

First Presbyterian Church

Founded
July 16, 1788

Organized
September 7, 1800



Winchester, Virginia

540-662-3824

fpcwinc.org

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WINCHESTER

3rd Sunday of Christmas • January 12, 2025 11:00 AM

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. Michael Hafele Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as People of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Baptized in Water”

Bunessan

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy Triune God, author of community,
come baptize us.

**Remind us what it means
to belong to one another.**

God who tears the heavens, come baptize us.

**Reveal to us your power
that ushers in new realms.**

God who calls us beloved, come baptize us.

**Declare to us your great delight
and hold us in your pleasure.**

God of vulnerability, come baptize us.

**Welcome us into the paradox
of strength that comes from weakness.**

Together, let us remember this day.

**In the Creator’s love we are held, into Christ’s body we are baptized,
and by the Spirit’s power, we are claimed.**

All glory to God. Amen.

⌄ HYMN 408

“There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

⌄ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and glory, you call us with your voice of flame
to be your people, faithful and courageous.

As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism,
inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work.

We ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Silence for personal confession

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

GLORIA PATRI [Hymn 581]

God Speaks to Us in Scripture, Preaching, and Song

✠ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you! *Friends, you are encouraged to pass the peace.*
Children Kindergarten and younger may leave for Wee One's Worship in Room 107.

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP "Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands" The Chancel Choir Schwoebel

SCRIPTURE *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

SERMON "Identifying with Us" by the Rev. Michael Hafele

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.

The People of God Respond in Faith

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES (*leader*) Friends, our giving is an act of gratitude for what God has given us. It is also an act of worship. 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 "In Remembrance" The Chancel Choir Buryl Red

THE DOXOLOGY, HYMN 606, AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

HYMN 480

"Take Me to the Water"

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks
to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks
and praise...**

The Thanksgiving continues. . .

Leader: [*...the petitions conclude...*]

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

All: 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 DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world—because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

The People Depart to Serve

✠ HYMN 840	“When Peace Like a River”	VILLE DU HAVRE
BENEDICTION		
CHORAL RESPONSE	“Sevenfold Amen”	Stainer
POSTLUDE	“Psalm XIX”	Benedetto
USHERS	Pat Grosso, Mike Thompson, Bill and Carolyn Springer	

Watts Week FPC Feb. 8th – 15th

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. Sunday morning sign ups will be Jan 5, 12, 19!

WATTS Prep on January 26th!

We need your help to prepare for WATTS week! Join us during Sunday School on January 26th 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!

We Are an Earth Care Congregation

The Creation Care Team at First Presbyterian Church is excited to share in these weekly updates as we work together to make our church and congregation "greener" and more aware of God's amazing creation and our role in it. Through these updates, we’ll explore what the Bible says about creation, share insights from others, provide practical tips for individuals, and keep you informed about our Team’s activities. Let’s celebrate and care for God’s creation together!

Women's Faith Study

We’ll be reading *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Harold S. Kushner, starting on Wed. Jan 8th (9:30-11:00 am). Please join us in the Graham Room for fellowship and discussion.

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.
 - Offering envelopes are available in the Gathering Hall on the table below name tags.
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