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THE COLUMNS

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA

**August 2025, Volume 63, Issue 8**

*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:*

“An impressive sun shines on us all.”

-Marilynne Robinson, Gilead

As the month of August takes shape before our eyes, this quote from the novel Gilead – which a large handful of us are studying on Wednesdays this summer – resonates in my heart.

In the context of the book, the narrator, John Ames, is talking about how God provides God’s people with vision, and vision**s** (plural). Specifically, John Ames says, in a letter to his young son: it is possible for someone to be “too dazzled by the great light of [their] experience to realize that an impressive sun shines on us all.”

I like picturing God as an impressive sun that shines on everybody, especially in the summertime. We all receive the light of God. And yet, it can be easy to become blinded by our own personal experiences of the divine, and push others’ visions into the shadows. In what way does God shine on you, as an impressive sun? Perhaps this is where God is giving you vision – a broad view of where the church is headed – or where God is giving you **a** vision, revealing God’s self to you in a surprising or intimate way.

In the months to come, we will be fulfilling part of our church’s vision of space-sharing and stewardship, alongside Fishburne Military School. On Monday, September 15, Fishburne will begin using four classrooms on the 2nd floor of the educational building, for two high school-level English classes and Math classes. I am working with Fishburne, alongside our staff and Session, to make sure we prioritize the space we use for church ministries – for example, our preschool children’s use of the 3rd floor social hall.

In my work alongside the staff at Fishburne, I am holding hope for relationships that might be built, as our space-sharing with FMS students comes to fruition.

How might the impressive sun of God be shining on…

…our food bank clients?

…our preschool students?

…our neighbors at Fishburne, the students who will take classes at the church?

…our congregation?

May God bless all our shared footprints in the church building. And as hot summer afternoons give way to cooler fall mornings, may we strive to see the impressive sun of God shining in one another.

Grace & peace,

Samantha



AUGUST MUSIC NOTES

The dog days of summer are upon us. The hot, humid weather makes it challenging to complete even the simplest tasks. Fortunately, even in the midst of the heat, we are able to worship, pray and sing together in the comfort of our lovely, air-conditioned Sanctuary.

FPC is fortunate to have many musicians in our congregation, and this month, a handful will share their talents during worship.

Charles Simpkins will provide the Special Music on the first Sunday of the month. Charles has played piano for our congregation on many occasions, and we are thankful that he will do so once again on 3 August.

On the third Sunday of the month, Patrick Fitzgibbon will play guitar. Since he began attending FPC, Patrick has sung bass in the choir. The University of Chicago alum will play guitar for the Special Music on the 17th.

The fourth Sunday of August brings Celia Daggy back to FPC. She played in both the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival and the Wintergreen Summer Music Festival this summer. Celia will provide the Special Music prior to the opening of the 2025-2026 season of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, where she plays principal viola.

The final Sunday of August features tenor Terry Crickenberger. We are thrilled that Terry and Joe Earhart have returned to FPC, where their energy and commitment have no bounds! Terry will sing *At the River*, Aaron Copland’s arrangement of the hymn composed in 1865 by Robert Lowry.

FPC is blessed to have members committed to the mission of the church: worshipping God, educating young children, feeding the hungry and fulfilling the soul through music. We are so grateful to be part of the community and look forward to continuing the musical ministry in the church.

With gratitude,

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy

**ROGER DAGGY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS AS MUSIC DIRECTOR AT FIRST PRES**

Roger Daggy has been affiliated with FPC since the early 1970s, when he began studying with then Director of Music/Organist Dr. R. Edward Zimmerman.  Roger took piano and organ lessons at FPC and then joined the Youth Choir.  In addition to singing on Sunday mornings, the ensemble went on tours of churches in the South, all the way to Florida.    Roger prepared for his college auditions under the tutelage of Dr. Zimmerman, and after being accepted to four schools, decided to attend Northwestern University. There he received a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance and a Master of Music in Church Music.

Roger served as Organist of Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church in Chicago, where he played an 1888 Johnson and Son organ.  He was Organist at Faith United Methodist Church in Champaign, IL, before moving to North Carolina. He was Director of Music/Organist at Calvary Moravian Church, playing a 1926 Hook and Hastings organ.  Roger then moved to California where he was Parish Organist for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Pacific Palisades.  Leaving the valley in 1978, Roger returned to Virginia in 2015 and began playing for FPC soon afterward.

We are so grateful for his ability, service and faithfulness.  He brings our 1893 Woodberry and Harris organ to life!

