



The Presby Record

A community beacon of faith, love and hope.

Volume LX Issue 6

June 2026

A Summer Vision With a Sobering Message Amos 8:1–2

The heat of late summer has a way of slowing everything down. The fields grow quiet except for the steady hum of insects, and the air hangs heavy with the sweetness of ripened fruit. It is the season when gardens overflow, when branches bend under their own weight, and when baskets fill quickly with produce that has been growing for months. Anyone who has lived through a long summer knows the feeling: the sense that everything has reached its fullness.

Amos knew this season intimately. He was not a court prophet or a polished preacher; he was a shepherd and a caretaker of sycamore figs. He understood the rhythms of the land; the long days, the patient waiting, the moment when fruit softens and must be gathered before it spoils. Summer was a season of blessing, but also a season of urgency. Ripe fruit waits for no one.

It is into this familiar summer landscape that God interrupts Amos with a vision. Suddenly, before him sits a basket overflowing with ripe summer fruit. The colors are deep, the skins tender, the kind of fruit that bruises if handled too roughly. Amos looks at it, recognizing the image instantly. This is fruit at its peak; beautiful, fragrant, and fleeting.

Then God asks, “Amos, what do you see?”

“A basket of summer fruit,” he replies.

What begins as a simple observation becomes the doorway to a sobering message. In Hebrew, the word for “summer fruit” (qayits) sounds almost identical to the word for “end” (qets). God uses the sound of the season to reveal the spiritual state of His people. Just as fruit reaches a point where it can no longer be preserved, Israel’s sins had ripened. Their injustice, their exploitation of the poor, their empty worship, and their disregard for God’s covenant had been growing for generations. Now, like fruit left too long in the sun, their rebellion had reached its fullness.

God declares, “The end has come upon My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore.” It is a heartbreaking announcement. The One who had been patient, who had delayed judgment again and again, now says that the season of mercy has closed. The time for overlooking their wrongdoing has passed. The consequences they had long avoided would now unfold.

The imagery is striking because it is so ordinary. God does not show Amos a storm, a fire, or a battlefield. He shows him a basket of fruit; something every household would recognize. It is a reminder that spiritual decline rarely arrives with fanfare. It grows quietly, season by season, until one day it is full. Just as fruit ripens slowly, so do the choices that shape a nation or a life.

(cont.)

And yet, even in this message of judgment, there is a word for us today. Summer is a season of ripeness, a time when we see the results of what has been planted and tended. It invites us to reflect on the fruit of our own lives. What has been growing in us? What habits, attitudes, or patterns have been quietly maturing? Are we cultivating justice, compassion, and faithfulness; or allowing indifference, resentment, or neglect to take root?

Amos's vision calls us to pay attention before our choices reach their own painful fullness. It reminds us that God's warnings are not meant to crush us but to turn us back toward life. The God who spoke through Amos still desires restoration, still invites repentance, still longs for His people to bear good fruit.

As we move through our own summer season; with its long days, its gardens heavy with produce, and its reminders of ripeness; may we be a people who mature in righteousness. May the fruit of our lives reflect God's justice, mercy, and steadfast love. And may we listen when God speaks, even if His message comes in the form of something as simple as a basket of summer fruit.



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Balthasar van der Ast

Communion Servers

June 7th

Buck Ivey - Set Up
Dave Harvey - Server
Kristi Sutphin - Server

July 5th

Kathleen Jordan - Set Up
Buck Ivey - Server
Jennifer Burgess - Server

Liturgists

June 7th - Kathleen Jordan
June 14th - Raven Lanham
June 28th - Valerie Wade

July 5th - Buck Ivey
July 12th - Kathryn Maddy
July 19th - Adam Greathouse
July 26th - Kristi Sutphin

In Care Facilities:

Ann McCormick, Apt. 106, English Meadows, 5 Bexley Dr, Scott Depot, WV 25560
Sadie Ashworth, 5 Rolling Meadows Dr., Room 118, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Prayer Concerns Members:

Ellie Malcomb	Alex Dayfield
Carolyn Reed	Mike Merguc
Mike Clark	Bob Sutphin
Dolly Locke	

Anniversaries

Kathy and Steve Leftwich	June 6, 1998
Steve and Rachel Moss	June 8, 1956
Elmer and Jeannie Young	June 30, 1984
Gary and JoBeth Mounts	June 1, 1996

