Diagram

Description automatically generatedDiagram

Description automatically generated

THE COLUMNS

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA

**February 2025, Volume 63, Issue 2**

*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.*

*15  Toward evening the disciples approached him. “We’re out in the country and it’s getting*

*late. Dismiss the people so they can go to the villages and get some supper.”*

*16  But Jesus said, “There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper.”*

*17  “All we have are five loaves of bread and two fish,” they said.*

*18-21  Jesus said, “Bring them here.” Then he had the people sit on the grass. He took the*

*five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the*

*bread to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to the congregation. They all ate*

*their fill. They gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. About five thousand were fed.*

*Matthew 14:15-21*

*When in doubt, always quote scripture. This is not one of the rules I have painstakingly collected over the years,*

*but perhaps it should be. Last month, we began with insights into basketball; for May, we are diving back into*

*the New Testament for illumination.*

*We are conditioned, I think, to look at the miraculous as magical, the theological equivalent of alchemy. Just as*

*the medieval alchemist sought to turn lead into gold, and thus enrich themselves without labor, we look at*

*miracles at least in part, as labor-saving plot devices: healing without the effort of treatment; gifts that eliminate*

*the need for impossible choices; rescue that makes of us passive recipients of grace. But, in the words of yet*

*another of my rules, God is not a magician; what we call miracles are signs of God at work in our midst - and*

*God hates to work alone.*

*In the feeding of the multitude, the disciples recognize a need - the crowd is getting hungry and the day is*

*mostly gone. This is a real problem, they know, but the best they can come up with is to send the crowds*

*back to town, where they might find some supper. But Jesus has something else in mind; not just pushing*

*the problem down the road, but actually doing something about the hunger of the people. He asks what*

*food is available, and is told, 5 rolls and 2 cooked fish - the lunch of a well-prepared young man. Jesus*

*then does the miraculous, but the miracle isn&#39;t magic- Jesus does not make everyone feel full, or have*

*manna fall from the heavens. The miracle happens through the work of the disciples. It is the disciples*

*who organize the people, getting them to sit down in an orderly fashion; they who oversee the distribution*

*of the loaves and fishes, making sure everyone is fed; even making sure the leftovers are collected. And*

*that, friends, leads us to Rule #10:*

Dear members & friends of First Presbyterian Church,

This month, our preschool children are participating in Hearts Across America. By Valentine’s Day, they hope to have at least one valentine from all 50 states in the U.S. When you walk past our food bank, you can find a map of the states with gold star stickers, noting how many valentines from each state they have received so far.

Through the simple gift of handwritten cards in the mail, our children are learning the power of love across time and space.

The apostle Paul wrote: “If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.” (1 Cor. 13:1)

During the month of February in worship, we will explore the myriad ways Jesus loves us and calls us to genuinely love one another – not like a cheesy saying on a piece of candy, but fiercely. On Sunday, February 2nd, we will start with Paul telling the Corinthians that love is the ultimate marker of our faith (1 Corinthians 13:1-13).

Like the slowly melting snow on the sidewalks of Waynesboro, we will thaw out our hearts, asking: How can Jesus soften our coarseness, our complacency, our reticence to forgive? Jesus teaches us to be fishers of people (Luke 5:1-11), delineates for us who is blessed and who is bound for woe (Luke 6:17-26), and exhorts us to love our enemies (Luke 6:27-38).

As we consider Christ’s love through these lenses in Scripture, we will also have two opportunities to enact that love as a church, during the season of Lent:

On **Ash Wednesday, March 5th** **at 7:00 pm,** we will worship at Main Street United Methodist Church, alongside sisters & brothers in Christ from First Baptist, Grace Lutheran, St. John Episcopal and Union Baptist.

And on **Thursday, March 20th at 5:30 pm**, with our friends from Better Together, we will host a Fred Rogers-themed ***Love Your Neighbor* Lenten dinner** in our church building, with the goal of welcoming younger children & their families.

Last but not least: thank you to everybody who made Sunday, January 26th such a fun birthday for me at the church, by serving and enjoying delicious cake with me, singing, giving gifts, and greeting me with wishes for a good year ahead. You made me feel special, appreciated, even loved.

