

# February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	2 10:30 Cong. Life Committee Meeting (L)	3 10am Bible Study (L) 2pm Mission & Outreach Committee Mtg. (P)	4 5:15pm Worship Committee Mtg. (L) 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	5	6	7
8 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Admin. Committee Mtg.-after worship (L)	9	10 10am Bible Study (L) 12:30 PW Circle (L)	11 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	12 11:30am Trinity Lunch	13	14
15 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Annual Cong. Mtg. & lunch after worship	16 Newsletter Deadline- March 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	17 10am Bible Study (L)	18 10am Home Goods Pantry 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	19 5:00pm WSO Rehearsal (S)	20	21 7:30pm WSO Concert (S)
22 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	23	24 10am Bible Study (L)	25 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	26	27	28

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

# First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian  
Church

Staunton, Virginia

February 2026



## Letter from the Pastor

### Hope Amidst the Chaos

The "wilderness" metaphor is used quite a bit these days. As an avid outdoorsman myself, I readily connect with the stories and images that one might use when discussing their wilderness experience, whether literal or metaphorical.



Every day that we read the news, the headlines seem to try and outdo one another with descriptions of catastrophes, violence, and gloom. Even within our own nation, it seems that we are in conflict with our authorities, our leaders, and with ourselves. The dark and cold of the winter season certainly does not help! We may wonder if there is any way out of the mess that the world finds itself in today.

Believe it or not, this is not the first time that humans have encountered such cruelties in the world, and certainly not the first time that we have experienced such emotions, doubts, and uncertainties. In fact, the church touches upon these same themes within the upcoming season of Lent, as we are invited to reflect upon and process these daily realities and emotions that we are experiencing today.

(cont. on p. 2)

**FIRST IMPRESSIONS** is a publication of First Presbyterian Church  
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Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Interim Minister

## Letter from the Pastor

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### Hope Amidst the Chaos

You are invited to formally begin this spiritual wilderness journey with us on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm, as we gather to worship, to acknowledge the sin and death in the world, to be reminded of our own mortality, but then also to be reminded of God's grace and salvation, even in the midst of such times.

My hope is that the entire Lenten season is an opportunity for each of us individually, and for us as First Presbyterian, to journey through the wilderness together once again, with the knowledge and hope of a sure and certain spring season forthcoming, and the celebration of resurrection with Easter Sunday.

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

### Stewardship Is A Year-Round Thing!

Although our church conducts a Stewardship Campaign each fall, Stewardship continues all year. It is never too late to pledge a gift, and it is never too late to give in other ways – your time and your talents. These are precious gifts as well, and with a smaller congregation, your contributions to the life at First Pres are welcome and a blessing to us all. However you give, your giving counts!

## Around Our Community

### JMU Opera Theatre Presents “Dialogues of the Carmelites”

JMU Opera Theatre will present Francis Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* as their mainstage opera for their spring season. Centered around the recently canonized Carmelite nuns of Compiègne, *Dialogues of the Carmelites* is deeply entrenched in religious history. Through beautiful choruses and intricate scenes, the opera grapples with questions of how we live, how we die, how we fall apart, how we come together, and why we must keep singing to the very end.

The content and enduring message of this opera has inspired JMU to reach out to local congregations to invite them to attend one of their three performances, which will take place on the following dates:

Friday, February 6 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 7 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 8 at 2:00 pm

They encourage groups to attend, as well. Interested parties can contact the Forbes Center for group sales at [forbesboxoffice@jmu.edu](mailto:forbesboxoffice@jmu.edu) or (540) 568-7000.

The performance will also feature a pre-show talk one hour before curtain (Friday-Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 1:00 pm). In this 20-minute talk, Director of Opera Theatre Joshua Borths will share his insights surrounding *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. This is a wonderful opportunity for interested parties to learn more about the religious context of the opera and the historical elements at play throughout the story.

They would be honored if congregations would consider attending one of their three performances, and they hope to see you at the Forbes Theatre Mainstage Theatre on February 6-8.

## Church News

### 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!

### Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Concert

Saturday, February 21, 7:30pm

Please join us for a concert performed by the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, February 21 at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome!



### 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

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Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place Sunday, February 15, immediately after worship. After the meeting, we hope you can join us for a spaghetti lunch in the Fellowship Hall!



Please RSVP to Heidi at stauntonfirst@gmail.com or 540-886-0704 if you plan to attend. All are welcome!

### February Birthday List



15	W. Rader Dod, II
18	Alan Garrison
24	Hugh Sproul
26	Grace Clem



### Church Attendance for December 2025 - January 2026

(in person and online)

December 21	In person: 43	Online: 10
December 24	In person: 54	Online: 8
December 28	In person: 19	Online: 10
January 4	In person: 26	Online: 6
January 11	In person: 25	Online: 11
January 18	In person: 29	Online: 4

Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 41

## Church News

### Session Meeting Monday, February 16

There will be a Session meeting on Monday, February 16, at 5:15pm in the library.

### Administration Committee Meeting

There will be an Administration Committee meeting on Sunday, February 8, immediately following worship at 12:15pm in the library.

### Congregational Life Committee Meeting

There will be a Congregational Life Committee meeting on Monday, February 2 at 10:30am in the library.

### Missions & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be a Mission & Outreach Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 3 at 2:00pm in the parlor.

### Worship Committee Meeting

There will be a Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 4 at 5:15pm in the library.

### 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

### Presbyterian Women

PW Circle will meet Tuesday, February 10 at 12:30pm in the Library. Please respond to Alice Herbst if you can make it. And feel free to bring guests—all are welcome!



### Newsletter Deadline for March 2026

The deadline for submissions for the March issue of First Impressions is Monday, February 16. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

### WARM Shelter Gets First Presbyterian Meal Assistance

We had a lot of folks involved in preparing a hot meal for those using the WARM shelter at Christ Lutheran Church.

Brown sugar ham, green bean casserole, mac & cheese, green salad, and cookies were on the menu and enjoyed by 40 people.

Thanks to those who volunteered to make food and for those who served the meal!



Scott Wilson, Sherry Cox, Pastor Jeff, Sharon Wilson, and Dick Cox