Military

Captain Allie Curtis, US. Army (United States)
Hunter Parsons, U.S. Navy (Virginia)
Mickey Swartz, Aircrew Flight Equipment Technician, U.S. Air Force (Eugene, Oregon)
Lieutenant Jack Wiles, U.S. Air Force
PFC Joseph Sutphin, US Army

Prayer Concerns - Family and Friends

Family of Ashley Nestman, passed away from lymphoma (Connie Ivey)
Victoria Reynolds (Wanda Bowman)
Flo Rogers (Jack's wife & Raven's mom) health complications
Jason Haught, complications from spinal surgery (Vickie Haught's son, Jack Rogers' nephew)
Brett and Linda Foster, glioblastoma (Laurie's nephew and his wife)
Kate Lichtenfels' family
Jason Turley, major health concerns including leukemia (Laurie's son and Holly's brother)
Matt Waldie, lung cancer (Kathleen Jordan's friend)
Mary Jo Swartz, health problems (Kathi Curtis)
Annette Burns, liver issues (Ann McCormick)
Sharon Peterson's parents, Decision-making for long term care
Angie Saunders, pancreatic cancer and lupus (Raven's Cousin)
Willie Williams & Millie Astin, ICU in Atlanta (Kathryn Weed)
Cindy Lucas, ovarian cancer (Tony & Alex Dayfield)
Charlotte Cloud, broken hip, (Jack Rogers Aunt) Family of **Abbie Burch's family** for the loss of her brother, Mark.
Clay, respiratory distress, (Abbie Burch's niece's baby)
Eva, MS, (Katie Reyes friend)

Birthdays

1 – Denny Denison	18 – Buck Ivey
2 – Stephen Wiles, Ma Otto, Jennifer Burgess	19 – Patsy Denison, Teresa Evans, David Harvey, Makenzie McGrogan
3 – Emma Truly	20 – Dreama Walker
5 – Mark Boyd (1976)	21 – Katlyn Morford
7 – Susan Groscup	25 – Jess Combs (1980)
12 – Debbie Duvall	27 – Libby Mullins
13 – Havyn Jones	30 – Judy Otto
14 – Betty King	
16 – Sarah Roberts	
17 – John Wiles, Kayla Coffman	

Little's Story Time Team



by Donna Merguc, Coordinator

Important Dates for Littles:

Last Day for Kanawha County Schools is May 29, 2026.

Littles **will** meet May and June.

Littles will **NOT** meet July and first two weeks of August.

Littles **will** start back August 21.

First Day for Kanawha County Schools is August 19, 2026.

All Littles have been invited to VBS and dinner. Let's remember them in prayer.

Thank you so much for your craft supply donations. A few of the items needed are: tp and paper towel rolls, feathers, self-adhesive wiggly eyes, tissue paper. We make fun crafts every week so those items are much needed!

We enjoyed reading these books in the month of May: In the Garden: Who's Been Here? By Lindsay Barrett George, Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses by Kimberly and James Dean, Cave Boy by Cathy and Mark Dubowski, and Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, too? By Eric Carle. If you have a book you would like us to read or better yet, YOU would like to read, let us know or leave your book in the Nursery.

The children really seem to enjoy our little snacks. Some of the foods we serve are: fruit, applesauce, ice cream, goldfish crackers, cookies, cupcakes, and cheese squares. We pray together and enjoy our fellowship time together.

I continue to thank God each week for our 18 helpers: John and Jackie Jones, Andi Pease, Connie Ivey, Debbie Duvall, Jennifer Burgess, Raven Lanham, Abbie Burch, Kirk King, Sara Kell, Linda Slappe, Regina Dayfield, Teresa Evans, Julie Hartman, Kathleen Jordan, Kathryn Maddy, Kathy Leftwich, and me! Come and join the TEAM!

JUNE Birthdays

Callum Scott

June 17, 2024

We sing "Happy Birthday" to them on the first Friday of each month. Birthdays are extra special just like our Littles



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:
nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
support the mission of the church worldwide, work for justice and peace, and build an inclusive, caring
community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise
of God's kingdom.

Women's Lunch Gathering

Women of the church are invited to gather at 11:45am for lunch and fellowship Friday, June 19, at Mediterranean Breeze Restaurant, located at 2678 Winfield Road, Saint Albans. Please RSVP if you can join us by calling Kathryn at (304)539-2573. If you need a ride, we can carpool from the church. Everyone is welcome!