**FIRST FRIDAY ORGAN CONCERTS**

**on hiatus until fall**

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

**Session held a Stated Meeting on July 22.**

* **Rev. Coggins is leading a Summer Book Study – “Gilead” by Marilynne Robinson, on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 in the Barksdale Room during July and August.**
* **Preschool: Summer Camp has ended; Preschool begins August 4. The Preschool is participating in a Spirit Night Fundraiser on August 19 from 5-8 p.m. at Chick-fil-A. Mention “First Presbyterian Preschool” when ordering.**
* **Session approved the hiring of A+ Renovations to clean the sanctuary.**
* **Two additional cameras have been ordered.**
* **Fishburne plans to hold four high school classes - two math and two English - in the educational building in September.**
* **Mission/Outreach Report provided (published elsewhere).**
* **All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next Stated Session Meeting will be August 19.**

**--Betsy Ruehl, Clerk of Session**

***ON THE ROAD….*to the 227th General Assembly**

**June 22 – July 2, 2026**

**The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the highest governing body of the denomination. Ruling elders and teaching elders from each presbytery are elected as commissioners to serve as the General Assembly. Along with advisory delegates, they gather to discern the future of the church and its ministries of service and witness.**

**The theme of next summer’s event, which will take place online at the Baird Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is ”Persevering Toward Wholeness”. The guiding Scripture will be Revelation 22:2, “and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”**





**MISSION/OUTREACH JUNE 2025**

* Ordered and received food from Blue Ridge Area Food Bank June 10 and 24. Volunteers assembled 20 pantry boxes for each order.
* Maintained temperature logs for refrigerators and freezers.
* Food Bank held June 5, 12, 19 and 26.
* Purchased bread and margarine for Food Bank weekly
* Carter’s is a new source for bread options.
* Updated weekly shopping list for extra options.
* Completed pantry inventory and report: Served 133 individuals and 45 households.
* Collected cereal for June.
* Served 65 meals at Disciples’ Kitchen on June 1; next Disciples’ Kitchen is August 21.

--Cynthia Hoover, Mission Chair

**COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPIES FOR AUGUST:**

**#2 Pencils Erasers Crayons**

**Scissors Spiral Notebooks**

**Glue Sticks Ink Pens**

**COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS for**

**WAYNESBORO HIGH SCHOOL FOOD BANK**

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



**Preschool News!!**

We are sad to see our summer camp come to an end; there have been so many memories made as well as new friends with new experiences. We got to enjoy our second year of school age summer camp children that was quite an experience for everyone again. We took a lot of wonderful field trips to the movies, the scooter park and the library. All our summer camp children enjoyed the “End of the Summer Bash” Kona Ice. The water activities were a huge hit for the kiddos as well as the teachers.

We will be having our Back-to-School Orientation on July 31st from 6:30pm-7:30pm for families to meet their teachers as well as see their classrooms. Preschool will resume on August 4th; we are so excited to see everyone and meet our new families. There will be a Chick-Fil-A spirit night fundraiser on August 19, 2025, from 5pm-8pm to support the preschool/. If you mention “First Presbyterian Church Preschool” we receive 20% of proceeds of all sales made that night.

A child wearing sunglasses and a patriotic headband

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A person and child on a slide in a pool

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A poster for a church fundraiser

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Prayer of Lament after the Flood by Teri Ott**

O God,

the waters rose,

swift and merciless, barreling past boundaries,

and sweeping away what once felt safe.

We are aching in the aftermath.

Be present now, O Refuge and Strength,

with first responders still searching through debris,

still daring to hope for rescue.

Give them courage for the task ahead,

and gentleness for the heartbreak they carry.

Be near to the parents –

mothers and fathers groaning with grief –

who sent their daughters to summer camp

expecting laughter, not loss.

Hold them in the hollow, painful places

no words can reach.

For the camp community –

shaken, stunned, suspended in sorrow –

bind them together in love and lament.

Let their grief be met by your tenderness,

their questions received by your mercy.

We pray, too, for all who saw the waters rise

and lived through the nightmare.

For the ones who have lost homes,

lost livelihoods, lost loved ones,

may your mercy meet their needs.

And for every hand that will lift debris,

every neighbor who shows up with a shovel,

every weary heart bracing for the long work of rebuilding:

grant endurance, grant strength, grant solidarity.

God, in these days of devastation,

be what your Word promises:

a refuge, a help,

a very present Savior.

Amen.

Teri McDowell Ott is the editor and publisher of *Presbyterian Outlook*and a member of Shenandoah Presbytery.

