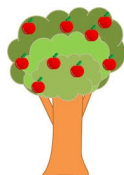


September 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10am Bible Study (L) 2pm Mission & Outreach Committee Mtg. (P)	2 5:15pm Worship Committee Meeting (L) 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	3	4	5
6 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live	7 Labor Day- Church Offices Closed	8 10am Bible Study (L) 12:30 PW Meeting (L) Heidi-off	9 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir Heidi-off	10 11:30am Trinity Lunch Heidi-off	11 Heidi-off	12
13 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live 12:15pm Admin. Comm. Mtg. (L)	14	15 10am Bible Study (L)	16 10am Home Goods Pantry 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	17 Newsletter Deadline— October	18	19
20 11am Outdoor Worship & Blessing of the Animals on the Lawn + Lunch	21 5:15pm Session Meeting (L)	22 10am Bible Study (L)	23 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir	24 7pm WSO Dress Rehearsal (S)	25	26 WSO Concerts 3pm Concert #1 5pm Concert #2 QCMM Fest.
27 11am Worship Sanctuary FB Live QCMM Festival	28	29 10am Bible Study (L)	30 6pm Handbells 7pm Choir			

S=sanctuary; L= library; P=parlor; FH=fellowship hall; C=chapel

First Impressions

Newsletter of First Presbyterian
Church

Staunton, Virginia

September 2026



Letter from the Pastor

What is "Church Balance"?

Sometimes I feel out of balance in my life. It's not that I intentionally try to do so. It's just that sometimes life's circumstances can create scenarios where things become misaligned, and well, unbalanced.



I can tell the signs of when things are as such. My energy levels vary. I can become irritable. My attitude changes. These are symptoms of stress, and perhaps an "out of balance" lifestyle.

How do I respond? Typically, it's in these moments where I need to reassess how I'm spending my time and energy. Am I working too much? Do I need to re-engage with activities that are life-giving and restorative? Am I sleeping enough? What has my diet been like? And exercise?

(cont. on p. 2)

FIRST IMPRESSIONS is a publication of First Presbyterian Church
100 East Frederick St., Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 886-0704
stauntonfirst@gmail.com and www.1stpres-staunton.org
Rev. Dr. Jeff Binder, Pastor

Letter from the Pastor

(cont. fr. p. 1)

What is "Church Balance"?

Churches are no different. Sometimes we find ourselves out of balance. There are a few ministry books that suggest a healthy church needs to be balancing five priorities:

1. Worship
2. Mission
3. Ministry
4. Discipleship
5. Fellowship

I wonder if we are finding ourselves out of "church balance" at times these days. Are we observant of any symptoms? Are energy levels waning? Are attitudes challenged? Are things feeling tougher than they should?

I wonder if we might benefit from trying to re-engage with some of the aforementioned priorities as well.

How might we live into our daily living as First Presbyterian, and Christians for that matter, while balancing these five priorities. Which one do we think we do too much of? Which one might we consider increasing with our time and resources?

As always, I'm interested in your thoughts and feedback! Let me know when we can sit down for coffee and conversation about such things!

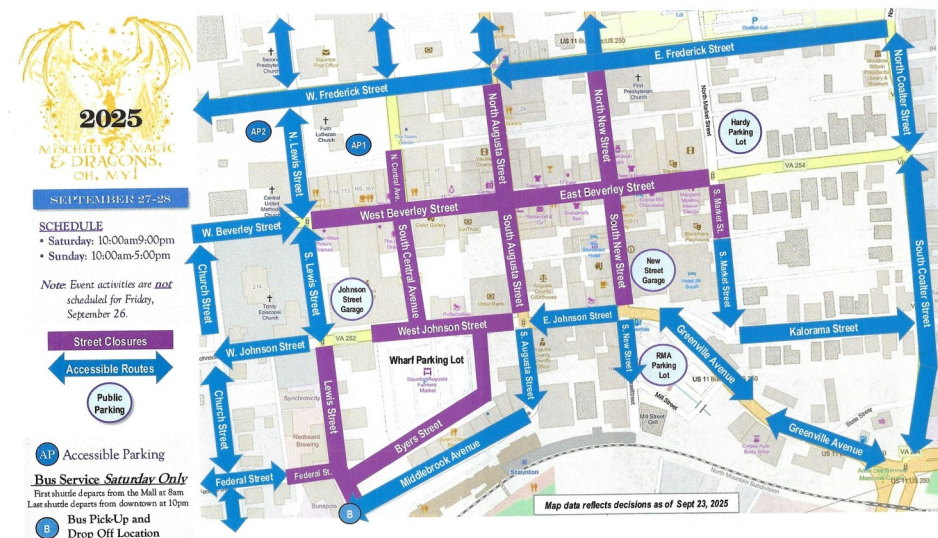
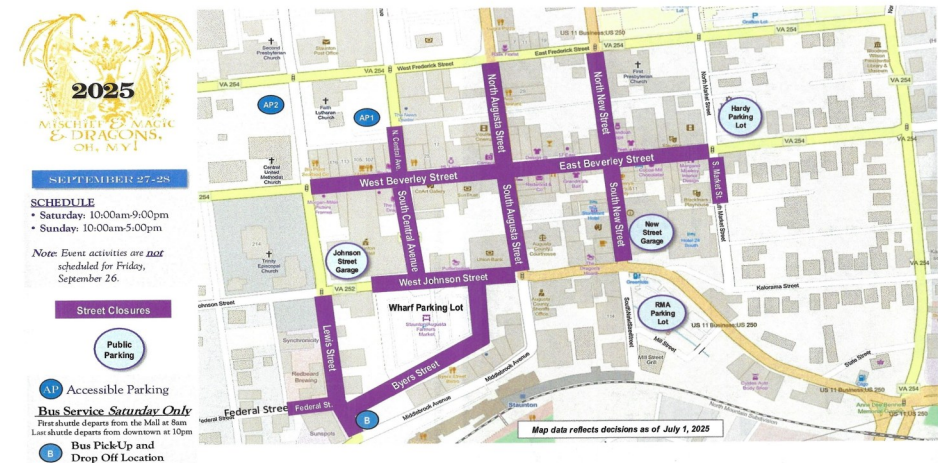
In Christ,