ORDERING NEXT FALL'S BIBLE STUDY:

United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

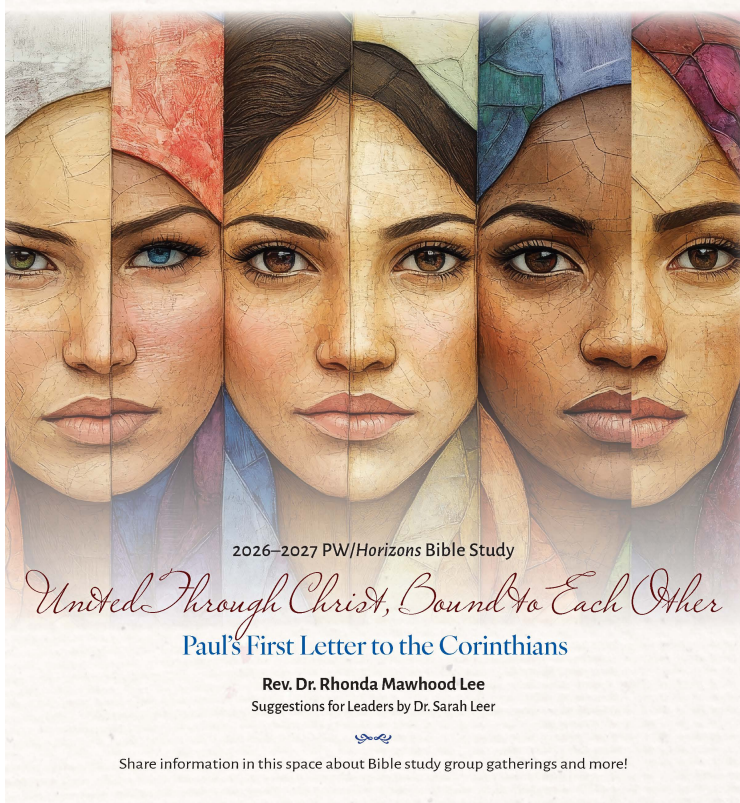
by Rhonda Mawhood Lee

Suggestions for Leaders by Sarah Leer

(the 2026–2027 PW/Horizons Bible study)

We will be placing a church order for the new Bible study by June 22, 2026. Please contact Kathryn Maddy at (304)539-2573 to place your order with the group shipping bundle. Cost for regular print is \$14, and large print is \$20, but payment is not due till we receive our shipment. Shipping cost will be determined by the number of study books ordered.

Readers will be fascinated by this journey to Corinth and will explore how Paul's timeless message of loving unity calls Christ's followers today. We will come to understand early church conflicts and how some of the same problems persist today. Order your copy today.



Highlights of May Stated Session Minutes

- Meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator.
- April Income and Expense statements were approved.
- A cemetery plot has been offered to First Presbyterian Church. Trustees will look into this.
- Kathy Leftwich and Abbie Burch were approved as Receiving Treasurers.
- Approved scholarships from Wiles Youth Fund for three young people to attend Bluestone Camp and Retreat Center.
- An Audit Committee is being formed to begin an in-house audit this year.
- Fourteen inactive members will be removed from the active roll.
- Approved a notice in the Presby Record asking for donations to the Jubilee Fund, assisting
- St. Albans residents with utility bills.
- Approved Presbytery's Youth Council to meet in our building and stay in dorm rooms on July 10 & 11.
- Reminder: Our congregation will worship at Teays Valley Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 21, 2026
- Next Stated session Meeting is Tuesday, June 16.
- There will be no meeting in July.

WVMAW Updates

Jack Rogers, Representing First Presbyterian Of St. Albans and the Hezekiah House , attended a seminar sponsored by WVMAW to discuss the "Serve Initiative", a away to train adults in recovery., the skills of the construction trade "work for development" this would be a process to connect the trained worker and employer.

Please see the next two pages for more information.

