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THE COLUMNS

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA

**June 2025, Volume 63, Issue 6**

*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:*

**A Note from the Pastor:**

June 2025

Dear members & friends of First Presbyterian Church,

A clergy colleague recently said to me that summer is a time for transitions, and I agree with her.

I usually picture summer as a time for lovely laziness. ‘Lovely’ in the sense that the laziness is not negative or self-serving, but welcome, after the swifter pace and rhythms of September through May.

In this slower pace, we often find room to breathe and flourish, in ways we might long for or deeply need. We experience downtime: hours that are less structured and less pressed upon by checklists of tasks. My clergy colleague is right: it is often in those seasons, like summer, that we change and grow.

In that spirit, I invite you to consider joining me for **Summer Book Study** this July and Auguston **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** (book title and date of first meeting forthcoming!).

I hope that as a congregation, we might grow together this summer in fellowship and faith by reading alongside one another on a weekly basis – not because we need summer homework, but because summer affords us the opportunity for spiritual refreshment. Like taking the plunge into the deep end of the pool on a hot day!

Blessings on the beginning of your summer, on your own lovely laziness, and on the change – or changes – that you are praying for in June, July and August.

Grace & peace,

Samantha







JUNE MUSIC NOTES

June opens with three sacred holy days : Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity – and the choir will sing special anthems for each.

We mark Ascension on 1 June. The service begins and ends with two uplifting hymns: *Crown Him with Many Crowns* and *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name*. The anthem will be *Hail Thee, Festival Day*, one of many original hymns composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Also known as SALVE FESTA DIES, the hymn celebrates three holy days: Easter, Ascension and Pentecost, and the choir will sing the Ascension section of Vaughan Williams’ beloved hymn.

Pentecost will be celebrated on 8 June, and music honoring the Holy Spirit will permeate the service. The hymns will be *On Pentecost They Gathered and Breathe on Me, Breath of God*. The choir will sing twice on Pentecost. The introit will be Daniel Iverson’s (1890-1977) *Spirit of the Living God* and the anthem will be one of the most popular tunes arranged by Hal Hopson (b. 1933) – *The Gift of Love*. Hopson served Presbyterian churches in Nashville and Dallas and taught at Westminster Choir College. *The Gift of Love* is one of 1300 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.

Father’s Day falls on 15 June, which is also Trinity Sunday. The opening hymn is the first one in our hymnal, *Holy, Holy, Holy,* an uplifting celebration of the Holy Trinity. Both the closing hymn and the anthem acknowledge both our Heavenly Father and fathers on earth. A quartet will sing *Faith of our Fathers* for the anthem, and the closing hymn will be *God of our Fathers.*

The final Sunday of June brings our annual visit from the Heifetz International Music Institute. FPC has been fortunate over these past few years to work with the Institute, which brings talented high school and college musicians from across the globe to Staunton for the summer to hone their skills. We look forward to hearing this year’s excellent young artists!

We are so grateful to the choir for their consistent commitment to singing on Sunday mornings. Every week, Susan Elder, Jean Hashagen, Betsy Ruehl, Janet Shaner, Patrick Fitzgibbon, Bill Pannill and Maximilian Daggy diligently rehearse so that their musical contributions enhance everyone’s worship experience. During the summer, the choir takes a much-deserved break, and musicians from our congregation and beyond will provide music through Labor Day.

Thank you for your continued support of the music program at FPC!

Blessings –

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy

**FIRST FRIDAY ORGAN CONCERTS**

**on hiatus until Fall**

**DAY OF PENTECOST**

**Climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter**

**JUNE 7, 2025**

Pentecost Sunday marks the coming of the Holy Spirit within the disciples and their transformation from frightened and confused people to men who would face martyrdom for what they believed. A power – the unseen power of God – moved among them and gripped them. The Holy Spirit is unseen, like the wind. The Spirit is the “unseenness of God” working among us.



**TRINITY SUNDAY**

**June 15, 2025**

Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost, espouses the Doctrine of the Trinity: Three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Affirmation of Faith: Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity and the world Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.



**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Session held a Stated Meeting on May 13, 2025.

* Rev. Coggins reported on her Easter Respite at Massanetta Springs and participation in a Continuing Education opportunity at Pittsburg Seminary on “Preaching in a Post-Christian Age”.
* Preschool: Updated report on Preschool and staffing changes. Graduation and the Spring Concert will be held May 22.
* Covered Dish luncheon will be held June 1 after service to install/ordain new elders and welcome new member.
* Mission/Outreach Report provided (published elsewhere).
* P&M: Air conditioning has been tweaked and seems to be working well. Gutters are clean.
* *Presbyterians Better Together* Bible Study will conclude May 19 and resume in the fall.
* All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next Stated Session Meeting will be June 10.

--Colleen Cash, Clerk of Session pro tem

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church held a Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary after worship on April 16, 2025, for the purpose of electing members to Session.

The meeting opened with prayer. A quorum was present.

The following elders were elected: Jean Hashagen and Betsy Ruehl, Class of 2026; Cynthia Hoover and Nancy Hypes, Class of 2028. {Editor’s Note: Bob Miller was elected Class of 2027 and served on Session but has never been installed.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

--Colleen Cash, Secretary

**HIGHLIGHTS OF HIGHLIGHTS**

**of SHENANDOAH PREBYTERY MEETING**

The in-person meeting was held May 20, 2025, at Woodstock PC.

A local dulcimer group, the Heartstrings, introduced the Worship Service. TE Dwight McCormick delivered the message.