Jeff

Pastor Jeff

Around Our Community

(cont. fr. p. 18)



Around Our Community

Queen City Mischief & Magic Festival



The Queen City Mischief & Magic Festival will take place in downtown Staunton **Saturday, September 26, starting at 9:00am and Sunday, September 27, ending at 7:00pm.**

We will have worship on Sunday, September 27, during the festival. If you choose to come in person, please note that parking will be limited.

There will be parking on the left side of the street, and there will be signs stating "Reserved for First Presbyterian." You can also park on the grass, if needed. Of course, there is also the option to attend online. A map showing street closures is shown on the next page. These are 2025 maps (just for reference), and were obtained from the Queen City Mischief & Magic website. We assume the info applies to 2026 as well. For further info, please visit <https://queencitymagic.com/>

Church News

Session Meeting Monday, September 21

There will be a Session meeting on Monday, September 21, at 5:15pm in the library.

Church Attendance for July–August 2026
(in person and online)

July 26	In person: 28	Online: 7
August 2	In person: 19	Online: 6
August 9	In person: 31	Online: 10
August 16	In person: 28	Online: 12
August 23	In person: 25	Online: 9
Average Worship Attendance for Past Month: 35		

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.

(cont. on p. 19)

Church News

Congregational Life Committee Meeting

There will be a Congregational Life Committee meeting on Monday, August 31, at 10:30am in the library.

Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting

There will be a Mission & Outreach Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 1, at 2:00pm in the parlor.

Worship Committee Meeting

There will be a Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 2, at 5:15pm in the library.

Administration Committee Meeting

There will be an Administration Committee meeting on Sunday, September 13, immediately following worship at 12:15pm in the library.

CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED

Have a blessed day.

The church offices will be closed on Monday, September 7 for Labor Day. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday!

Upcoming Office Schedule

Heidi will be off Tuesday, September 8-Friday, September 11, returning Monday, September 14.

Church News

(cont. fr. p. 16)

Helping Hands Middle School Campers Assemble Hygiene Kits



Church News

Helping Hands Middle School Campers Assemble Hygiene Kits

On July 27, our church's Mission and Outreach Committee and Presbyterian Women's group provided kit supplies for 100 Church World Service (CWS) hygiene kits to middle schoolers in the Helping Hands summer camp, overseen by Covenant Presbyterian Church. This opportunity, held in our church library, allowed these young people to work on a project that directly helps disaster survivors, refugees, and struggling families around the world.

Why Do CWS Hygiene Kits Matter?

When disasters like floods or tornadoes strike, simple necessities are suddenly luxuries. A CWS hygiene kit provides the difference between sickness and health. It offers a tangible reminder to people that they are not forgotten. Between January and June 2026, CWS distributed more than 68,000 hygiene kits to those in need. With more storms in the forecast, the need for these kits will continue to grow.

To ensure all kits meet CWS standards, every kit must contain the exact same items. All items must fit inside a single 1-gallon plastic zipper-closure bag:

- 1 travel-shampoo
- 1 travel-size lotion
- 1 washcloth
- 1 wide-tooth comb
- 1 fingernail or toenail clipper
- 1 bath-size bar of soap
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 travel-size toothpaste
- 1 deodorant

The campers did a great job on the kits and were even able to help assemble some Home Goods Pantry bags for the upcoming month. Kudos to campers, camp supervisors, and all those at First Presbyterian and Helping Hands who made it possible for these young people to participate in these community and worldwide outreach projects.