Facilities & Worship Committee

5-5-26

Attending: David Harvey, Mike Merguc, Mike Clark, Mel Burch, Sara Kell, Pepper Kell, and Jack Rogers

- John Jones to investigate fixing one of the basketball backboard posts
- Jack Rogers trimmed some low branches on the Dogwoods
- Mike Merguc reported
 - Mopped and buffed 2nd floor hall
 - Touched up the finish on the Fellowship Hall floor
 - Discussed moving the theatre seat in the basement, Jack and Sara to take them apart
 - Mike will mop hall floor in basement before mission teams
- Gas company was called to check meter and appliances; all seems OK
- Main sewer line cleaned out (preventive)
- Mens room on first floor; floor cleaned by Dirt Busters
- Durable Slate has been contacted for our annual roof check up
- Mel Burch to repair mortar joints o 3rd St. stone steps
- Sara to check Main Sanctuary entrance lights (not working)
- Mike Clark to investigate audio issues in Sanctuary

Work Day

Present: Andrew Reyes, Andi Pease, Donna Merguc, Mike Merguc, Kathleen Jordan, David Harvey, Jack Rogers

- Clean and sweep basement dorm rooms
- Shave the door and marquee
- Install sheet music rack in Sanctuary
- Weed flower beds
- Trim some tree limbs

"All in the name of the LORD"- Jack

SERVE INITIATIVE

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT. EMPOWERMENT. RECOVERY SUPPORT. VOCATIONAL TRAINING. ECONOMIC RESILIENCE.

WHAT IS SERVE?

THE SERVE INITIATIVE IS A PROPOSED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MODEL DESIGNED TO:

- TRAIN ADULTS IN RECOVERY FROM SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD)
- ADDRESS CRITICAL CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE SHORTAGES IN WEST VIRGINIA
- REPAIR HOMES IMPACTED BY DISASTER AND POVERTY
- CREATE STRUCTURED PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT, APPRENTICESHIP, AND LONG-TERM STABILITY

THIS PLANNING EFFORT IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY FUNDING FROM THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC).

WHY THIS MATTERS

WEST VIRGINIA FACES:

- ONGOING HOUSING REPAIR AND DISASTER RECOVERY NEEDS
- A SHORTAGE OF SKILLED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
- CONTINUED ECONOMIC AND RECOVERY CHALLENGES FOR INDIVIDUALS REBUILDING THEIR LIVES

SERVE SEEKS TO MEET ALL THREE NEEDS THROUGH ONE COORDINATED WORKFORCE MODEL.

WHAT THIS GRANT SUPPORTS:

THIS ARC PLANNING GRANT FUNDS:

- ✓ A REGIONAL WORKFORCE & RECOVERY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
- ✓ A COMPREHENSIVE FEASIBILITY STUDY
- ✓ DEVELOPMENT OF AN IMPLEMENTATION-READY CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

THIS FUNDING SUPPORTS PLANNING ONLY — NOT PROGRAM LAUNCH.



SCOPE OF THE PLANNING PROJECT

WORKFORCE & RECOVERY FEASIBILITY STUDY

THE SELECTED CONTRACTOR WILL:

- SURVEY RECOVERY CENTERS, WORKFORCE AGENCIES, AND CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYERS
- CONDUCT STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS
- IDENTIFY WORKFORCE DEMAND IN CONSTRUCTION TRADES
- ANALYZE EMPLOYMENT BARRIERS FOR INDIVIDUALS IN RECOVERY
- ASSESS EMPLOYER READINESS FOR PARTNERSHIP