In Christ,

Samantha

**FEBRUARY MUSIC NOTES**



We continue celebrating Epiphany throughout the month of February, with music reflecting the lectionary and the season.

For the first Sunday of February, the anthem will be *The Gift of Love,* Hal Hopson’s (b. 1933) most popular piece. Hopson has served Presbyterian churches in Nashville and Dallas and taught at Westminster Choir College. *The Gift of Love* is one of over 1800 pieces published by the prolific composer, penned in 1971 and published a year later. Hopson set the text from I Corinthians to an old Scottish folk tune known as “O Waly Waly” or “The Water is Wide.” Others who have adapted the song include Benjamin Britten, who arranged it in 1948, and John Rutter, who used it in his *Suite for Strings* in 1973. The Kingston Trio, Neil Young and Pete Seeger are among the popular singers who have gravitated toward the well-known melody.

The anthem on the third Sunday of the month will be a fairly recent setting of *The Beatitudes* (Matthew 5: 3-12). This musical arrangement of Jesus’ statement of blessings was first heard in the Russian Orthodox church back in the 10th century, part of the Orthodox Divine Liturgy. The choir will sing the setting created in 1983 by Richard Proulx (1937-2010), one of more than 300 pieces composed or arranged by the composer. Although most of his compositions are sacred, particularly choral music, Proulx wrote quite a few secular pieces, including two operas and a theme song for Union Pacific Railroad in 1971.

February also marks the return of the First Friday Organ Programs and Light Luncheons. Please come and listen to Roger play a program at 12:15 on Friday 7 February, followed by a delightful repast. All are welcome!

Also in February, the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra performs at FPC on Sunday 23 February. The program features the winners of the WSO’s recent concerto competition. First place was awarded to Alexander Chang, a junior at Monticello High School, who will play the first movement of Tchaikovsky’s (1840-1893) Piano Concerto No. 1. Second place went to Gudrun Campbell, a senior at Charlottesville High School, who will play a movement from Kabalesky’s (1904-1987) Cello Concerto no. 1. Finishing in third place was Derek Mickelson, a senior at Spotswood High School, who will play Sejourne’s (b. 1961) Concerto for Marimba and Strings. Come and hear these talented young musicians fill our Sanctuary with a joyful noise!

We continue to be grateful to First Presbyterian Church for supporting the music program –

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy

**FRIDAY CONCERT RETURNS**

**Friday, February 7– 12:15 p.m.**

**followed by a light repast in the Barksdale Room**

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Session held a Stated Meeting on January 23, 2025.

* It should be noted that Session has met twice since its last Stated Session Meeting to discuss Budget and Stewardship issues. Additional time was devoted to discussing these issues at this meeting.
* Rev. Coggins will be attending a meeting at the Calvin Center in the Atlanta area March 10-13 for newly ordained ministers.
* Preschool: “We’re good!” Grandmother of one of the four-year-olds perished in a fire in Stuarts Draft.
* Mission/Outreach Report provided (published elsewhere).
* P&M: Still no quote received for cleaning of gutters. The estimate for annual P&M equipment and services is $25-30,000. The Symphony contract is due for renewal in February.
* The January 19 worship service was cancelled due to weather. Although snow did not begin until the afternoon, there were no regrets about the decision.
* Presbyterians Better Together – A dinner tailored for young children, “Love Your Neighbor” on Mr. Rogers Day, will be held at FPC on March 20. Rev. Carrico from Finley Memorial and Samantha are heading up the event.
* Session approved accepting the invitation of Rev. Paul Pingel from Grace Lutheran Church to participate in an Ash Wednesday service on March 5. Other downtown churches taking part are First Baptist, Main Street UMC, St. John Episcopal and Union Baptist.
* Rev. Coggins will be participating in a Symposium “Faith in Troubled Times” on March 8 from 8:30-1:00 at Main Street UMC.
* All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next Stated Session Meeting will be February 11.

