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THE COLUMNS

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA

**July 2025, Volume 63, Issue 7**

*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,

In Luke 12:56, Jesus says to the crowds, “You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

This summer in our worship together, I will present **Interpreting the Present Time**, an eponymous sermon series on the gospel of Luke. Through the lenses of parables and the teachings of Jesus, we will explore how we might interpret *our* present time, as people of faith. The specific Scripture passages I will be using are listed below, according to date. I hope this gives you a sense of what you can expect to be hearing about, on Sundays in church.

You will note that in August, we’ll welcome two guest preachers to our pulpit: on August 3, Rev. Val Fisk, and on August 31, Rev. Amy Fetterman.

As you seek to find the rejuvenation and refreshment that you need this summer – whether it be in the form of travel, stay-cations, time spent alone, or more time spent with loved ones – know that I am grateful for your presence in our congregation, in body and spirit!

Summertime grace & peace,

Samantha

**Interpreting the Present Time** (Luke 12:56)

FPC Summer 2025 Sermon Series

*June into July August*

June 29  - Luke 9:51-62 August 3 - Rev. Val Fisk preaching

July 6 - Luke 10:1-11, 16-20  August 10 - Luke 12:32-40

July 13 - Luke 10:25-37  August 17 - Luke 12:49-56

July 20 - Luke 10:38-42  August 24 - Luke 12:13-21

July 27 - Luke 11:1-13  August 31 - Rev. Amy Fetterman preaching

 (*Better Together* pulpit swap)

JULY MUSIC NOTES



Happy birthday, America! On the first Sunday of July, pianist Sarah Braverman will help celebrate our nation’s 248th birthday with a rendition of *America the Beautiful*. Ms. Braverman teaches piano in Fishersville. Her students play studio recitals at FPC twice a year, and she is playing on 6 July to thank FPC for allowing her to use the Sanctuary for those recitals.

Although the choir is off for the summer, two members will sing solos this month. Max Daggy will sing on 13 July and Jean Hashagen will sing on the 27th. We are so grateful to them for sharing their talents!

Roger and Kimberlea will be away on 20 July. As many of you know, we were married at FPC in 1988. We feel extremely fortunate to make music in the place where our union was blessed! The wonderfully capable and kind Diane Kingsbury will play our historic 1893 Woodberry and Harris organ that day.

We truly appreciate the ongoing support of the music program here at FPC.

Blessings –

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy



**FIRST FRIDAY ORGAN CONCERTS**

**on hiatus until Fall**

Dear Friends,

     We have news to share. As of July 1, we will make our home at Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge. The prospect of an adventure—meeting new friends, becoming part of a new community—is very exciting, but we are also sad to leave our home and to say goodbye to our beloved church family. This decision has required a great leap of faith, but now, we look forward to watching what “new thing” God has planned for us and for all of you at First Pres.  We are so thankful that our good and gracious Pastor Samantha is tending the flock, as she has been such a blessing to us during this time of transition. We are also heartened to see some new faces in the congregation and pray that these folks will bring even more joy and energy to this church.

     Please keep us in your prayers as, indeed, you all will be in ours.

A frame of flowers and leaves

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    Yours in Christ,

     Bill and Jo Pannill

     250 Pantops Mountain Rd, # 5402

     Charlottesville VA 22911

     Jo:  540-649-0594

[japann@gmail.com](mailto:japann@gmail.com)

     Bill:  540-649-0460

[pannman51@gmail.com](mailto:pannman51@gmail.com)

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Session held a Stated Meeting on June 10, 2025, attended by ruling elders Jean Hashagen, Cynthia Hoover, Nancy Hypes, Bob Miller, Betsy Ruehl and treasurer Colleen Cash.

* Rev. Coggins reported on the Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting held May 13 at Woodstock Presbyterian Church. (A summary was provided in the June *Columns.*)
* Rev. Coggins summer sermon series centers on the book of Luke, “Interpreting the Present Time”.
* Rev. Coggins will lead a Summer Book Study – “Gilead” by Marilynne Robinson, on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 in the Barksdale Room during July and August.
* Preschool: Updated report on Preschool and staffing changes. An awning will be ordered for Lynda’s door.
* Tighter security is required at main Preschool door. People can wander in when the door is propped open. Fishburne must not enter the premises without permission.
* Fishburne plans to hold two math and two English classes in the educational building in the fall.
* Mission/Outreach Report provided (published elsewhere).
* All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next Stated Session Meeting will be July 22.

