

THE COLUMNS

November 2021, Volume 59, Issue 11

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA

*First Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro is a community-minded congregation living out the love of Christ as we serve one another with humility, gentleness, and patience through God’s grace.*

**Sunday Morning Worship Schedule Church Office Hours**

Pastor’s Hours Monday -Thursday 10-2:30 Monday - Wednesday - 8:00 – 2:30

Thursday 8-4:30

 Friday-Closed

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So.

What a strange year. Don’t get me wrong – I really enjoy what I do; it's just been a little hard to do it in the midst of a global pandemic, compounded by political divisions over, of all things, public health. Despite that, I have signed another contract with the Session, marking the beginning of my second year as your Interim Pastor.

I mean, what’s not to like? As an Interim, I get to be myself, but in the best way: I get to go with my best stories, and my best sermon ideas; I get to answer questions not just honestly, but candidly, without the vested interest that comes along with a long-term pastoral relationship. I have the luxury of calling things as I see them, without worrying somebody won’t like it and will then make my life miserable.

BUT. (And there is a *but.)*

There are times when it falls to an Interim to address that which has been ignored: the elephant in the room; the fly in the ointment; the 800 lb. gorilla; *He Who Must Not Be Named.*

That's really what you pay me to do - dig into your history, assess your congregational life and ministry, delve into your finances, then report back to you, and help you figure out what to do next. That is, if you want me to.

Truth be told, this is the point where a lot of people stop liking me and look forward to the day when I'll be gone. But that's OK; after all, I’m just a temp; if you don’t like what I’m telling you, take comfort in knowing that I won't be around forever.

All this is by way of introducing the next meetings about the church's future, which are scheduled for November 14 and 21. It was the Session's experience that presentation, followed by time for prayerful reflection before conversation, worked best. So this is the format these meetings will take: the presentation on the 14th, with discussion the following Sunday.

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*If the mission and ministry of FPC are important to you,*

*it is important for you to be here both Sundays*

Patrick S. Pettit, Interim Pastor

**![A picture containing clipart

Description automatically generated]()MUSIC NOTES FOR NOVEMBER**

November is upon us, and with it, the end of the church year. We celebrated *All Saints Day* a day early, on All Hallow’s Eve (October 31), so we begin November marking Veterans Day. We honor those who serve our country with the hymns *Eternal Father Strong to Save* and *O God Our Help in Ages Past.* (And remember to set your clock back one hour to luxuriate in the extra hour of sleep!)

The final Sunday of the church year is November 21 when we raise up Christ the King. The service will open with *Crown Him with Many Crowns,* the sparkling hymn known as DIADAMATA. Since it is also the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the service will conclude with *Now Thank We All Our God.*  The postlude is based on the same hymn, a glorious piece written by Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933).

The last Sunday in November is actually the first Sunday of the church year. Advent is the time to “prepare for the way of the Lord.” When the *Columns* went to press, plans were underway to have Dr. David Berry play piano on November 21. Dr. Berry has played at First Pres in the past, including at the *Bach in the Valley* concerts at FPC prior to the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival. Dr. Berry is Professor of Piano and chair of the music department at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg. He earned his Bachelor of Music in piano performance from The Eastman School of Music and his Master and Doctoral degrees (also in piano performance) from Juilliard.

With the pandemic still affecting our community, weekly choir rehearsals remain on hiatus. When it is safe to do so, we will resume our larger choral experiences. Until then, we will continue to hear small ensembles and soloists (both vocal and instrumental) provide music for the anthem/special music during worship.

Thank you for your continued support of the music ministry here at First Presbyterian Church!

Blessings and peace be with you,

Roger and Kimberlea

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**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Session held a Stated Session Meeting on October 12, 2021.

* Rev. Pettit presented a report “Finances and the Future” for discussion.
* Session approved that $5,300 be sent to Presbytery in 2022 in response to their “asking”. This represents the minimum @ $50/person on roll 1/1/21 (106).
* Over $1,250 was raised by the CROP Walk. Disciples’ Kitchen served 70 meals (pizza and fixings plus peanut butter and jelly sandwiches as take-out).
* Skyline Roofing has been contacted about leak in the sanctuary above choir area. Two sump pumps have been replaced in the boiler area.
* Instead of a Kirkin’ Service this year, FPC will celebrate Presbyterian Heritage Sunday in May 2022 in a similar manner.

Session held a Called Session Meeting on October 26 for the purposes of 1) Further Discussion on our future, 2) scheduling a CAT meeting, and 3) sale of church van.

* Session set the dates of November14 and November 21 for CAT meetings. Following worship we will adjourn to the Fellowship Hall where lunch will be provided. The first Sunday will focus on Finances and the second Sunday direction of our mission and ministry for the future.
* Session approved disposal of the church van. It will be offered to a non-profit or similar organization rather than being sold.

All Session Meetings are opened and closed with prayer.

**IF YOU CARE ABOUT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,**

**PLEASE ATTEND THE MEETINGS ON NOVEMBER 14 & 21**

**After worship in the Fellowship Hall – lunch provided**

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*November 7, 2021*



*BE LIKE A TREE*

by Joanne Raptis

*Stay grounded.*

*Connect with your roots.Turn over a new leaf.*

*Bend before you break.*

*Enjoy your unique natural beauty.*

*Keep growing.*

**WAYNESBORO SYMPHONY**

The Waynesboro Symphony, which headed to Charlottesville’s Paramount Theatre October 22 to present “Symphonic Masquerade: An Evening Out of this World”, recently won the American prize in Orchestral Performance in the community division.

