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THE COLUMNS

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA

**October 2025, Volume 63, Issue 10**

*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 September, I attended the second gathering of ‘Preaching in a Post-Christian Age’ (PPCAI), a cohort of pastors like myself, in Pittsburgh, PA, at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (my alma mater). Through this series of conferences, my colleague and I are seeking ways to become stronger preachers, in an era when most people think Jesus is unimportant or implausible (or both). One of our challenges is to make the gospel of Jesus Christ *noticeable* and *accessible*, in a world that tries to convince us to live by our own strength, or by our own inner genius.

One Christian thinker we studied together is Julian of Norwich, the first woman to have her writing recorded in print in the western world. Julian was a mystic in the Middle Ages who lived as an anchoress, mostly closed off from society in a small closet-like space.

Julian famously wrote “Sin is inevitable, but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.” Julian had a high view of God, and she believed that God holds us all in the palm of God’s hand, enfolding us in love at all times and in all places – even amid our mistakes and shortcomings.

As autumn rapidly unfolds, I am taking Julia’s message with me into the pulpit. I seek to ask good questions of Scripture, trusting that the gospel is still speaking to us in this time and this place, in the life of the church. I am grateful that you, God’s people of First Presbyterian Church Waynesboro, are the ones on whose behalf I strive to do this!

Grace & peace,



Samantha



**OCTOBER MUSIC NOTES**

It’s finally here – the sensational burst of colors that is autumn. With cooler temperatures and slanting sunshine, we celebrate the glories of the season and bask in the warmth of God’s love.

October opens with World Communion Sunday, and we will mark the global occasion by singing music that amplifies the message. The choir anthem will be *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts,* with text by St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153), translated into English by American hymn writer Ray Palmer (1808-1887). The opening hymn will be *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*, also known as HOLY MANNA, and the closing hymn will be *Loaves Were Broken,* known by the tune name BEACH SPRING.

For the second week of October, the choir will sing *All Praise to Thee* by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585). Tallis was one of the few musicians, along with William Byrd, to serve both Catholic and Protestant monarchs in 16th century England, including Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth I. *All Praise to Thee* is one of nine tunes Tallis contributed to Matthew Parker’s *Psalter,* published in 1561. The tune is sung in a canon, also known as a round, aka “Row, row, row your boat.”

The third Sunday of October brings our resident percussionist to the loft, Randy Hypes. He will play drums for the choir’s anthem, *Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel.*

The Daggys will be away on the last Sunday of the month, and we are delighted to welcome Diane Kingsbury to the organ loft. Diane has, on numerous occasions, made her talents and pleasant demeanor available to us on Sunday mornings when Roger and Kimberlea are away.

Additionally, concerts will, once again, fill the Sanctuary with music this month. Roger will resume his First Friday organ programs on 5 October. The free concert at 12:15 will be followed by a light luncheon. We are so grateful to FPC for encouraging this community endeavor!

The second Sunday of October also opens the season for the Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra. The ensemble-in-residence at FPC will play a free concert in the Sanctuary at 3pm.

We remain thankful for the continuing support of the music program at FPC.

With gratitude –

Roger and Kimberlea Daggy

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**FIRST FRIDAY ORGAN CONCERTS**

**October 3, 2025**

**November 7, 2025**



**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Session held a Stated Meeting on September 9.

* Col. Randal Brown and Vaden Huffman from Fishburne and lawyer Fran Gomez were on hand to discuss expectations going forward between Fishburne and FPC. The English and math classes will begin on the second floor of the Educational Bldg. beginning October 20. At this time there are no plans for Fishburne to use the facilities on the third floor. The relationship between school and church is considered a partnership.
* Betsy Ruehl reported on the zoom meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery on August 23. Highlights appear elsewhere in this newsletter.
* Guest preachers in September will be Ruling Elder Mark Wilson, a member of Augusta Stone, on the 14th and our own former member Terry Crickenberger on the 28th.
* The summer Book Study concluded September 3. A study of *The Book of Charlie* by David von Drehle will begin October 1 on Wednesdays in the Barksdale Room. Copies of the book will be available in the Church Office.
* *Presbyterian Better Together* Bible Study resumed September 8.
* Preschool: A new “floater” has been hired. Motion: Session approved that Lynda Smith receive $300 for her work with the music program, an increase of $50.
* A Memorial Service will be held September 20 at 2:00 for Joyce Neufeld.
* Mission/Outreach Report provided (published elsewhere).
* P&M – Security continues to be a problem with doors being propped open. Fobs are being loaned. Everybody needs to check in with Colleen after coming into the building. Kudos to Roger and Ann Bryant for their weeding efforts!
* All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next Stated Session Meeting will be October 21.

