

March 2026



First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church
Staunton, Virginia



March 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 Committee Mtg. (P)	4	5 5pm WSO Chamber Groups Dress Rehearsal (S)	6	7 7:30pm WSO Chamber Groups Concert (S)
8 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live Admin. Committee Mtg.-after worship (L)	9	10 10am Bible Study (L) 12:30 PW Circle (L)	11 5:15pm Worship Comm. Mtg. (L)	12 11:30am Trinity Lunch	13	14
15 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	16 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	17 10am Bible Study (L)	18 10am Home Goods Pantry	19 Newsletter Deadline- April	20	21
22 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	23	24 10am Bible Study (L)	25 Pastor Jeff-out	26 Pastor Jeff- out	27 Pastor Jeff- out	28 Pastor Jeff -out
29 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 12:15pm Church Lunch at 2nd PC	30	31 10am Bible Study (L)				

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

Letter from the Pastor

In the Thick of It

I wonder what the First Presbyterian Church of Staunton will look like 40 years from now. It's perhaps hard to imagine at times. We are so focused on the here and now: we have bills to pay, buildings to maintain, committees to orchestrate, worship to plan.



It's hard to imagine what things will be like 40 years from now, while we are "in the thick of it."

And yet, 40 is a biblical number.

You know that the Israelites were wandering the wilderness for 40 years? I imagine that they experienced all sorts of change over that time. But I also wonder if they ever stopped to think that they would be out there for 40 years in the first place. Did they have a long-term strategic plan? Did they simply learn to exist one day at a time with God's provision?

God used that time to transform them, day by day, into a new people. Sure, there were challenges and struggle throughout those years. There were ups and downs. New life and death. But little by little, the Israelites were shaped for God's purposes.

(cont. on p. 2)

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Letter from the Pastor

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In the Thick of It

How is your Lent going so far? As we know, 40 days is a good amount of time. How has God been transforming you during this holy season?

So go ahead, imagine with me what this church might look like 40 years from now.

How will God transform First Presbyterian in the days and years ahead?

During this holy season of Lent, we are invited to recognize God's larger works at hand. Even as we are in the thick of it, may we be open to God transforming us as a community of faith, day by day.

In Christ,



Pastor Jeff

Church Luncheon at 2nd Presbyterian Church Sunday, March 29

There will be a church luncheon at 2nd Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 29 at 12:15pm. All are welcome!



From the Shepherd's Crook



In more suitable weather conditions, Shepherd Edward Homes will sit and relax for a minute to watch over the flock of 15 ewes, after the feeding is finished. That did not occur, since the ice-capped snowfall of the weekend, January 24, 2026.



A tin Christmas Nativity Scene remains out during the snow. Here it is near the hay shed, down N the meadow. The ewes R content N the background; and, the feeding is completed.

Due to health reasons and doctor's orders, Shepherd Edward will no longer be in the sheep business. He has been doing this for most of his life, and it has been very fulfilling!

From the Shepherd's Crook



February, the Shepherd's faithful helper N the barn, has always been dependable. Here, February hangs out on the alfalfa hay bales, while the shepherd finishes the feeding.



Turning down upon Homes Lane, one will find entirely too much ice-capped snow. It has made the feeding responsibilities to B arduous. The sheep and the shepherd have managed.

Church News

(cont. fr. p. 2)



Time to Spring Forward!

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8 at 2:00am. Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour!

March Birthdays

- 7 Cord Lowman
- 8 Sharon Driscoll
Daniel Garrison
- 9 Dick Cox
- 14 Paige Kullman
- 23 Lucinda Cooke
- 24 Will Dod III
Caroline Lowman
- 29 Maggie Lowman

Church Attendance for January 2026 –February 2026

(in person and online)

January 25	In person: 0	Online: Unknown
February 1	In person: 21	Online: 9
February 8	In person: 22	Online: 9
February 15	In person: 21	Online: 6

Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 22

Church News

Session Meeting Monday, March 16

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

Administration Committee Meeting

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

Congregational Life Committee Meeting

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

Mission Committee Meeting

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

Worship Committee Meeting

There will be a Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 11 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!

From the Shepherd's Crook



Outside the shepherd's house, at the kitchen bay window, the snowmen are foretelling, of WHAT IS ABOUT TO COME! (And, it has been a monster in which to have to come and go—especially for an elderly Shepherd!)



The ewes R fed generously one snow-laden morning. Here, they got the morning's hay, just by tossing it over the gate. And, all R happy!

From the Shepherd's Crook

So, I have not included any of my "Walden Woods" pictures or accounts in the Church Newsletter for a couple of months. But, with all that's going on out @ "Walden Woods," here are some photographs, capturing it ALL. Enjoy!

"Lambing Season" will start on or about March 10, 2026!



Abigail has had quite ENOUGH. She shakes off the snow the morning of Sunday, January 25th, as the others crowd 'round the trough. In case you wonder: Yes, the flock remains outdoors during the snowfalls. But once the baby lambs start to come ~ on or about March 10th ~ the expectant ewes will B close to the barnyard/barn. ALWAYS...



A good neighbour, a local contractor, plowed open the entrance to the barnyard on Friday, January the 30th. It had been inaccessible for six days! Finally...

Church News

Presbyterian Women

PW Circle will meet Tuesday, March 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 April 2026

The deadline for submissions for the April issue of First Impressions is Thursday, March 19 Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Chamber Groups Concert Saturday, March 7, 7:30pm

Please join us for a concert performed by the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Chamber Groups on Saturday, March 7 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

Games & Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, January 18!

First Presbyterian hosted an afternoon of games & refreshments on Sunday, January 18 in the Fellowship Hall. We were joined by our friends from Second & Third Presbyterian Church. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of fun!



Church News

