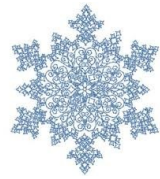


January 2026



First Impressions

Newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church
Staunton, Virginia

January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day- Church Offices Closed	2 Heidi- off	3
4 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	5 10:30am Cong. Life Comm. Mtg. (L)	6 10am Bible Study (L) 2pm M&O Committee Meeting (P)	7 5:15pm Worship Committee Meeting (L) 6:00pm Handbells 7pm Choir	8 11:30am Trinity Lunch	9	10
11 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 12:15pm Admin. Comm. Mtg. (L)	12	13 10am Bible Study (L) 12:30 PW Circle (L)	14 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	15 Newsletter Deadline- February	16	17
18 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Games & snacks with 2nd & 3rd- 12:15pm (FH)	19 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	20 10am Bible Study (L)	21 10am Home Goods Pantry 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	22	23	24
25 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	26	27 10am Bible Study (L)	28 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	29	30	31

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

Letter from the Pastor

"This is the year!"

"This is the year!" we say to ourselves, as a new year begins, and with it, new possibilities of what might be for the future.

Maybe it's a new diet.

Maybe it's about exercise.

Maybe it's time to focus on financial well-being.



What about intentionally setting aside time and energy for your spiritual life? What might that look like in 2026?

One can find articles saying that it takes an average of 66 days to form a habit, but the truth is that it simply depends on the situation; some may take just a few weeks, and others nearly a year.

What about developing a spiritual habit?

The Bible likes to use symbolic numbers for events, say 40 days. Noah, Moses, Elijah, Jesus...a lot has happened over 40 days in the Bible. Maybe this is a good place to start?

(cont. on p. 2)

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Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Pastor

Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

"This is the year!"

I wonder what we might accomplish in 40 days if we devote it to spiritual well-being.

5.714 weeks...

960 hours...

57,600 minutes...

What might it look like to set aside 5 minutes a day of the 57,600 minutes to praying, reading scripture, or simply being present with God? (How many minutes a day do we spend scrolling on our phones?)

And yes, personal spirituality is important, but Christianity has and always will be a team sport. What might it look like to set aside maybe 5 (let's be generous and say 6) hours of those 960 hours to attending church, to worshiping alongside your friends and family, during those 5.714 weeks?

The new year, it seems, is filled with possibilities. And 40 days feel like an appropriate amount of time to try something new (or new again), especially as it relates to focusing on the health of our spiritual lives. I guess the question for us is: what will we do with the time and opportunities given to us?

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

Church News

Christmas Decorating in Sanctuary Tuesday, November 25



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.

Church News

(cont. on p. 11)

Christmas Decorating in Sanctuary Tuesday, November 25



Church News

Highlights of December 15 Session Meeting

- ♦ All employee reviews for 2025 have been completed.
- ♦ The budget for 2026 was approved.
- ♦ Pledged giving for 2026 is down, but more pledges may come in with the new year.
- ♦ All but one new members of Session have been examined and approved. One incoming member was ill and will be examined at a later date.
- ♦ New officers will be installed and/or ordained during Worship on January 11.
- ♦ Many thanks to outgoing Session members Barbara Richardson, Hugh Sproul, Lisa Caywood and Susan Lendermon.
- ♦ The Congregational Care committee thanked everyone for their help with the Christmas lunch, especially Barbara Richardson, Sam Clem and Ron Lowman. All the VIPs have received a visit and a Christmas stocking full of goodies. The committee is planning a lunch and game event with members of Second and Third Presbyterian in January.
- ♦ The Home Goods Pantry continues to do well. The group of organizers plan to cap the number of outgoing bags at 150/month due to heavy demand and limited space and help to shop and prepare bags.
- ♦ Heat in the Potter building, Fraser building and the sanctuary is now repaired and working normally. Water leakage in the Fraser building has been repaired.

Session Meeting Monday, January 19

There will be a Session meeting on Monday, January 19, at 5:15pm in the library.

Church News

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!



Updated Contact Information Needed

Please provide updated info 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!

Church Offices Closed Thursday, January 1

The church offices will be closed Thursday, January 1 for the New Year's holiday. Heidi will be off Friday, January 2 and will return Monday, January 5. Fay Knicley will kindly be filling in while Heidi is out. We hope everyone has a healthy and happy New Year!



Newsletter Deadline for February 2026

The deadline for submissions for the February 2026 issue of First Impressions is Thursday, January 15. 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!

Church News

Christmas Decorating in Sanctuary Tuesday, November 25

Thanks to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary on Tuesday, November 25. All enjoyed pizza and worked hard to make our sanctuary look beautiful this holiday season!



Church News

Christmas Open House

Scott & Sharon Wilson held a Christmas Open House for church staff and Session members on Sunday, December 14. The food and the company were fantastic. Much fun was had by all!



Pictured: Simon Marsh, Heidi Marsh, Mary Meade, Amanda Avery, Pastor Jeff, Dick Cox. Seated: Martha Tillen, Sharon Wilson, Sherry Cox, Barbara Richardson



Pastor Jeff and Scott Wilson

Church News

Congregational Life Committee Meeting

There will be a Congregational Life Committee meeting on Monday, January 5 at 10:30am in the library.

Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be a Mission & Outreach Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 6 at 2:00pm in the parlor.

Worship Committee Meeting

There will be a Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 7 at 5:15pm in the library.

Administration Committee Meeting

There will be an Administration Committee meeting on Sunday, January 11, immediately following worship at 12:15pm in the library.

Church Attendance for November-December 2025 (in person and online)

November 23	In person: 29	Online: unknown
November 30	In person: 24	Online: 6
December 7	In person: 42	Online: unknown
December 14	In person: 27	Online: 8
Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 34		

Church News

Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, January 21



Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open Wednesday, January 21. 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. Our pantry is thriving and growing, and your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Presbyterian Women



PW Circle will meet Tuesday, January 13 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!

January Birthday List



4	Louisa Dixon
10	Robert Mackay
13	Paul Goble
18	Nancy Hall
22	Joseph Harman
24	Lynn Coyner
31	Pamela Fox
	Denise Lowman



Church News

Christmas Luncheon Kitchen Crew



Many thanks to our Christmas luncheon kitchen crew, who did a great job! The food was excellent, and the Fellowship Hall looked beautiful!

Pictured: Barbara Richardson, Sam Clem, David Lowman, and Grace Clem