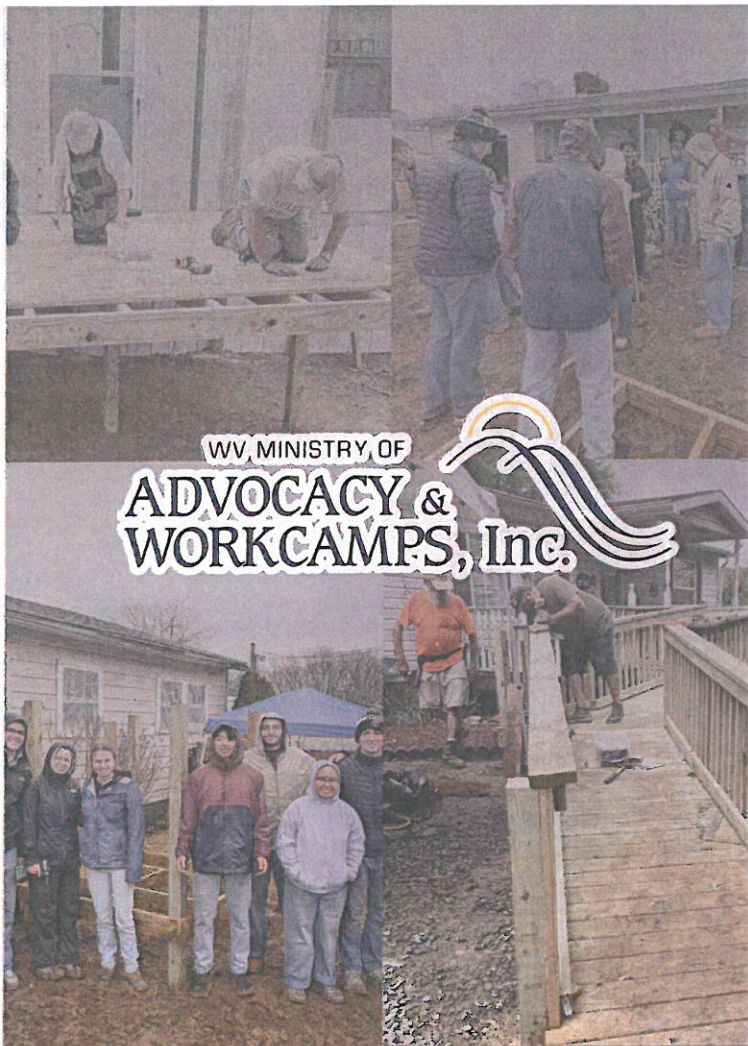
DELIVERABLE: A COMPREHENSIVE WRITTEN FEASIBILITY STUDY REPORT OUTLINING FINDINGS, WORKFORCE GAPS, IMPLEMENTATION RISKS, PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, AND PROGRAM DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS.

CONSTRUCTION-BASED CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

USING FEASIBILITY FINDINGS, THE CONTRACTOR WILL DEVELOP:

- STRUCTURED CONSTRUCTION SKILLS MODULES
- SAFETY TRAINING COMPONENTS
- JOB READINESS INSTRUCTION
- MENTORSHIP INTEGRATION
- RECOVERY SUPPORT COORDINATION

THE FRAMEWORK WILL DEFINE PROGRAM DURATION, PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS, AND EVALUATION METRICS — AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTATION-READY AND ALIGNED WITH EMPLOYER DEMAND.



WV, MINISTRY OF
**ADVOCACY &
WORKCAMP, Inc.**

Dedicated to improving the lives of those in our community.

“In as much as you did it to one of
the least of these, you did it to me.”
— Matthew 25:40

wvministry.org

Who We Are

We are a Christian-based non-governmental organization, supported in part by Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, other Christian denominations, and individual donations. Such partnerships empower us to provide discipleship to those in need. The groups we recruit come from churches of various faiths, as well as universities.

What We Do

We visit sites, meet with families, and assign a skilled team for each job. The primary people we serve are elderly or disabled neighbors on very limited incomes whose homes have become unsafe for them. Our project managers oversee the work to ensure quality and code compliance. This is how we identify and meet the needs of our community.

Contact Us

pballard@selahdirective.com

wvministry.org

Join us in celebrating **THREE** outstanding graduates in our church family this year!

Samuel Sutphin has completed his studies at Marshall University, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences. We are proud of his hard work and this outstanding achievement.

Kylie Robinson, graduating from St. Albans High School, has reached an important milestone. Her commitment to her studies and her involvement in our community have prepared her well for what comes next.

Christina, daughter of Alex Dayfield, also celebrates her high school graduation this year. We rejoice with her family and give thanks for her dedication and growth.

As a congregation, we celebrate **Samuel, Kylie, and Christina** with gratitude and pride. We give thanks for their accomplishments and pray that God's guidance and grace will be with them in all that lies ahead.



PNC Updates

The Pastor Nominating Committee has met three times since being formed. Our first meeting was a training session with Presbytery leadership, and the next two were spent working through the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). Each church fills out its own section of the MDP, and it includes five big questions that really make us think about who we are as a church and what we're hoping for in our next pastor.

Our next step is to sit down again with our Presbytery partners so they can look over our draft answers and help us fine tune anything that needs clarity before we send it to the full Presbytery committee. Once everything is approved, we'll be able to enter our information into the Church Leadership Connection system. That's when we'll start receiving pastoral "matches" based on our responses and the applicants' profiles.

We still have a good bit of the process ahead of us, but please know your committee is working hard, staying focused, and feeling encouraged by the progress so far. Most of all, we ask for your continued prayers—that we would listen well, stay open to God's leading, and follow His will every step of the way.

~ Holly Greathouse, PNC Chair



Blessing Bag Needs

Socks – for men and women

Toilet Paper

Every donation helps bring comfort and care to someone in our community.