--Betsy Ruehl, Clerk of Session



**Please consider lending a “Helping Hand”**

**Food Bank**

**Liturgist**



**MISSION/OUTREACH DECEMBER 2024**

* Ordered and received food from Blue Ridge Area Food Bank December 3 and 17. Volunteers assembled 20 pantry boxes for each order.
* Maintained temperature logs for refrigerators and freezers.
* Food Bank was held December 5, 12 and 19.
* Purchased eggs, bread, and margarine for Food Bank weekly.
* Updated weekly shopping list for extra options.
* Completed pantry inventory and report: Served 158 individuals and 48 households. These numbers include those in the High School Pantry.
* Collected cereal for Food Bank and Pantry Items for High School.
* Received canned soup for the Preschool three-year-old class.
* Next Disciples’ Kitchens are January 16 and March 31.
* Serving dinner at the WARM Shelter on January 30.
* In the year 2024 our Food Bank served 1450 individuals and 400 households.

. --Cynthia Hoover, Mission Chair

**COLLECTING CEREAL FOR FPC FOOD BANK**

**COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS for**

**WAYNESBORO HIGH SCHOOL FOOD BANK**

**Healthy snacks like granola bars and grab-and-go items**



***HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY***

***“Love looks not with the eye, but with the mind,***

***and therefore, is winged Cupid painted blind.”***

***-William Shakespeare***

***A WORD FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL…..***

*So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for*

*you: compassion kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered,*

*content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly*

*and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on,*

*wear love. It’s your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.*

*Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other.*

*None of this going off and doing our own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word*

*of Christ – the Message – have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives.*

*Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God!*

*Let every detail in your lives – words, actions, whatever – be done in the name of the Master, Jesus,*

*thanking God the Father every step of the way.*

(The Message by Eugene H. Peterson – *Colossians 3:12-17)*

**February Fun Facts and Holidays**

* **February 2** is **Groundhog Day**, the day we find out whether winter will last 6 more weeks or call it quits early. How did this quirky tradition get started?
* **February 9**is the Super Bowl in 2025.
* **February 12** is [**Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday**](https://www.almanac.com/calendar/date/2025-02-12). The 16th president of the United States was born in a one-room, 16x18-foot log cabin with a dirt floor.
* **February 14** is always **Valentine’s Day**. Heads up, lovebirds! Today, the holiday is celebrated with love, flowers, and chocolate, but how did this holiday get its start?
* **February 15** is [**Susan B. Anthony’s Birthday**](https://www.almanac.com/calendar/date/2025-02-15). How much do you know about this women’s rights leader?
* **February 15** is also **National Flag of Canada Day**!
* **February 17** brings [**Presidents’ Day**](https://www.almanac.com/content/when-presidents-day), a federal holiday also known as Washington’s Birthday that is celebrated on the third Monday in February. (George Washington’s actual birthday is February 22!)
* **February 28** is [Ramadan](https://www.almanac.com/content/when-start-ramadan), the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.

[**Fun facts about February include**](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=d8a1d3a7576eb0d45c74814d247e30b2a54fb610d02c7081fabf48041b75e3c6JmltdHM9MTczODEwODgwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=20b7c414-3069-6c49-16e1-d50e317b6d81&psq=FUn+facts+about+February&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cudGhlZmFjdHNpdGUuY29tL2ZlYnJ1YXJ5LWZhY3RzLw&ntb=1):

* February is the second month of the year in the Gregorian calendar.
* February is the shortest month of the year, with only 28 days (29 days in a leap year).
* February is named after the Latin term “februum,” which means purification.
* The birthstones for February are amethyst and bloodstone.
* The birth flower for February is the violet.
* February is the only month in the year without a full moon.
* February has been recognized as Black History Month for over 40 years, celebrating the contributions of African Americans.
* The odds of being born on February 29th (Leap Day) are about 1 in 1,461.

**Preschool News!!**

The children were so glad to come back after winter break! Although the staff were well-being, we had almost a whole extra week at home due to the snowstorm.

For February we have so much planned already. We have begun one of our activities that will continue through Valentine’s Day. We are participating in “Hearts Across America” that includes sending Valentine cards to friends at other preschools, schools, as well as daycare centers across the United States. We are receiving cards from them, and friends and family members of our preschoolers are sending us cards as well. A map of the United States hangs in the hallway along with hearts that have the children’s names and cards that we are receiving. Dr. Brumbaugh, Pediatric Dentist, will be coming to visit this month to talk to us about the health and care of our teeth.