A Workshop will be held September 13 for Clerks and others led by a Records Archivist with the Presbyterian Historical Society. Subjects include reviewing rules and registers, digitalizing records, and what to keep/throw away.

The Synod commissioner reported on happenings at Synod.

Two new Teaching Elders to the Presbytery were introduced: retired TE Harry Daniel in Martinsburg area and TE Erin Skinner, Ministry Relations officer of the Presbyterian Foundation who lives in the Waynesboro area. TE Julie Berkley has accepted a call to Delaware and TE Dwight McCormick is leaving Community Cup.

The revised Anti-Racism policy was approved with no objection.

Proposed Amendments 24 A and 24 C passed.

Breakout groups in a discussion of Adult Spiritual Formation were held. Information gleaned will enable the Committee on Educational Resources to gather and share resources for adult education in church.

The next Presbytery meeting will be by Zoom on August 23.



**MISSION/OUTREACH APRIL 2025**

* Ordered and received food from Blue Ridge Area Food Bank April 8, 16 and 22. Volunteers assembled 20 pantry boxes for each order.
* Maintained temperature logs for refrigerators and freezers. Defrosted and cleaned refrigerators.
* Food Bank held April 3, 10, 17 and 24.
* Purchased bread and margarine for Food Bank weekly.
* Updated weekly shopping list for extra options.
* Completed pantry inventory and report: Served 101 individuals and 38 households.
* Next Disciples’ Kitchen is June 2.
* Requesting Hygiene Products for Food Bank in June.
* Donated 10 leftover blankets to WARM Shelter and $500 to HERO, as approved earlier.
* Repairs to refrigerators cost $375 for parts and labor.
* While Waynesboro High School can supply its pantry, they still need our assistance.

--Cynthia Hoover, Mission Chair

**COLLECTING *HYGIENE 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**



**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

**during Worship on June 1, 2025,**

**followed by Potluck in the Barksdale Room**

**FATHER’S DAY**

**June 15, 2025**

Father’ Day, celebrated annually in the United States on the third Sunday in June, honors people’s fathers and celebrates fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society.

It was first proposed by Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, in 1909. Her father, a civil war veteran, was a single parent who raised his six children there. After hearing a sermon about Anna Jarvis’s Mother’s Day, she told her pastor that fathers should have a similar holiday honoring them.

It did not have much success initially. In the 1920s Dodd stopped promoting the celebration and it faded into relative obscurity. in the 1930s Dodd raised its awareness to a national level by enlisting the help of those trade groups that would benefit most from the holiday, eg. manufacturers of ties, tobacco pipes, and any traditional presents for fathers. Americans resisted the holiday at first because of its commercial nature and newspapers frequently featured cynical and sarcastic attacks and jokes.

A bill to accord national recognition of the holiday was introduced to Congress in 1913. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson went to Spokane to speak at a Father’s Day celebration and wanted to make it official. Congress resisted. President Calvin Coolidge recommended in 1924 that it become a holiday. In 1957 Senator Margaret Chase Smith wrote to a proposal accusing Congress of ignoring fathers for 40 years while honoring mothers. In 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honoring fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father’s Day. Six years later the day was made a permanent national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law on April 24, 1972.

{Editor’s Note: If this isn’t an example of that old adage,

“Where there’s a will, there’s a way!” Happy Father’s Day, guys!}

(Information from WikipediA)



**Preschool News**

We are excited to for our school year to end, although we are sad to see some of our friends leave us for the year and head off to kindergarten in the fall. We are ready to welcome some new friends to our fun-filled summer camp! This past month we have worked hard, yet had so much fun getting ready for our spring music program with Mrs. Lynda and all our friends. Our preschoolers learned 14 songs to perform for our families and aced them all!! They earned themselves a PIZZA PARTY!!!!

A group of children standing on a stage

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Each of our classrooms has been watching our caterpillars transform into butterflies. As we learned about their transformations from caterpillars, we got to watch them form into their chrysalis and then into the butterflies. We have enjoyed their process.

A group of kids sitting on grass

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of kids in graduation gowns and cap

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

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A drawing of a book with a cross and a sun

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**LITURGISTS**

1 – Betsy Ruehl

8 – Jo Pannill

15 – Bill Pannill

22 - Cynthia Hoover

29 – Jean Hashagen



**BIRTHDAYS**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**5 - Jean Droughman 1 – Roger & Ann Bryant**

**9 - Pam Leech 13 – Bruce & Kevin Henkel-Bosserman**

**14 - Betsy Ruehl 14 - Bob & Mary Scott Miller**

**14 - Colleen Cash 23 – Bill & Jo Pannill**

**16 - Warner Sandquist 25 - Art & Anne Johnson**

**29 – Bill Pannill 28 – Mark & Sandy Henderson**

**29 – Phyllis Hanna**



**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, Mac Watts (Colleen Cash), Betsy Boswell (Curry), Shane Bennett (Bennett), Polly Bare.

Military: Carson Craig, Michael Little



Sunday, June 1

11 am Worship Reception New Elders & Members

Monday, June 2

Disciples’ Kitchen

Thursday, June 5

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

Sunday, June 8 Pentecost

11 am Worship

Tuesday, June 10

2:30 pm Session Room 212

Thursday, June 12

2-4 pm Food Bank

Sunday, June 15 Trinity Sunday / Father’s Day

11 am Worship

Thursday, June 19

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

Sunday, June 22

11 pm Worship

Thursday, June 26

2-4 pm Food Bank

Sunday, June 29

11 am Worship