

# First Presbyterian Church

Founded  
July 16, 1788

Organized  
September 7, 1800



Winchester, Virginia

540-662-3824

[fpcwinc.org](http://fpcwinc.org)

# WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WINCHESTER

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas • January 5, 2025 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 requests during the first hymn.

**Worship Leaders**    Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas    Rev. Michael Hafele

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

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!**

O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!**

O come, let us worship the Lord  
and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan, making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel! O come, let us worship the Lord, for God has done wondrous things!**

### ⌕ HYMN SING

### ⌕ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light and darkness, we have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us, but we have turned away and followed other paths. We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, Holy One. Strengthen our faltering steps and guide us in your holy way of peace. Amen. *Silence for personal confession*

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

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*God Speaks to Us in Scripture, Preaching, and Song*

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### ⌕ HYMN SING

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

### ⌕ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

### ⌕ HYMN SING

## SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 2:1-12*

## SERMON

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*The People of God Respond in Faith*

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### **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.

### **⌄ THE DOXOLOGY, HYMN 606, AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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*The People Depart to Serve*

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### **⌄ HYMN SING**

### **BENEDICTION**

## Watts Week FPC Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

It's that time again to think about how we can serve Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS)! We are hosting February 8–15, 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 be Jan 5, 12, 19!

## WATTS Prep on January 26<sup>th</sup>!

We need your help to prepare for WATTS week! Join us during Sunday School on January 26<sup>th</sup> as we get ready for this important ministry. It's a great way to serve together and make a difference. We'll be organizing and preparing materials, and your hands and hearts will make all the difference!

## January Parish Nursing Notes

Snow Shoveling Risks and Glaucoma Awareness Month. Copies available in the gathering hall or online through the link in our newsletter! To contact Diane or Glenn, parish nurses, you can leave a message for them at 540-662-3824.

## Office Announcements

- To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2024 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 name tags.

## Women's Faith Study

We will be reading *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Harold S. Kushner, starting on Wed. Jan 8<sup>th</sup> (9:30-11:00 am). Please join us in the Graham Room for fellowship and discussion of the introduction and Chapter 1. For more info, contact Cheryl Gracey at [cheryl.gracey@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.gracey@gmail.com).

## We Are an Earth Care Congregation

In 2024, FPC joined over 300 Presbyterian PC(USA) churches as an Earth Care Congregation. This past year, our Creation Care Team sponsored Sunday School classes, established a community garden providing fresh vegetables for Sherando and Highland Food Pantries, eliminated disposable dining ware in the kitchen to improve energy efficiency, and continued transitioning to LED lighting with help from a \$2,500 grant. We also explored renewable energy options and are recertifying our Earth Care status for 2025. To learn more or get involved, contact John Crandell or the church office.

## Women's Connection Dinner

We meet the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6 pm. RSVP's encouraged. [amanda@fpcwinc.org](mailto:amanda@fpcwinc.org)

## How Can We Help You?

Are you having trouble connecting or accessing the church online through our website, emails, the worship videos . . . whatever it is, we want to help! Please contact the church office either through e-mail [[info@fpcwinc.org](mailto:info@fpcwinc.org)] or leave a message on extension 11. Also, notify us if you know of someone who is in the hospital, rehabilitation, births, and deaths.

## VBS | June 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

Theme: True North, *Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*