A child holding a bowl of blue powder

Description automatically generatedA group of children sitting on the floor holding sticks

Description automatically generated

A child holding a toy

Description automatically generatedA child painting with purple glitter

Description automatically generated

A map of the united states

Description automatically generated

***PRESBYTERIANS BETTER TOGETHER* BIBLE STUDY**

Once a month some members of *Better Together* churches meet for about an hour for Bible Study. Studies are progressing through the Old Testament as we reacquaint ourselves with some of the characters we grew up with in Sunday School. We relate events to each other and to the modern day world.

The Study is ably led by the personable John Tindall, Director of Christian Education at Westminster PC. Not only is he knowledgeable about the people and situations, but he adds a touch of humor and comprehension with an occasional video.

Location schedule is as follows: 1st Monday – First Pres; 2nd Second Pres; 3rd Monday Hermitage, 4th Monday Finley Memorial, 5th Monday Smyrna. Time: 1:00 (with refreshments)

Come and be prepared to share your knowledge with a group of like-minded individuals, or come, like me, to hear about what you should have learned years ago. It’s fun!

--Betsy Ruehl

**FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

The roots of Black History Month lie in the creation of Negro History Week by historian Carter G. Woodson in 1925. People first observed the event in February of 1926 during the week of the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Over time, the celebration gradually became officially supported by mayors of a number of American cities. The federal government formally adopted the occasion and President Gerald Ford expanded it to the entire month of February in 1976.



LITURGISTS

2– Betsy Ruehl

9 – Jo Pannill

16 – Bill Pannill

23 – Jean Hashagen

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



5 Anne Johnson

7 Cathy Cunningham

16 Sandi Henderson

18 Phyllis Poluito Valerie Purcell

***IN MEMORIAM***



***Nancy Barbour Snyder***

***February 7, 1935 – January 15. 2025***

**MAKING A CHOICE**

One winter years ago, I was walking down our long driveway to check the mail. The driveway was covered in snow, and parts of it were icy. I could either walk in deep snow, which would be more physically demanding, or I could walk in the tire racks where the snow had been packed down.

After a short time of walking in deeper snow, I decided to walk in the tire tracks. While I could walk faster and more easily, I was also walking an icy, slick path. It wasn’t long before I slipped, but thankfully I did not fall. I quickly decided to move back to the deeper snow. It would not be easier or faster, but it was the right choice

The life that Jesus Christ calls us to can be like my walk down the driveway. Many times, the choice that is right and honors God is not easy, and the journey may be slow. Doing what is easier and faster is not always God’s will for us. But we honor God when we do what is right.

 (A meditation from *The Upper Room* Daily Devotional Guide)

**CHURCH OFFICERS:**

Treasurer – Colleen Cash

Members of Session - Jean Hashagen, Betsy Ruehl

Cynthia Hoover, Mike Cunningham and Bob Miller

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Monday, February 3

1 pm Better Together Bible Study First Presbyterian

Tuesday, February 4

6-10 pm Symphony Practice Fellowship

Thursday, February 6

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

Sunday, February 9

11 am Worship

Monday, February 10

1 pm Better Together Bible Study Second Presbyterian

Tuesday, February 11

2:30 pm Session Room 212

6-10 pm Symphony Practice Sanctuary

Thursday, February 13

2-4 pm Food Bank

6-10 Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, February 16

11 am Worship

Monday, February 17

1 pm Better Together Bible Study Hermitage Presbyterian

Tuesday, February 18

6 -10 pm Symphony Practice-Fellowship

Thursday, February 20

6-7 pm Food Bank

6-10 pm Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, February 23

11 pm Worship

3 pm Concert

Monday, February 24

1 pm Better Together Bible Study Finley Memorial

Tuesday, February,25

6pm Symphony Practice Fellowship

Thursday, February 27

2-4 pm Food Bank

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Shenandoah Nursing Home: Nancy Garber

Summitt Square: Ruth Quillen

Home: Mary Ultee, Mary Ann Maupin, Warner Sandquist, Mike & Cathy Cunningham

Friends and Family: Bill Bromley, Jean Custen, Jerry Hughes, Sally McNeel, Col. Stuart Roberts (Mark Henderson), Kathleen Clements, Carolyn Hedrick-Williams, Mac & Judy Watts (Colleen Cash), Betsy Boswell (Curry), Margie Hartley, Shane Bennett (Bennett).

Military: Carson Craig, Michael Little