(cont. on p. 17)

Church News

Outdoor Worship and Blessing of the Animals



First Presbyterian Church
100 East Frederick Street
Sunday, September 20 at 11 a.m.

Bring your friendly and well
behaved pet on a leash or in a carrier. Join us in
giving thanks for all things bright and beautiful, all
creatures great and small.

All are welcome!

We will have hot dogs afterward. Members are asked to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. Please RSVP (for yourself and your furry friends) to the office at stauntonfirst@gmail.com or 540-886-0704 as soon as possible, as Heidi will be off the week of Sept. 7. We'll also need to know what kind of animal you're bringing. Don't forget your lawn chair! All are welcome!

Church News

Presbyterian Women Tuesday, September 8

PW Circle will meet Tuesday, September 8 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!



Home Goods Community Pantry Wednesday, September 16

Our Home Goods Community Pantry will be open on Wednesday, September 16. Financial and product donations are always welcomed. We are in need of the following items:



Baby diapers (any size), toddler pull-ups (any size), baby lotion, and baby shampoo. Please bring any donated items to the church office or place in the donations basket outside of the sanctuary.

Many thanks for your continued support!

Newsletter Deadline for October 2026

The deadline for submissions for the October 2026 issue of First Impressions is Thursday, September 17. Please submit any info you would like to include by then. Thank you!

Church News

(cont. fr. p. 14)

Staunton Music Festival at First Presbyterian Church



Church News

(cont. fr. p. 13)

Staunton Music Festival at First Presbyterian Church



Church News

Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra Annual Queen City Mischief & Magic Concerts Saturday, Sept. 26

WSO will perform two concerts in our sanctuary on Saturday, September 26:

3pm: Concert #1

5pm: Concert #2

All are welcome. We hope to see you there!



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!

September Birthday List



8	Sarah Kullman
11	Kitty Tillen
13	Carolyn Hoaster
14	Cynthia Hughes
20	Andra Borrell
	Sharon Wilson
22	Mary Huffard Kegley
29	Roger Knott
30	Collin Lendermon

Church News

Keep a Foster Child Warm This Winter

As winter approaches, our thoughts naturally turn to warm blankets, hot cocoa, and cozy layers. For many foster children in our community, however, the dropping temperatures bring anxiety rather than comfort. Moving between homes often means leaving belongings behind, and many of these resilient children face the coldest months of the year without a proper winter coat.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus reminds us that whenever we clothe those in need, we are doing it directly for Him. By providing a warm, well-fitting coat, you are doing more than just shielding a child from the freezing wind. You are sending a clear, tangible message to a vulnerable young person: You are seen. You are valued. You are loved.

This season, our church family has the opportunity to step into the gap and wrap these children in the warmth of community and God's love. In September and October, we are collecting brand new and gently-worn winter coats, heavy jackets, gloves, hats, and scarves for children of all ages—from infants to teenagers, including adult sizes up to 4XL for the Presbyterian Children's Home of The Highlands (PCHH) Foster's Closet. This organization provides clothing not only for those children in residence at PCHH, but also for those going into foster care families that pass through PCHH. There is also a satellite office in nearby Bland County.

How You Can Help:

- **Donate Items:** Drop off new or gently-used winter coats and accessories in the designated collection bins located in the Sanctuary narthex or in the Fraser building lobby.
- **Give financially:** If you do not have time to shop, you can donate in the church office, by check (PCHH in memo line), in the Sunday offering plate, or by mail.

All donations must be turned in by October 31 to ensure that we can distribute the clothing to families before the first major freeze. Thank you for your kindness, generosity, open hearts, and ongoing prayers for foster families.

– The Mission and Outreach Committee

Church News

(cont. fr. p. 12)

Staunton Music Festival at First Presbyterian Church



Pianist, Gabriel Dobner (right) and contralto, Sara Couden (left) perform at a recent noontime concert.



(cont. on p. 14)

Church News

Staunton Music Festival at First Presbyterian Church



First Pres sanctuary hosted Staunton Music Festival noontime concerts in August. It's an annual event that has become a popular tradition in our community, filling the church pews and balcony with music lovers from near and far. Seven concerts were held in the church between August 14 and August 22. More than 2,000 attended performances.



Church News

Heifetz Students in Worship Sunday, July 26

The Heifetz Stradavari Quartet played during worship on Sunday, July 26. Their performances were enjoyed by all!



Church News

Chrismon Workshop a Big Success!

Many of the women of the church gathered in the fellowship hall on July 19 to make new Chrismons for our Sanctuary Christmas tree. Patterns, felt, glue, and embellishments such as beads, ribbon and glitter (lots of glitter!) covered the tables. The room was filled with Christmas music, laughter, creativity and fellowship. There were Christmas cookies too!

Many thanks to the people pictured, as well as to Donna Goble, who volunteered to refurbish all of the worn Chrismons. Good work, ladies!



Church News

(cont. fr. p. 10)

Chrismon Workshop a Big Success!