--Betsy Ruehl, Clerk of Session

**CHURCH OFFICERS:**

**Treasurer – Colleen Cash**

**Members of Session - Jean Hashagen, Betsy Ruehl**

**Cynthia Hoover, Bob Miller and Nancy Hypes.**



**MISSION/OUTREACH AUGUST 2025**

* Ordered and received food from Blue Ridge Area Food Bank August 12 and 26. Volunteers assembled 20 pantry boxes for each order.
* Maintained temperature logs for refrigerators and freezers.
* Food Bank held August 7, 14, 21 and 28.
* Purchased bread and margarine for Food Bank weekly.
* Updated weekly shopping list for extra options.
* Completed pantry inventory and report: Served 70 individuals and 34 households.
* Weekly cleaned all surfaces; vacuumed and mopped floors.
* Received new refrigerator.
* Will meet with Westminster PC re Food Bank on September 28.
* Annual CROP Walk will be held September 21.

--Cynthia Hoover, Mission Chair

**COLLECTING PERSONAL CARE ITEMS FOR FOOD BANK**

Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant & Toothpaste

**COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS for**

**WAYNESBORO HIGH SCHOOL FOOD BANK**

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

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A group of people posing for a photo

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**Preschool News!!**

We have made it through the first two months of preschool and now fall is quickly approaching. The children are ready to watch the leaves begin to change colors.

Ms. Amber has been teaching about transportation and things that “GO” as well as working with the class on matching shapes. She focused on the shape Triangle for the month and also color blue.

Mrs. Carol’s 2.5-year-olds have been learning about their five senses, numbers, and letters plus the shape circle for the month. The children are also starting to recognize and trace the letters in their names.

Ms. Hannah’s younger 3-year-olds have been learning all about their letters and numbers and focusing on the shape circle for the month.

Ms. Lynda’s three-year-old’s have been learning all about apples, our five senses and the first few letters of the alphabet.

Ms. Lorene’s four-year-old’s have been writing their names, as well as learning to trace their letters and numbers. They had A Taste Test Day for their senses. They are also learning about Europe!

We got to enjoy the Fire Department coming to visit the preschoolers and talk about fire safety. The children saw the inside of the truck as well as some of the equipment the firefighters use during their calls.

**Dates to enjoy!!**

**October 18: Trunk or Treat 1:00pm until all candy is handed out**

**October 30: Trick or Treat in the Barksdale room. (If you would like to volunteer to hand out candy, please let me know.)**

A group of children sitting at a table

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A firefighter helping a child to get out of a fire

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**LITURGISTS**

A drawing of a book with a cross and a sun

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5 - Betsy Ruehl

12 – Patrick Fitzgibbon

19 – Cynthia Hoover

26-





**BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES**

**6 - Jeannie Curry 16- Paul & Phylis Poliuto**

**Mary Ann Maupin**

**10 - Charles Simpkins**

**11 - Shirley Straka**

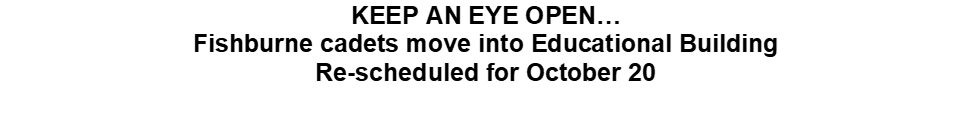
**15 - Lorain Kent (101)**

**17 – Susan Elder**

**21 – Kevin Henkel**

**22 – Kimberlea Daggy**

**26 – Mark Henderson**







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**Shenandoah Nursing Home: Nancy Garber**

**Home: Mary Ultee, Mary Ann Maupin, Warner Sandquist, Mike & Cathy Cunningham, Polly Bare, Olive Prettyman.**

**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).**

**Military: Carson Craig, Michael Little**

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****Wednesday, October 1

10 am Book Study Barksdale Room

Thursday, October 2

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

Friday, October 3

12:15 pm First Friday Organ Recital with lite lunch

Sunday, October 5

11 am Worship

4:30 pm Bapterian Fellowship Ridgeview Park

Monday, October 6

1 pm Better Together Bible Study First Presbyterian

Tuesday. October 7

6 pm Symphony Dress Rehearsal Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 8

10 am Book Study

Thursday, October 9

2-4 pm Food Bank

Sunday, October 12

11 am Worship

3 pm Symphony Concert

Monday, October 13

1 pm Better Together Bible Study Second Presbyterian

Wednesday, October 15

10 am Book Study

Thursday, October 16

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

Saturday, October 18

1 pm until Truck or Treat Presbyterian Parking Lot

Sunday, October 19

11 am Worship

Monday. October 20

1 pm Better Together Bible Study Hermitage Presbyterian

Tuesday, October 21

2:30 Session (room to be determined)

Wednesday, October 22

10 am Book Study

Thursday, October 23

2-4 pm Food Bank

Sunday, October 26

11 am Worship

Monday, October 27

1 pm Better Together Bible Study Finley Memorial Stuarts Draft

Tuesday, October 28

4-6:16 pm Symphony Board Meeting Barksdale Room

Thursday, October 30

10:15 am Preschool Trick or Treat in Barksdale Room