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First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA

**April 2024, Volume 62, Issue 4**

*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.*

THE COLUMNS

A black and white logo

Description automatically generatedAs I write this, the sports world is in the midst of which brings back a lot of memories for me.

While I was never a star (or even a ‘Student Athlete,’ as the NCAA likes to call them), I grew up playing basketball. I spent countless hours shooting hoops in my driveway and at the local park. In junior high, I went to basketball camp and played on the school team - I even made junior varsity before it dawned on me that being a musician could be as much fun without all the suicide drills in practice. In college, I played intramural ball, and spent Saturdays playing pickup games in the gym; and when March rolled around, I filled out my bracket and glued myself to the television, wagering a symbolic dollar with my friend Mike, which traded hands year after year.

Basketball taught me a lot - about myself, to be sure, but also about how to navigate the world. So, it should come as no surprise that this month’s Rule originated in the words of my grandfather, player and coach in the old, two-handed-set-shot days.

In Paul’s first letter to the church at Thessaloniki, he sums up his message by reminding the faithful that the times and seasons of the Lord are not within our grasp: *For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. (I Thess. 5:2)*

Paul admonishes his audience to remain *awake and sober* - prepared for whatever might come next. Such preparation isn’t just about where our *condition* (awake versus asleep, sober versus impaired), but about our *attitude.*

A silhouette of a person

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# Relax.

Have you ever waded into the ocean and been knocked over by a strong wave? It’s a pretty common experience, especially when our thoughts are turned to things other than the tide. And here’s the thing: there are some waves that will knock us off our feet no matter what, but if we relax, keep our limbs and trunk supple, it’s possible to *ride* the wave instead, allowing it to take us to a new place.

Stiff and unbending can seem like strength, but it often masks a brittleness that upends or even shatters us when the unexpected happens. In basketball, this means keeping the knees slightly bent, the arms loose and away from the body; what do think it looks like in ministry?

# Find Your Balance.

Balance is related to relaxation, but it has a significance of its own. A crucial element for withstanding that ocean wave, balance allows us to leverage our strengths, while minimizing the unexpected we might run into along the way. Basketball players work to keep their center of gravity low and in front, while distributing their weight evenly, which allows them to move easily in any direction without being toppled. What would balance feel like in the church?

# Stay Alert.

Basketball is a quickly moving game - turn your head for just a second and you can miss a great pass, a canny steal, a monster dunk, a flagrant foul. Unlike baseball or even football, basketball demands the constant attention of both player and spectator - knowing where the ball is, where your teammates and your opponents are. It is not always easy to do for 48 minutes, but it is crucial. Of course, ministry is a bit different. Like baseball, it often seems like things take forever, even when important work is being done, and we can be distracted by other interests; like football, there can often be more downtime than we would like, and we might be inclined to push, to rush, to do *something,* even when that *something* sets back our mission. If we can maintain vigilance, even while remaining relaxed and balanced, looking for the right moment, the right *time,* we will be ready when the Lord calls us into the game.\*

Things are happening in our midst: relax, find your balance and stay alert.

A close-up of a signature

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\*I’m so sorry. I stayed away from the sports metaphors as long as I could.



**APRIL MUSIC NOTES**

Alleluia! The Lord is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

We celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, during this Easter Season. Throughout the month of April, we will sing hymns that reflect this glorious time of year.

The second Sunday of Easter falls on 7 April. The opening hymn will be “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*”* with music by Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900). He and librettist Sir W. S. Gilbert (1836-1911) created some of the most popular stage works of all time. They collaborated on fourteen works, including *HMS Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado.*  Sullivan also composed dozens of operas, choral works, oratorios and ballets, as well as many songs and hymns, including “Onward, Christian Soldiers.” The closing hymn is known simply as ALLELUIA NO. 1, composed by Donald Fishel (b. 1950). It was the first piece he wrote, composed in 1971 while a junior at the University of Michigan. Fishel said the work came to him “rather quickly, in about an hour.” His compositions can be found in hymnals in Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches.

The first Scripture reading for the third Sunday of April is Psalm 23. Scores of pieces have been written on the comforting text, including the hymns “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” and “The King of Love My Shepherd I*s,*”both of which are based on folk tunes. “The King of Love My Shepherd I*s*”is set to the tune ST. COLUMBA*,* named for the Irish saint who brought Irish Christianity to Scotland. The melody was one of many Irish tunes collected by George Petrie (1789-1866) and included in various publications, such as *Hymns Ancient and Modern* in 1868 and *The English Hymnal* of 1906. “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” comes from an anonymous Appalachian melody. The tune, initially known as HOPEWELL, first appeared in 1828 in *The Beauties of Harmony.* A few years later, the tune was renamed RESIGNATION for the 1832 publication *Genuine Church Music.*

