

11:00 am Worship

December 28, 2025

### WE GATHER IN THE LORD'S NAME

Call to Worship (Hymn #387) "The Lord is in His Holy Temple"  
Greeting/Announcements/Scripture Reader: Mike Rand  
Prelude: (arr: Mac Huff) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

\*Salutation and Call to Worship: Luke 1:46

In this Christmas season of great joy, we praise  
the Lord; for in mercy and abundant steadfast love,  
God has become our Savior.

**Even in times of danger and threat, we praise God,  
who has set us free from fear and death through Jesus  
Christ, the pioneer of our salvation.**

**With all creation, in the midst of the congregation,  
we praise and put our trust in God alone.**

\*Hymn: "All Creatures of Our God and King" Hymn# 23

\*Let us pray a unison prayer of Confession:

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved**

**You as we should. We have not participated fully  
in Your purposes and plans;**

**We grow weary and give up when the way is hard.**

**We have not loved our brothers and sisters as You intend.**

**Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence,**

**we fail to recognize our own complicity.**

**Forgive our misuse of power against people,  
and against your creation.**

**Help us to praise You by living in harmony and peace.**

**Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in You.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who shared our flesh and blood. Amen.**

\*Silent Confession of Sin

\*Assurance of Pardon: (see Isaiah 63:8b-9)

Children of God, It is clear that Jesus Christ came to help  
sinners. He is our Savior in all our distress, and it is his  
presence that saves us. Declare with me the good news of  
the gospel:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

\*The Gloria Patri Hymnal # 734  
First Scripture: Psalm 148 Pew Bible #614

Prayers of the People (see list below)  
Choral Call to Prayer "O How He Loves You and Me" Choir  
The Lord's Prayer Hymnal - Inside Front Cover

\*Hymn: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Hymn # 221  
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

\*Doxology Hymn #34

\*Prayer  
Anthem: (words by Phil Wickham) "O Christmas Tree" Choir

**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD**  
Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13-23 Pew Bible #934  
Sermon: "Getting to the Front of the Stable" Rev. Terri Cornwell  
Prayer

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**  
\*Apostles' Creed Hymnal – Inside Front Cover  
\*Hymn: "Once in Royal David's City" Hymn #183  
\*Charge and Blessing  
\* Postlude \*Congregation Standing

### Directives for Prayer

Persecution Project Foundation, Sudan

Prayers continue: Patricia Burton

- Full Prayer list listed in monthly newsletter – copies available at each entrance

**We welcome our visitors and ask them to fill out a blue visitor card located in the pew rack. We invite you to commit your life to the Lord Jesus Christ in Christian discipleship and become a member of this fellowship. You may do this by meeting with the Session to express your faith in Christ in one of the following ways: Profession of Faith, Transfer of Membership or Reaffirmation of Faith.**

**Listening devices** are available from the audio support person at the rear of the sanctuary.

**Prayer Cards** are available in each pew. If you would like a card sent to someone we pray for during the service, please fill out the card and place it in the offering plate. Our prayer card ministry team will send a card the following week.

**Flowers** – Virtual Poinsettia orders are now available. Enjoy the beauty of the Season.

**Ushers** – Serving today Paige Powell at the North Door and Sue Wilkins at the South Door. Acolyte today is Matthew Fraser Freshour. Audio is Don Cherry.

### This Week's Announcements

**Welcome!** – Today we welcome Rev. Dr. Terri Cornwell. She Cornwell is a retired college professor, having taught communication in most of the universities in Lynchburg. She completed seminary in 2022 and was the pastor at Rustburg Presbyterian Church for eight years, until that church closed in 2024. Terri currently serves as Pulpit Supply in various churches in the Presbytery of the Peaks. She is also an Ordained Animal Chaplain -- and would love to chat with anyone about that unique profession.

**Virtual Poinsettias** – We collected \$450 these funds will be used for local needs (i.e.: Commonwealth Card Ministry).

**Women's Bible Study** – Next class Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am

**Good Samaritan** – January – warm clothing items: coats, gloves, scarves. Also, First Pres Emergency Pantry items

**Stewardship** –Please return pledge envelopes as soon as possible. We have received 59% of our 2026 budget for a total of \$100,550.

**Communion** – Next observance will be Sunday, January 11, 2026.

**2026 Offering Envelopes** - Now available. Get your favorite number early, while they are still available.

**2026 Flower Calendar** – the new 2026 Flower Calendar is up and available to sign up for your favorite dates.

**Upper Room** – January/February issue now available.



### Calendar

Sunday, December 28      9:45 am - Sunday School  
10:30 am - Fellowship  
11:00 am – Worship

Wednesday, December 31      New Year's Eve  
12:00 noon - AA  
6:00 pm - Choir  
6:00 pm – NA

Thursday, January 1      New Year's Day – Office Closed

Friday, January 2      Office Closed  
12 noon – AA

### **Church Staff**

Rev. John McCarthy - Pastor  
Sherolyn Barnett, Office Manager  
Jim Luedtke, Church Musician  
Sue Wilkins, Church Treasurer

### **Session**

Rev. John McCarthy – Moderator  
Don Cherry – Clerk of Session

**Class of 2025**  
Robert Guthrie  
Mike Rand

**Class of 2026**  
Kim Albert  
Les Powell

**Class of 2027**  
Don Cherry  
Joni Owens  
Colter Wickemeyer

**Diaconate**  
Sterling Roberts – Chair

**Class of 2025**  
Sterling Byrd-Roberts  
Carol Foster  
Robin Hall

**Class of 2026**  
Sandi Hughes  
Kim Wickemeyer  
Joanna Hughes

**Class of 2027**  
Sallie Adams  
Melissa Fraser  
Terri Smith

**Trustees**  
(2025)  
Eric Roberts

**Trustees**  
(2026)  
David McCollum

**Trustees**  
(2027)  
Rick Harrell

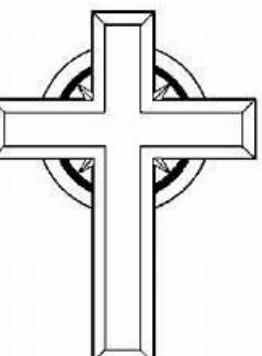
### **The W.W. Glass Scholarship Fund Trustees**

(2025)      (2026)      (2027)  
Melissa Fraser      Terri Smith      Ann Crabtree



*Thanks be unto God  
for his unspeakable gift.*

2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV



### **Our Missionaries**

Matthew & Teresa Lee, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Cameroon  
Persecution Project Foundation, Sudan

## **First Presbyterian Church** **800 North Main Street** **South Boston, Virginia**



### **Mission Statement**

## **"Growing God's Presence"**

### **Foundational Principles**

*Christ Centered~Biblically Based~  
Spirit Led~Grounded in Faith and Love*

### **Values**

*Committed~Servant Heart~  
Nurturing~Welcoming~Visioning*

No nursery will be provided at this time.  
Children's Church (Jesus Squad) meets during Sunday School time.  
5 cents-a-meal Offering collected the third Sunday of each month.  
Worship every Sunday at 11:00 am; Sunday School is at 9:30 am.  
Fellowship at 10:15 am. **Internet: 1stPres: Romans3:24**

Contact us for more information about

First Presbyterian Church  
Office: 434-572-3581 or 434-572-3588 (fax)

Office hours: Mon – Thur. 9 am – 2 pm

Closed Fridays

**Web page: 1stpres.cc**

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