



Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026 @ 6:00pm in the Chapel
A Service for the Worship of God

GATHERING MUSIC "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"
Traditional Spiritual *Chancel Choir*

WELCOME *Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

***OPENING HYMN #165** "The Glory of These Forty Days"

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Psalm 51 selected verses
Sharon Wilson

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

***ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS** John 3:17; Psalm 46:1-3

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

God’s love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear,

though the earth should change,

though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

though the waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God’s love endures forever.

MUSICAL RESPONSE #433 “Sign Us with Ashes”

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

REFLECTION *Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder*

ANTHEM #819 “Be Still, My Soul” *Chancel Choir*

IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

People are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes.

“Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

CLOSING PRAYER *Unison*

**Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that
we may show forth your glory in the world.**

**By the cross and passion of our Savior, bring us with all your
saints to the joy of Christ’s resurrection.**

CLOSING HYMN #814 “In God Alone”

***BLESSING & SENDING** 1 Thessalonians 5:23

May the God of peace make you holy in every way
and keep your whole being— spirit, soul, and body—free from
every fault

at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***POSTLUDE #821** “My Life Flows On”

Elders

Class of 2026

Cindy Cooke, Administration
Sherry Cox, Worship
Martha Tillen, Clerk

Class of 2027

Eddie Homes, Congregational Life
Sharon Wilson, Mission & Outreach
Mark Shore, Administration

Class of 2028

Donna Goble, Mission & Outreach
Robin Knott, Congregational Life
Mary Meade, Worship

Treasurers

Scott Wilson
Amanda Avery

Staff

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

Sound & Video

Sam Clem

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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.