On the final Sunday of April, we will sing Easter hymns set to music by two of the most famous composers of all time. “Thine is the Glory” was composed by George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) for his oratorio *Judas Maccabaeus.* Handel reportedly told a friend,” You will live to see the tune a greater favorite with the people than my other finer things.” The original text, “See the Conquering Hero,” was altered by Edmund Budry (1854-1932) for the hymn. The closing hymn for 28 April is the HYMN TO JOY, from one of the most works by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827). The giant of classical music concluded his *Symphony no. 9* with a chorus and soloists added to the final movement. The text for that chorus, known as the “Ode to Joy,” has been altered for various hymns. The text for the version we’ll sing was written in 1984 by Brian Wren (b. 1936).

Finally, Roger will, once again, present a First Friday Organ Recital on 5 April at 12:15, followed by a light luncheon, kindly provided by First Presbyterian Church. All are welcome to hear FPC’s fine 1893 Woodberry and Harris pipe organ!

We remain grateful to First Presbyterian Church for the continued support of the music program. May you be showered with His blessings during this Easter season!

Blessings –

**Roger & Kimberlea Daggy**

**FIRST FRIDAY ORGAN CONCERT**

**April 5 – 12:15 p.m.**

**followed by lite repast in Barksdale Room**

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**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Session held a Stated Session Meeting March 12, 2024. President of Fishburne Military School Col. Randall Brown, FMS English teacher Christianna Herrera, and our own Bob Miller were also in attendance.

Fishburne presented its plan to create their new Middle School on the second floor of the Educational Wing of FPC with Ms. Herrera as Director.

The Clerk reported that the 2023 Session Minutes were approved “with no exceptions”.

Elder Mike Cunningham reported on the February 27 Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting on zoom. (Highlights appear elsewhere in the newsletter.)

Preschool had a productive staff meeting. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt. Summer Camp for 5–9-year-olds is being planned.

Cynthia Hoover provided statistics for the Food Bank. WARM meals for the shelter at Westminster PC were cancelled for lack of WARM staff. (Report also in *The Columns*.)

P&M – Looking into proposal for additional cameras. Investigating better Wi-Fi. Completion of AC work yet to be determined.

Lenten Bible Study continues through March 20. A Maundy Thursday service will be held on March 28 at noon in the Barksdale Room with a simple lunch and communion. Attendees at the 11:00 Easter service are reminded to bring flowers to decorate the outdoor cross.

The *Presbyterian Better Together* folks met with missionary Cindy Correll March 10. After a long stint in Haiti she is on her way to the Dominican Republic. Smyrna PC is hosting a Game Night on March 15. This group is in charge of Worship at the next Presbytery Meeting at Westminster PC on May 14.

The April newsletter will be available on Easter Sunday, March 31.

Motion: Session approved the Articles of Incorporation and directed the church lawyer to file them.

All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next Stated Meeting will be held on April 9. --Betsy Ruehl, Clerk of Session



**HIGHLIGHTS OF**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 200TH STATED MEETING OF SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY**

**February 27, 2024 Via Zoom**

Retiring Moderator April Cranford announced that in celebration of the occasion of our 200th Stated Meeting, each of the 96 congregations of Shenandoah Presbytery will be gifted $200, anticipating that each church will use the gift to share Christ’s love by continuing or implementing missions in their community.

Associate General Presbyter Nancy Meehan Yao reported on the new life and energy she is seeing in congregations.

Worship was a celebration of the Psalms with interactive readings, responses, bagpipes, organ selections and prayer. The necrology report was received {Editor’s Note: Our own Dick Huff was remembered.}

William North, Ruling Elder from Berkeley Springs, was installed as Moderator.

The Committee on Mission and Outreach reported on the many mission opportunities in this Presbytery, including Cindy Correll’s new ministry with the Dominican Republic, the visit of our Ethiopian partners in May, and the mission trip to Baja this July.

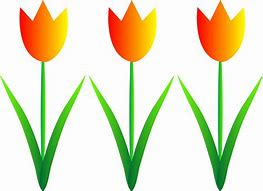
The Administrative Commission to Bethel PC gave their concluding report including Bethel’s dismissal to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO).

An Administrative Commission for the Springfield WV congregation was appointed for the purpose of dissolving the congregation, selling and/or disposing of all property, and taking original jurisdiction, if necessary.

Teaching Elder Brint Keyes was welcomed as Interim Pastor to Tinkling Spring PC.

Several changes to documents were passed to conform with the Book of Order and the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

All Presbytery meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next stated meeting is on May 14, 2024, at Westminster PC in Waynesboro. --Betsy Ruehl

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**Preschool News!!**

HAPPY SPRING!!!!! Our preschool had so many exciting events happening in March. We got to catch Larry the Leprechaun who left us a pot of Gold! Ms. Lynda led us on a hunt to find Larry’s gold and we succeeded.

