

# First Presbyterian Church

Founded  
July 16, 1788

Organized  
September 7, 1800



***“Serving Christ and Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester and Beyond.”***

Winchester, Virginia  
540-662-3824  
[fpcwinc.org](http://fpcwinc.org)

# WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WINCHESTER

The second Sunday after Christmas • January 4, 2026 11:00 AM

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When this symbol (◊) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.  
Ushers collect blue prayer card requests during the first hymn.

**Visitors, check-in or sign up for our Friday newsletter using the back of the blue prayer card.**

## Worship Leaders

Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

Richard Byess, Liturgist

*The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as People of God*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

Two settings of “Cold December Flies Away”

Wilbur Held

John Ferguson

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light has shined on the nations who live in the shadow of death.**

The true light that enlightens every person is coming into the world. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

**The Lord is our light and our salvation.**

We shall not be afraid.

**Let us worship God!**

### ◊ HYMN 147

“The First Nowell” vv., 1-5

THE FIRST NOWELL

### ◊ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty and merciful God,**

**We confess that we have sinned**

**against you and one another in both our actions**

**and our inactions. We recognize that in Jesus our light has come,**

**Yet often we choose to walk in the shadows and ignore the light.**

**Gracious God, forgive our sins**

**And remove from us the veil of darkness which shrouds our lives.**

**Illumine us by your Word**

**So we may shine with the radiance**

**of Christ's glory. Amen.**

*Silence for personal confession*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### ◊ GLORIA PATRI [Hymn 581]

## INTERGENERATIONAL MOMENT

Afterward, Kindergarten and younger children may leave for Wee One's Worship in Room 108.

### ⊕ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

*Friends, you are encouraged to pass the peace.*

### SERMON "What About Herod?"

Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12

### APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

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*The People of God Respond in Faith*

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### ⊕ HYMN 151

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

KINGS OF ORIENT

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

[...the petitions conclude...] And now as Christ taught us, we are bold to pray... Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

Friends, our giving is an act of gratitude for what God has given us. Just as we present our words in liturgy, song, and prayer to God, we present a portion of the fruit of our work to God.

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Baby, What You Goin' To Be?"

The Chancel Choir

Natalie Sleeth

### ⊕ THE DOXOLOGY, HYMN 606, AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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*The People Depart to Serve*

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### ⊕ HYMN 136

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

### BENEDICTION

### CHORAL RESPONSE

"Threefold Amen"

Anon

### POSTLUDE

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Wilbur Held

## IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY    Donna Dick passed away Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>

*It is in grief that we mourn, and in hope that we rejoice in the resurrection to new life in Jesus Christ.*

### **Congregational Meeting | Jan 11<sup>th</sup>**

The Session has called a Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 11th, at noon in the Sanctuary. The purposes of the meeting are:

- 1) To vote as a congregation to dissolve the call between Pastor Amanda and First Presbyterian Church effective Jan. 29th, 2026.
- 2) To vote to accept the nominee from the Pastor Nominating Committee to serve as the next installed pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

### **Ordination and Installation Service | Jan 18<sup>th</sup>**

Our soon to be ordained Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2028 include Elder nominees Terry Frye, John Crandell, David Baxa, Beth Kane, and Ann Burkholder, and Deacon nominees Carolyn Thalman and Jenny Bousquet.

### **Single Worship Service and Celebration | Jan 25<sup>th</sup>**

We invite you to join us for Amanda's farewell celebration on Sunday, January 25th, in the Fellowship Hall following a single 11:00am service in the Sanctuary. Please join us for lunch and a program as we give thanks for her ministry and celebrate her time among us. We hope you will join us in celebrating Amanda and wishing her well as she begins her next chapter.

### **Office Announcements**

- If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, please do so soon. Extras are available in the pews and common areas.
- To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2025 tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment.
- Offering envelopes are available in the Gathering Hall on the table below the name tags.

### **FPC Family Game Night | Jan 30<sup>th</sup>**

Fun for all ages on Friday, 1/30 from 5:30-8:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite snack to share and game to play (no dinner served). Plus, there will be a game swap table: bring a game in great condition that no longer serves you and pick up a new-to-you one!

### **WATTS Host Week | Feb 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>**

It's that time again to think about how we can serve Winchester Area Temporary Transitional Shelter (WATTS)! We are hosting February 7–14, and we will need volunteers, meals, food, and donors. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for the Sign-Up Genius, which will be posted on the homepage of [fpcwinc.org](http://fpcwinc.org). Sunday morning sign-ups will happen soon.

### **New this year - Sponsor a bus ticket for WATTS!**

A \$15 donation buys a 10-ride pass. We would like to give a pass to each guest when they leave Saturday morning. Checks should be made to FPC with "WATTS" in the memo line.

### **CLC Sunday School**

The Congregational Life Council activities to be highlighted during Sunday School hour (10:00 - 10:45am) will be as follows:

- Sunday, January 11- Holy Grounds Coffee Ministry/Bereavement Receptions/Birthday Cards to Members
- Sunday, January 18- DERITERS Activities/Breaking Bread Together
- Sunday, January 25- Visitor Information and Follow-up Activities

### **Faith Stretchers**

The Book Group will meet on Monday, January 26 (the last Monday in January) at 7:30pm at Marge Toxopeus' apartment to discuss *The Heart of the Matter* by Graham Greene.