

THE COLUMNS
OF THE

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

April 26, 2026

4th Sunday of Easter Day School Sunday



Welcome

This church opens wide its doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Celebrating 199 Years of Knowing Christ
and Making Him Known*

First Presbyterian Church
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
Tuesday April 28 Handbells 5pm
Tuesday April 28 Ladies Dinner 6pm
Wednesday April 29 Youth 6pm
Thursday April 30 Thursday Bible Study 10:30am
Choir 4:30pm
Saturday May 2 Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am
Today Jackson Weller and Ashley Stanley-Robey will lead worship at Stratford House. The service is in the Evergreen Room at 2:00pm.

Volunteers are needed to serve on the House Committee for the purpose to identify areas of concern on the church grounds that need attention. This would be a subcommittee of Property. For example, painting an area, making an area more attractive (decorating), kitchen, etc. There would be some potential items of improvement. The current Property Committee concentrates on plumbing, roofs, etc. and doesn't have the expertise for such endeavors. This will be open to all members of the congregation. Please call the office if you are interested in serving on this committee.

If you are applying or reapplying to college-it's time to get your scholarship application from FPC. Call the church office for more info. We will email or mail you an application today! Deadline is April 30th!

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship Jackson Weller
Music Director Ashley Stanley-Robey
Video/Sound Alex Walthall
Liturgist Jackie Rochford
Greeter Eddie Blount
Side door/Offering Barry Cutright
Counters Beale

List of Session members

Class of 2026: Ava Barrett, Barry Cutright, Gail Jones, Kim Wimer
Class of 2027: Harriet Beale, Pat Pinckney, Joan Reynolds, Kent Shelton
Class of 2028: Eddie Blount, Jr., Sam Meadema, Jackie Rockford, Alex Walthall
Trustees: Bob Newnam, Ray Beale, Gary Wimer

2026 Budget Update

	March 2026	FY 2026
Revenue	\$64,772.75	\$123,495.68
Expenditure	\$43,117.30	\$121,646.15
Difference	\$21,655.45	\$ 1,849.53

If you enter the hospital, your church will have no way of knowing unless you notify us. Please let us know of your hospital stay so that we may respond with pastoral care.

A Warm Welcome

We would love to have you join our church family. If you are moved to do so by the Lord, please talk to one of the elders or our pastor.

*The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Pat Argyrakis for her birthday and for the many years of service to First Presbyterian Church and its members.
From the Women of the Church*

"All in the April Evening"
Hugh S. Robertson (1974-1952)
Lyrics by Katharine Tynan (1859-1931)

All in the April ev'ning, April airs were abroad;
The sheep with their little lambs pass'd me by on the road.
The sheep with their little lambs, pass'd me by on the road,
All in the April ev'ning I thought on the Lamb of God.

The lambs were weary and crying with a weak human cry,
I thought on the Lamb of God going meekly to die.
Up in the blue blue mountains, Dewy pastures are sweet,
Rest for the little bodies, rest for the little feet.

But for the Lamb, the Lamb of God, up on the hilltop green,
Only a cross, a cross of shame, two stark crosses between,
All in the April ev'ning, April airs were abroad;
I saw the sheep with their lambs, and thought on the Lamb of God.

About the Anthem:

This is the most famous piece of music by the renowned Scottish composer, arranger, and conductor Sir Hugh Stevenson Robertson. He hailed from Glasgow and became popular as director of the Toynbee House Choir. A dispute among the choir resulted in its splitting, and Robertson founded the Glasgow Orpheus Choir with some former Toynbee singers. The Orpheus Choir became Britain's foremost choral group; they toured under Robertson's baton for 45 years (1906-51). Sir Robertson was a stern taskmaster when needed; he required annual auditions from all singers and constant attendance at rehearsals. A lifelong pacifist, Robertson reluctantly accepted his knighting as "recognition for the choir." He was so beloved by his singers, when Robertson announced ill health had caused him to retire they voted unanimously to disband. Some members formed a new choir, the Glasgow Phoenix Choir, which still performs today.