Thank you!

Please leave all donations on the stage



Benelovent Ministries & Community Events

June 22

Feast of St. Albans
St. Mark's Episcopal.
Community-wide worship.
Service at 6pm. Dinner to follow at approx. 7pm in Christ's Kitchen.



KIDS MUSIC CAMP

JUNE 22-26, 2026

For Students in Grades K-6

Activities:

- Choir
- Movement
- Percussion
- Ukulele
- Barred Instruments
- Outdoor/Indoor Games

Classes will be taught by Certified Music Teachers.

Drop off: 8:00-8:30 a.m.
Pick up: 12:00 p.m.

Registration Fee:
\$35 per child

Snack Provided

Questions?
Call Tyler @ 304-982-1541

Teays Valley Presbyterian Church
5339 Teays Valley Road
Scott Depot, WV 25560



Scan to Register!

Mission of the Month

For the month of June we will be taking on a special mission to assist our friends at the Jubilee Emergency Assistance Fund.
Please memo all checks to Jubilee.
405 B St. St. Albans
304-722-4284

Hygiene Drive for Children in Foster Care

Donate full-size products to your local CASA office!

- Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene

westernregionalcasa@teamwv.org

Saint Albans Farmer's Market

201 Kanawha Terrace

Bringing fresh harvests, local creativity, and hometown spirit together in one welcoming market.

Saturday Market Dates:	Night Market Dates:
10-3	5:30-8:30
June 6 & 20	June 30
July 11 & 25	July 31
August 8 & 22	August 31

WE CAN BE HEROES VBS

SAVE THE DATES!
JUNE 26-28 6-8 PM

RIVERLAWN CHURCH
2008 PENNSYLVANIA AVE
ST ALBANS

RIVERLAWNCHURCH.ORG/VBS

Join us at Riverlawn Church for exciting evenings filled with:

- GAMES
- BIBLE LESSONS
- CRAFTS
- FUN WITH FRIENDS!
- SNACKS

Join us for RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God

Dinner provided followed by an evening filled with games, crafts, activities, and adventure!

Location
First Presbyterian Church of St. Albans
201 Kanawha Terrace

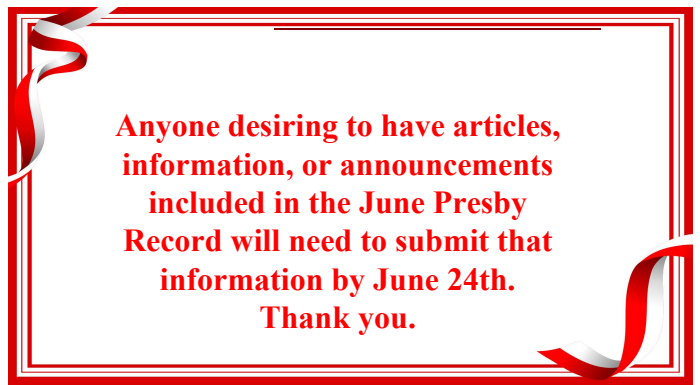
Dates
June 8th - 12th

Time
Dinner: 5:30-6:15
Program: 6:15-8:15

For More Info
304-727-2241

Register At
Firstpresbychurch.com

First Presbyterian Church
201 Kanawha Terrace
St. Albans, WV 25177



Trustees

Class of 2026: Holly Greathouse
Class of 2027: Dewitt Bowman
Class of 2028: Buck Ivey

Officers

Class of 2028	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Dave Harvey (1)	Kathleen Jordan (2)	Jennifer Burgess (1)
Adam Greathouse (1)	Valerie Wade (2)	Kathy Harrah (1)
Buck Ivey (1)	Kristi Sutphin (1)	Jack Rogers (2)

Church Staff

Ministers..... Every Member of the Congregation
 Pastor
 Administrative Assistant.....Raven Lanham
 Custodian Jennifer Gil & Mike Merguc
 Musician..... N. David Stern
 TreasurerBuck Ivey
 Tech Team Dave&Wendy Harvey, Betty King, Logan Roberts

First Presbyterian Church
 201 Kanawha Terrace, St. Albans, West Virginia 25177
 Phone: 304 727-2241
 Email: fpcs@firstpresbychurch.com
 Web site: www.firstpresbychurch.com
 Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of St. Albans

Note: The number in parentheses refers to first or second consecutive three-year terms in office.