Violinist and conductor J. Peter Wilson was quoted as saying “We have been regularly semi-finalists and twice finalists prior to this, and so to come out of the pandemic after not rehearsing or performing together for over a year and a half and learn about this wonderful achievement was the perfect motivation to the members of the orchestra….When I told the orchestra about this big win just two days before our first concert back, there was an audible gasp of excitement, followed by applause….It is a wonderful feather in the cap of the organization as a whole, and we can all share this honor.”

An article appeared in the Buzz section of the Waynesboro News-Virginian and other newspapers. Included in the feature was a picture of the symphony in concert in our sanctuary. The Symphony is back to regular rehearsals in our Fellowship Hall and performances in the sanctuary.

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Exercise Your Privilege

November 2, 2021

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Preschool News

A group of kids sitting at a table with toys on it

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Dear Congregation,

October did not scare our preschools! They took it head on and are ready for November. In October, we celebrated Halloween on the 28th with class parties and our annual trick or treating event. The children dressed as their favorite characters and had a blast.

In November we will focus on the importance of family, friends, and other loved ones up until Thanksgiving. We will start concentrating on learning our Christmas songs, as we begin prepping for our Christmas concert in December.

We are always delighted to receive aid and scholarships from anyone who wishes to donate. To sponsor a child or make a one-time donation, please email me at preschool@firstpresway.com .

The Preschool will be closed Nov. 24th-26th. We hope you all enjoy Thanksgiving with your family and friends!

Thank you for your time and God Bless,

Nate Rudin, Director

A group of children in a classroom

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A group of children in clothing

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November 6 Betty Johnson November 30 Terry Crickenberger & Joe Earhart

November 9 Max Daggy

November 29 Richard Curry

November 30 Mitch Lawrence

**OUR FOOD BANK NEEDS Y-O-U!**

Our Food Bank is open every Thursday, two afternoons and two evenings a month! Currently we serve a monthly average of 60 individuals and 40 households.

Look for recommendations for monthly donations in the newsletter and weekly bulletin. In November please bring toilet paper. (Multi-packs are divided.). For December an Advent Calendar will be available for daily recommendations. On Christmas Eve any contributions are welcome.

A grocery cart will be placed in the narthex for donations. Please be generous!

--Cynthia Hoover

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**VETERANS DAY**

Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday observed annually on November 11, honoring military veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. Legally, two minutes of silence is recommended to be observed at 2:11 p.m. EST.

At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954, when it was expanded to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in World War I. It is a federal holiday.

Veterans Day is distinct from Memorial Day, a U.S. public holiday in May. Veterans Day celebrates the service of *all* U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who *died* while in military service.



**PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND OTHER CONCERNS**

The Legacy: Eloise Morris, Mary June Cook

Shenandoah Nursing Home: Rubye Schwab

Summit Square: Lillian Hryshkanych

Home: Dick Huff, Nancy Garber, Mary Ultee, Edie Lawrence, Mary Ann Maupin

Friends and Family: Andy & Jean Robeson, (Cunninghams), Steve Stevens, Marianne Beck, Bill Bromley, Grace Measles (Jen Jones), Danny Smith (Nancy Hypes), Jennifer & Charlotte Sergeant (Kathy Brown), Bill Metzel (Joyce Tipton), Tony Poplin, Jerry Hughes, Paul Watts (Colleen Cash), Shae Blackwell and Family (Preschool), Col. Stuart Roberts (Mark Henderson), Alissa Voils (Pam Leech), Phil Hashagen (Jean & Don), Erwin Berry (Joan), Claude Williamson, Bay Kelley (Ruth Kelley), Leon Harouff, Camila Pleasants (Jo Pannill)

Military: Jeremiah Henderson, Carson Craig

Missionaries: Elmarie & Scott Parker, PC (USA) Regional Liaisons to Iraq, Syria & Lebanon



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**Church Office Hours**

Monday-Wednesday

8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Thursday

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday

Closed

**Interim Pastor**

Rev. Patrick Pettit

pspettit@gmail.com

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Mrs. Colleen Cash

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**Audio/Visual Technician**

Mr. Craig Cavanaugh

**Maintenance Technician**

Mr. Michael Griffith

**Custodian**

Mrs. Caroleia Strandberg

**Child Care Attendants**

Nate & Karalyn Rudin

**Reporters—**Members of the Congregation & Staff

**COLUMNS Mailing List**

During the pandemic the newsletter is being mailed to members and friends. Please remember to give your new address to the Church Office when you move. We do not want you to miss any of the Church news. Just contact the Church Office (949-8366 or [church@firstpresway.com](mailto:church@firstpresway.com) Sermons, bulletins and many Columns articles can be found on the church website:

[firstpresway.org](http://firstpresway.org) **Deadlines: COLUMNS:** 20th of the month

**NOVEMBER CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, November 2**

Waynesboro Symphony Practice Sanctuary 7pm

**Thursday, November 4**

Food Bank 6-8pm

**Sunday, November 7 Daylight Savings Time Ends**

Worship Service 11am

**Tuesday, November 9**

Session Meeting 2:30

Waynesboro Symphony Practice Sanctuary 7pm

**Thursday, November 11 Veteran’s Day**

Food Bank 2-4pm

**Sunday, November 14**

Worship Service 11am

CAT Lunch

Waynesboro Symphony Concert 3pm

**Thursday, November 18**

Food Bank 6-8pm

**Saturday, November 20**

Waynesboro Symphony all day classes

**Sunday, November 21**

Worship Service 11am

CAT Lunch

**Tuesday, November 23**

Waynesboro Symphony Practice Fellowship Hall 7pm

**Thursday, November 25 Thanksgiving**

**Office and Food Bank Closed**

**Sunday, November 28**

Worship Service 11am

**Tuesday, November 30**

Waynesboro Symphony Practice Fellowship Hall 7pm