Each of our preschool classrooms had their Easter parties and colored easter eggs. It was fun making great memories with our friends. We also had a family Easter egg hunt and our parents, as well as our grandparents, got to join in. Our preschoolers also got to experience something exciting when they planted their very own jellybeans in the flower beds. The next morning, when they came in with their parents, they got to see their jellybeans had grown overnight into a lollipop!!!! What a cute Easter Miracle that was!!!!!

Ms. Abby has joined us as the aide with Mrs. Carol in the 2.5-year-old room. She is doing a fantastic job, and we all love her. Mrs. Carol’s classroom was learning all about different forms of weather and the rainbow last month. Mrs. Lynda and her 3-year-old classroom learned a lot about Dr. Suess and read his books. They learned about the weather and the colors of the rainbow as well. Our 4-year-old classroom will have a bit of a change in April as we will have a new lead teacher.

Mrs. Mary will begin April 2nd when we return from spring break with Ms. Patti continuing to be the aide in the classroom. We are excited to welcome Mrs. Mary with open arms to our 4’s room. In March we spent time reviewing our Alphabet, numbers, scissor skills and tracing skills and preparing for the next few months as we get closer to heading off to kindergarten.



A group of children walking on grass

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A child sitting at a table with a green egg

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A child sitting on a chair

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Patrick’s

Birthday

Wishes



**MISSION/OUTREACH FEBRUARY 2024**

* Ordered and received food from Blue Ridge Area Food Bank February 6 and 20. Volunteers assembled 20 pantry boxes for each order.
* Maintained temperature logs for refrigerators and freezers.
* Food Bank held February 1, 8, 15 and 22.
* Purchased eggs, bread, and margarine for Food Bank weekly.
* Updated weekly shopping list for extra options.
* Completed pantry inventory and report: Served 127 individuals and 41 households.
* Pantry monitoring visit was February 13.
* Collecting chicken noddle soup for Food Bank.
* Disciples’ Kitchen February 1 – served 35 meals.
* Meals for WARM Shelter at Westminster PC cancelled due to lack of staffing for overflow sites.

. --Cynthia Hoover, Mission Chair

**NEEDED:**

**FOOD BANK – CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP**

(unavailable for purchase at Blue Ridge Area Food Bank)





**Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed**

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**

**Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024**

**LEADING WITH A PURPOSE**

Although the women of Malawi are accustomed to doing anything and everything to support their families – from farming to running small scale businesses – Tropical Cyclone Freddy sorely tested Tinenenji Kalamba’s resilience.

Tinwnenji was already planning to be an exemplary leader in the Kasupe Women’s Bakery and Value Addition Center when the devastating March 2023 cyclone washed away the lives and livelihoods of thousands across the country.

This certainly wasn’t the hopeful future that the twice widowed 42-year-old pictured for herself when the bakery was first started in 2022 with support from the **Presbyterian Hunger Program.**

The bakery was designed to address the shortage of nutritious and healthy foods in the Kasupe region by having women produce and sell a variety of baked goods and farm products. It not only employed local women as bakers, but – before the cyclone struck – also bolstered the production of farmers and strengthened the economy.

It is thanks to Tinenenji’s faithful leadership that the bakery operation survived the cyclone.

And it is also thanks to a grant from the **Presbyterian Hunger Program.** This Program helps provide support in areas where it is difficult for people to help themselves.

Together, our gifts make a difference in the lives of people in Malawi, in other parts of the world, and right here at home. Please give generously to the **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING\*.**  Don’t forget that when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

\*The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering additionally supports the ministries of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People.



2024-25 Church Scholarships are available online and, in the Church Office, beginning April 1. Application deadline is Tuesday, April 31.

Contact Holly Bennett with any questions.  [hollybbennett@outlook.com](mailto:hollybbennett@outlook.com)

cell:  (540) 836-9844.   Good luck!

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First Presbyterian Church is delighted to collaborate with Fishburne Military School (FMS) as they undertake the creation of their new Middle School. Col. Randel E. Brown, president of Fishburne Military School, presented their plan to the Session at the March meeting, outlining the creation of the day school (not boarding), which will be located on the second floor of our education building; the church offices will remain where they are. Here, students will receive an education featuring small class sizes, student accountability, individualized attention, positive team building, and a classical academic curriculum focusing on the whole person, including physical and leadership development. While not a part of the Corps of Cadets, the school will be organized by the 'house system,' which serves to enhance peer relationships and foster community. The students will wear uniforms - khaki trousers and FMS polo shirts - and will take their lunches in the Dining hall on the FMS campus. Maintenance and custodial services will be provided by the school for the spaces they occupy in the building.