--Betsy Ruehl, Clerk of Session



**MISSION/OUTREACH MAY 2025**

* Ordered and received food from Blue Ridge Area Food Bank May 6 and 20. Volunteers assembled 20 pantry boxes for each order.
* Maintained temperature logs for refrigerators and freezers. Refrigerator part on back order. Will continue to manually defrost. The replacement part and labor will be $375. Large freezer not cooling. Temperatures fluctuate and food does not remain frozen. One service call and problem remains. Solution: $1,000 in repairs (cheaper than purchasing comparable new freezer.)
* Food Bank was held May 1, 8, 15 and 22.
* Purchased bread and margarine for Food Bank weekly.
* Updated weekly shopping list for extra options.
* Completed pantry inventory and report: Served 124 individuals and 39 households.
* Requesting personal care items for Food Bank for May and June.
* The High School Care Closet is being sponsored by the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.

--Cynthia Hoover, Mission Chair

**COLLECTING *PERSONAL CARE ITEMS*  FOR FPC FOOD BANK**

**COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS for**

**WAYNESBORO HIGH SCHOOL FOOD BANK**

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



**Preschool News**

It is so hard to believe that we have already finished our first month of summer camp and heading into our final month. We have had so much fun learning about different things as well as meeting new friends.

Mrs. Lynda’s class went on a safari hunt around preschool learning about different animals that live in zoos.

Our school age children are having a blast going on nature hunts learning about insects that we can explore while outside. Ms. Lorene’s school-age children have taken a few walking local field trips, such as going to the Wayne theater to see summer movies and going to the Public Library where they can learn to check out books on their own.

Preschool children have always loved having water days on Fridays during the summer! Our water days are ALWAYS a big success for the kids; sweet treat and water are a good combination for a hot summer day.

A child sitting at a table

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of children wearing paper hats

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A child playing with a sprinkler

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A child wearing a clown hat

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A group of children sitting on a bench

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**July 4, 1776**

April 18, 1775, was the start of the American Revolution. During the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, the first shots were fired between colonists and British troops.

This holiday commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by delegates from the 13 colonies on July 4, 1776, i.e. the Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence. This is the day we celebrate the birth of the United States of America. Not until 1870 did it become a national holiday.

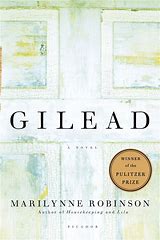
**“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”**

One of our founders, John Adams, envisioned Independence Celebrations filled with fun, game and fireworks. On July 3, 1776, he wrote these words to his wife Abigail:

*“Yesterday the greatest Question was decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among Men. A Resolution was passed without one dissenting Colony ‘that thee United Colonies, are, and of right ought to be free and independent States, and as such, they have, and of Right out to have full Power to make War, conclude Peace, establish Commerce, and to do all the other Acts and Things, which other States might rightfully do….’*

*The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable Ephoca, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival….It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”*

On July 18, 1777, an issue of the *Virginia Gazette* describes the July 4 celebration in Philadelphia: “*The evening was closed with the ringing of bells, and at night there was a grand celebration of fireworks, which began and concluded with thirteen rockets on the common, and the city was beautifully illuminated. Everything was conducted with the greatest order and decorum, and the face of joy and gladness was universal.”*

**SUMMER BOOK STUDY**

***GILEAD by Marilynne Robinson***

**led by Rev. Samantha Coggins**

**Wednesdays in July & August**

**10:00 a.m. in the Barksdale Room**

**Beginning July 2**

**Books available in the Church Office**

A drawing of a book with a cross and a sun

AI-generated content may be incorrect. **LITURGISTS**

6 – Betsy Ruehl

13

20

27 - Cynthia Hoover





**BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES**

**4 - Mike Cunningham 9 – Don & Jeannie Hashagen**

**18 - Earlene Templeman 9 – Randy & Nancy Hypes**

**17 – Roger & Kimberlea Daggy**

**CHURCH OFFICERS:**

Treasurer – Colleen Cash

Members of Session - Jean Hashagen, Betsy Ruehl

Cynthia Hoover, Bob Miller and Nancy Hypes.



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, Sally McNeel, Col. Stuart Roberts (Mark Henderson), Carolyn Hedrick-Williams, (Colleen Cash), Betsy Boswell (Curry), Shane Bennett (Bennett), Polly Bare.

Military: Carson Craig, Michael Little

Wednesday, July 2

10 am Book Study

Thursday, July 3

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

Sunday, July 6

11 am Worship

Wednesday, July 9

10 am Book Study

Thursday, July 10

2-4 pm Food Bank

Sunday, July 20

11 am Worship

Wednesday, July 16

10 am Book Study

Thursday, July 17

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

Sunday, July 20

11 am Worship

Tuesday, July 22

2:30 pm Session Room 212

Wednesday, July 23

10 am Book Study

Thursday, July 24

2-4 pm Food Bank

Sunday, July 27

11 am Worship

Wednesday, July 30

10 am Book Study