[https://pres-outlook.org/2025/07/o-god-be-near-a-lament-after-the-flood](https://6aizodsab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001wTDCwc3UPotphWZC3vpAyRnbk1HPLnA-p2lCa4Sp7O5mm1ZgaU_27645mwacXxSYIfKOJOajPcefK4j-B-cCVdr36oLbKbA3io2cwZJrPud0ZaIniPu3MiXcUr5M7dmKPlIqm6HB5uJSc1BvURxdtZlJQGP8INw0RwvcGuqYuu-LUF4WU7yE24WnDYMTiM0iokUVi4ACro9aMKuebx9vEXndg9pRhNcr&c=YLr4IrgEJlbk_j1MBhIi3V2Qd8wQEgP-VrniEwJ8yU2bqYuFP-TP-g==&ch=brXFEmnuEAGpTATDlkUEPzQlt6oVhr6hQmIv_o04E0ZokJZbYCX_SA==)

IN MEMORIUM





Jean N. Droughman

June 5, 1938 - July 7, 2025

Joyce Neufeld

March 18, 1946 – July 22, 2025

A drawing of a book with a cross and a sun

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

3 - Betsy Ruehl

10 -

20 -

27 - Cynthia Hoover



**BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES**

**10 – Bob Miller 4 – Lewis & Ruth Kelley**

**13 – Craig Cavenaugh 17 – Richard & Jeannie Curry**

**16 – Nancy Hypes 31 - Ron & Carrol Smith**



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: Michael Little

Sunday, August 3

11 am Worship

Wednesday, August 6

10 am Book Study

Thursday, August 7

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

Sunday, August 10

11 am Worship

Thursday, August 14

2-4 pm Food Bank

Sunday, August 17

11 am Worship

Tuesday, August 19

2:30 pm Session Room 212

Wednesday, August 20

10am Book Study

Thursday, August 21

10 am Disciples’ Kitchen

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

Sunday, August 24

11 am Worship

Wednesday, August 24

10am Book Study

Thursday, August 28

2-4 pm Food Bank

Sunday, August 31

11 am Worship

**Study Schedule for remainder of Summer Book Study**

In preparation for each Session, you are invited to read up to the page numbers listed below. Reading ahead is always allowed. :)

**August 6** - pg. 145 (“…because I thought I might want to use it in a sermon.”)

**\*no meeting August 13\***

**August 20** - pg. 188 (“I have never been able to warm to him, never.”)

**August 27** - pg. 209 (“…I should find in this a great kindness toward myself.”)

**September 3** - pg. 247 (end of novel)

**CURCH OFFICERS:**

Treasurer – Colleen Cash

Members of Session - Jean Hashagen, Betsy Ruehl

Cynthia Hoover, Bob Miller and Nancy Hypes.



The Better Together Pulpit Swap will take place on Sunday, August 31, 2025. Anticipating engaged connections and faithful experiences among the pastors and congregations:

Rev. Dr. Tommy J. Carrico at Smyrna Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro

Rev. Samantha Coggins at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro

Rev. April H. Cranford at Second Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro

Rev. Dr. Amy Fetterman at First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro

Rev. Rachel Hamburger at Finley Memorial Presbyterian Church, Stuarts Draft

**FUN FACTS ABOUT AUGUST**

The weather conditions of August depend on where you are located. If you’re in the Northern hemisphere, it will be the third month of summer with a lot of sun. On the other hand, if you’re in the Southern hemisphere it will be towards the end of the winter season and quite cold.

**Its naming origin**

Initially, August was named Sextilis because it was the sixth month in the 10-month Roman calendar. After a calendar reform, it was renamed in honor of Augustus Caesar, the Roman emperor who had several of his great triumphs, including the conquest of Egypt, in August

**It started the rush**

The Gold rush in Alaska started after the precious element was discovered in the Klondike River in 1896.

**It saw the end of the war**

In August 1945, World War II technically ended after Japan surrendered to opposing forces.

**It’s a popular name**

Quite a few people are named August or other derivatives like Augusta, Augustine, Augustus, etc. And is even one of the most popular male names in Sweden.

**A little scandal**

The Watergate scandal happened in August and it led to the resignation of US President Richard Nixon.

The Coke Time

The first bottle of Coca-Cola was sold in the UK in August 1900.

**It has quite some celebrations**

Many celebrations occur in August, including National Water Quality Month and National Catfish Month, etc. Let’s not forget National Rum Day, which is celebrated on the 16th of August every year.

**A month of freedom for some**

Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago celebrate their Independence Days in August

**Famous personalities**

Born in the month of August are ex-US Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, actors Ben Affleck, Chris Hemsworth, Mila Kunis, Jennifer Lawrence, Peter O’Toole, Louis Armstrong, Hulk Hogan, and many others.

**Zodiac signs**

There are two zodiac signs in the month of August. If you’re born from the 1st to the 22nd of August, you’re considered a Leo .If you’re born from the 22nd of August onwards, you’re a Virgo.

**Birthstones**

Three different birthstones are sardonyx, spinel, and peridot.