“There is a distinct difference in development and mentality in middle school boys versus high school boys," Col. Brown explained. "The middle school will serve as a steppingstone to high school life with the Corps of Cadets.”

FMS English teacher Christianna Herrera will take on the role of Middle School Director. Herrera’s previous assignments included chief educational officer, principal, and teacher with over 19 years of experience.

Upon taking on this new role, Herrera said, “I have a strong passion for the philosophy of classical education. I look forward to taking an active leadership role in designing all aspects of our middle school educational program.”

It is expected that the rollout will take place over the next two years, with the ultimate goal of sixth through eighth grade classes, with a estimated student body of around 60.

Fishburne’s heritage and community connections serve as the motivation for creating a sub-division of the 13th oldest military school in the U.S. In 1879, Professor James Abbot Fishburne, founder of Fishburne Military School said, “It is my purpose to have here an institution which shall rank as first class to everything that constitutes true worth, and from which shall go forth loyal, earnest, industrious young men (boys) well equipped for the duties and responsibilities of life, and, above all else, to maintain a high standard of honor and integrity.” Likewise, this will open First Presbyterian to the community in a new way, complimenting the stewardship of space already made real in the preschool and our relationship with the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra.

As this is the first major undertaking of our new partnership with FMS, a coordination team will meet regularly with members from both the church and the school. Work on the several second-floor spaces needed is set to begin shortly; stay tuned for progress reports as we look forward to August and the start of the school year.



**EASTERTIDE**

Our Sunday worship bulletins are always dated. Have you noticed that those following Easter note “Second Sunday of Easter”, etc. up to “Seventh Sunday of Easter”?

Eastertide, or Easter season, is the period of 50 days spanning from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. Easter Sunday and Pentecost correspond to pre-existing Jewish feasts: The first day of Pesach and the holiday of Shavu’ot.

The eighth Sunday is Pentecost. We commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Festival of Weeks. In between, we have Ascension of the Lord, the 40th day of Easter (a Thursday).

Some of us walk through Holy Week each year, imagining the events during Jesus’ time. Let us also be mindful of the weeks following the Resurrection as we mark the special season of Eastertide. --Betsy Ruehl

**Liturgists**

April 7 Betsy Ruehl

April 14 Bill Pannill

April 21 Jo Pannill

April 28 Cynthia Hoover



April 2 Ann Bryant

April 3 Susan Johnson

April 8 Ann Nelson

April 10 Cynthia Hoover

April 23 Cary Bennett

April 28 Mary Scott Miller

**REV PETTIT’S WORK SCHEDULE**

Monday – work at home

Tuesday and Thursday– onsite First Pres

Wednesday – visitation

Friday – off



**April Calendar**

**Tuesday, April 2**

6-10 pm Waynesboro Symphony Practice, Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, April 4**

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

**Friday, April 5**

12:15pm First Friday Organ Concert

**Sunday, April 7**

11 am Worship Service

**Monday, April 8**

1 pm Bible Study, ,Second Presbyterian

**Tuesday, April 9**

**2:30 pm** Session Room 212

6-10 pm Waynesboro Symphony Practice, Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, April 11**

2-4 pm Food Bank

**Sunday, April 14**

11 am Worship Service

**Monday, April 15**

1 pm Bible Study, Hermitage Presbyterian

**Tuesday, April 16**

6-10 pm Waynesboro Symphony Practice, Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, April 18**

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

**Sunday, April 21**

11am Worship Service

**Monday, April 22**

1 pmBible Study, Finley Presbyterian

**Tuesday, April 23**

6-10pm Waynesboro Symphony Fellowship Hall

**Thursday, April 25**

2-4 pm Food Bank

**Sunday, April 28**

11 am Worship Service

3 pm Waynesboro Symphony Concert

**Monday, April 29**

1pm Bible Study, First Presbyterian





Mailing Address

P. O. Box 877

Waynesboro, VA 22980

Phone 540.949.8366

Fax 540.949.5750

E-mail: church@firstpresway.com

Website: [www.firstpresway.org](http://www.firstpresway.org)

Interim Pastor Music Director

Rev. Patrick S. Pettit Mr. Roger Daggy

[pspettit@gmail.com](mailto:pspettit@gmail.com) firstpreswaymusic@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant Music Associate

Mrs. Colleen Cash Mrs. Kimberlea Daggy

ccash@firstpresway.com firstpreswaymusic@gmail.com

Preschool Director Audio/Video Technician

Ms. Tami Hemp Mr. Craig Cavenaugh

[preschool@firstpresway.com](mailto:preschool@firstpresway.com) Mrs Cindy Cavenaugh

Maintenance Technician

Mr. Michael Griffith