The lyrics of this anthem are taken from a poem by the Irish writer Katharine Tynan. It is a program piece calling to mind scenes of sheep fields, country roads, mountain vistas, and the crucifixion of Christ. Jesus, the Lamb of God, took the punishment for the sins of all God's children. The lambs in the song represent you and me – the lambs Christ sought after when we went astray. The dewy pasture in the blue mountain recalls the twenty-third Psalm. This place of rest represents God's constant presence with us, and the spiritual rest we have in the church. This song is very special to First Presbyterian and Danville. Hampton Benton, our longstanding music director, taught it to the choirs here. The First Presbyterian Quartet won first place in the mixed quartet contest, singing "All in the April Evening," at the second annual Massanetta Springs Summer Bible Conference Encampment in August 1931 under Mr. Benton's baton. It was one of the first songs I accompanied here five years ago, and a tradition I am blessed to carry on.

A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad to them.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND MINUTE FOR DAY SCHOOL

PRELUDE "Hymn of Promise" Natalie Sleeth, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Glory to God #93)

Leader: Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

People: Behold! The Savior of the world is risen!

Leader: Fling wide the portals of your hearts:

People: Let us feel the presence of God's grace and love!

Leader: O Holy spirit, lead us on in worship;

People: Call us each by name, that we may give God glory!

*HYMN#35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

INVOCATION

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us. When we face darkness and death, journey beside us. When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence. When we are fearful, feed us at your table. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, from before the foundation of the world, you called us by name and pledged your steadfast love. But like ornery sheep, we stray from the fold. You offer to lead us, but we prefer to lead ourselves. Christ laid down his life, yet we refuse to lay down our phones, our plans, our pride. Forgive us, O God. Call us back to the open gate of Christ's redeeming love that we may enter your Beloved Community and find restoration for our souls, reconciliation with our enemies and the glory of abiding with you forevermore. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The proof God's amazing love is this: while we were yet sinners, Christ came to us; Christ died for us; and Christ rose from the dead so that the gates of hell and heaven may be thrown open wide and all of creation renewed. So believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and restored to new, abundant life.

Alleluia! Amen!

SIGNS OF RECONCILIATION

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us the children of God, having confessed our sins and been reconciled to God, having been assured of God's graciousness and mercy, stand and offer that same peace and reconciliation to our brothers and sisters in Christ, forgiving each other and offering grace and peace.

Please remain standing for the "Gloria Patri."

*RESPONSE "Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Our savior, as the Good Shepherd, leads us to what nourishes, comforts and secures our living. When we reflect upon all that God provides, we see that our cup indeed runs over. In gratitude and in faith, may we practice Christlike generosity to support the living body of Christ that is this church. With joy and thanksgiving, let us offer what is precious to us to God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Shepherding God, you lead us, guard us, prepare us and preserve us. We have responded by giving back to you what has come from your hand. Bless these gifts, and multiply them in the life of your church, so that the gates of salvation may be flung wide, and all your Beloved Community may know the love and the peace that is ours in Christ Jesus. Amen.

OFFERTORY "In the Garden" C. Austin Miles, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

DAY SCHOOL SONGS

"Go Tell It on the Mountain," "Zacchaeus," and "Jesus Loves Me"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM "All in the April Evening" Katharine Tynan/Hugh S. Robertson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (adapted from Howard Thurman, "Give Me the Listening Ear" Meditations of the Heart)

O God, give us the listening ear. Give us the listening ear that will not shrink from a word that corrects and admonishes; a word that challenges us to deeper consecration and higher resolve; a word that lays bare the needs that make our days uneasy; a word that seizes upon everything decent in our nature and channels it into paths of healing in the lives of others. Give us, O Lord, the listening ear. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(803/763) John 14:1-14

(900/857) 1 Peter 2:2-10

(816/776) Acts 7:55-60

SERMON "Living Like We Actually Believe It." Jackson Weller

*HYMN#410 "God Is Calling through the Whisper"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed
I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

POSTLUDE "The Lord's My Shepherd" (Crimond) Jesse Seymour Irvine, arr. Ovid Young

*BENEDICTION

*Please stand if able.

**Hymn lyrics projected on the screen can be found in the "Glory to God" hymnal in the pew.*

Sermon Notes: