same Christ. Lord, we continue to need your grace and mercy in our lives.**

\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE      Psalm 103:17

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Thanks be to God!**

\*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

1 Corinthians 13

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM #693

"Though I May Speak"

SERMON

"Christian Love"

*Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #366 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH      from *The Confession of Belhar*

We believe...

- that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;
- that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
- that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, and must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Hymnal pg. 35*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY #618      "O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High"

\*DOXOLOGY #606      "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

\*PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

\*CLOSING HYMN #339      "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

\*BLESSING & SENDING

*Iona Abbey Worship Book*

A blessing on you who are poor,

**Yours is the kingdom of God.**

A blessing on you who mourn,

**You shall be comforted.**

A blessing on you who hunger for justice,

**You shall be satisfied.**

A blessing on you who make peace,

**You shall be called children of God.**

A blessing on you who are persecuted for the cause of right,

**Yours is the kingdom of heaven.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**Alleluia! Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE #616

"Our God Is An Awesome God"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GAMES & REFRESHMENTS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 18!

Please join us for games & refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after worship today! 2nd & 3rd Pres have been invited to join with us for an afternoon of fun. We hope to see you there!

SACKS OF LOVE PACKERS NEEDED at First Baptist Church on Monday, January 26, at 6:30pm in their fellowship hall. If you would like to help pack, please join!

MBU PRESENTS THE 35TH ANNUAL MLK JR. COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, in collaboration with the Staunton branch of the NAACP, on Monday, January 19, at 7:00pm in our sanctuary. Featuring: Anointed Voices of Praise Gospel Choir and Greater Things Dance Ministry. Please join us!

Prayer List

Please send out prayers for: Cindy Sokol; family of Trish and Ari Causey & SCA; Robin Knott; Ron Lowman; Fay Kniley; Mary Meade; Molly Cox; Mona Tate; Sandra; Jill & Gerry Long; 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.*