



GOD’S GRACE IS MIND BLOWING

A headline on an internet article caught my attention some time back:

God’s Grace is Mind Blowing –

God's grace is truly amazing. Not only does it provide for our salvation, it enables us to live an abundant life in Jesus Christ:

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound to you so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (ESV)

God's grace is available to us at all times, for every problem and need we face. God's grace frees us from slavery to sin, guilt, and shame. God's grace allows us to pursue good works. God's grace enables us to be all that God intends us to be. God's grace is amazing indeed. Perhaps it is true that God’s grace is bigger than our own imagination or understanding. Because if we really live into the fullness of God’s grace – it is all encompassing. It will permeate every facet of our lives. It will draw us out of our brokenness and into a rhythm of life that is dramatically different from what the world offers.

John 4:10 reminds us that “with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” – for me that water is the overflowing grace of God.



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We were created with an insatiable thirst for relationship with God. Jesus looks to you and me today and offers us life-giving water that satiates our most foundational thirst. He places within us *“a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”* He gives us clear, boundless access to intimacy with God that our hearts might overflow with rivers of his loving-kindness. We were made to experience true rest and satisfaction in one place and from one relationship: intimacy with the Father. In Jesus we find what our hearts have been looking for from our first breath. In Jesus we find a pathway to the Father not formed by our exploration or wandering, but by his steadfast love and unceasing pursuit.

This love – this grace - isn't something we have to strive for. It's not something we have to work to earn. Rather, it's a free gift of salvation, that we can simply open our hearts to and receive.

However, it is not a cheap grace – we are called to be workers in the kingdom. God's grace working in our lives was never meant to stop with only a personal salvation lived in isolation. Instead, in 1 Peter 4:10 we find Peter telling his readers to be faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms, using our gifts to serve one another. God's grace is reflected in our lives through his equipping of believers to serve within the body of Christ; using our spiritual gifts. Our gifts vary from person to person and potentially over time. But as both Peter and Paul affirm, God equips us for the good of the body. Our spiritual gifts are a reflection of God's grace to the overall body of Christ. God is working within us to grow the body and help it to function at its best.

And still, even this corporate exhibition of God's grace isn't the end as the grace of God calls us to extend what I would call radical hospitality – grace that overflows beyond the boundaries we normally put up between people we perceive as being different.

All of this emerges as we connect God's grace – his steadfast love – with who we are as children of God and together as the church. By the irresistible grace of the Triune God we are:

DRAWN IN to experience God's grace. (John 6:44)

DRAWN TOGETHER to embody God's grace in our relationships.

DRAWN FORTH to extend God's grace to others

This rhythm of life is God's promise and our great hope, yet it is also a fact that many things threaten to distract, discourage, and derail us from God's plan for us to live joyful lives – joy that is unspeakable and full of glory.

While we may never fully grasp the depth of God's grace, we are drawn into the conversation and into this life-giving rhythm by a God who has an irresistible claim on our lives.

Thanks be to God!

As a visible reminder to live fully into this rhythm, we will be displaying banners between the columns to help us engage with the community of Danville as we reimagine Life Beyond the Columns – both our life together on the inside of the building and our life outside the building within the community.

Pastor Beth

Prayer and Praise

PASTORAL CONCERNS— Chuck Bolt, Lisa Bolt, Amy Bracey, Bill Copeland (Linda Copeland's father)

CAREGIVERS

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

THE PEOPLE OF TOGO

Judy Cox (Kristen Cox's sister-in-law), Kathy Cropp, Lib Cuttle, Matthew Dolianitis, Bill & Betty Fitzgerald, Fred Gunn (W. Gunn's brother), Rev. Dr. Faye Savage Gunn (Fred's wife), Lois Hayes, Peggy Lackey, Bob Lowther, Larry Mann, Ruth Meadors, Tony Parker (W. Barrow's father), Mary Lou Snead, Debra Bolt Thompson, Easton Zunker (K. Meadows)

ON THE MEND--(Praise & Gratitude for improved condition) Mrs. Helen Harris

OUR VIPs—Chuck Bolt, Alice Bradshaw, Lib Cuttle, Bill & Betty Fitzgerald, Lois Hayes, Charlotte Lowther, Grace Litzenberg, Fae Smith, Jean White

SATURDAY LUNCH MINISTRY

WHAT: Serving a hot lunch to the community

WHEN: Every Saturday; volunteers work from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.. Lunch is served at 11:00 a.m. During the summer. Since our regular volunteer churches have taken a break from assisting, we need volunteers—call the office if you can help on Saturdays.



Our Wednesday Night Family Suppers will be on hold until further notice.

Presbyterian Women's Circles will not be meeting until a time to be determined in the future.





Sunday Flowers on the Reredos

August 2—The flowers today are given in honor of Pastor Beth as we welcome her and her family to our church family.

August 9—The flowers today are given in loving memory of my dear friend, Mary Ann LaPlaca, who died May 16, 2020 by Pat Argyrakis.

The Youth will be in charge for the month of August.

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please contact Rebecca Atkinson at 434.203.1666 or rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net, for more information. After the service, flowers are distributed to those persons on our prayer list or as directed by the sponsor.



VIP OF THE WEEK

Please remember our VIPs in prayer each week and drop them a card or note to let them know how much they are loved.

August 2 — Lois Hayes Room 45
Roman Eagle Memorial Nursing Home
2526 N. Main St.
Danville, VA 24540

August 9 — Jean White Room 1
Brookdale Place
149 Executive Dr.
Danville, VA 24541

August 16— Grace Litzenburg
954 Main Street
Danville, VA 24541

August 23 — Alice Bradshaw Colonial Suite
Commonwealth Health Care
1111 Main St.
Danville, VA 24541

August 30 — Fae Smith
661 Timberlake Drive
Danville, VA 24541

If you feel visiting the elderly is your gift, please consider joining our VIP Committee. Talk to one of the following members: Pat Argyrakis, Mary Ann Shelton, Joan Reynolds, Bernadine Hayes, Nancy Wilson, Susie Crews, or Kent Shelton.

Property Committee

Bob's To-Do List

Computer, streaming TV & sound system hardware & repair Sutherlin Speakers

Investigate the aging alarm system, Carbon Monoxide & Fire Alarm

Investigate Amp replacement

Routine maintenance items around the church building ongoing.

Front porch needs bird protection

Investigate replacing electrical panel in basement with modern equipment

Women's bathroom to be refreshed

Completed Items

Sanitizing the sanctuary and areas of the church

Sun sail for playground



Here are some pictures of the Ice Cream meet & greet social! Everyone had a wonderful time being out enjoying the summer relaxing and visiting with friends.





Stewardship in Action

This year the stewardship theme for First Presbyterian Church is **“We are the Church – We serve with energy, imagination, intelligence and love.”** Our church has been blessed with faithful stewards even in the midst of a pandemic. Due to the fact that we have not been meeting for months, we have not been having newsletters and not shared the togetherness that we enjoy so much at First Presbyterian. In April we highlighted Jackie Rochford as one of our faithful stewards. For our August newsletter we will highlight Mac Williams. Mac so graciously offered his time and talents in providing beautiful music for our services on YouTube. Thank you so much Mac for taking your time to participate in our services.



2 Alice Bradshaw

7 Alexander Miller

12 Will Wiseman

13 Jay Hayes

Roy Pinckney

14 Ellie Honea

15 Chris Moore

18 Donna Parris

24 Jackson Weller

25 Pat Pinckney

27 Kris Cox

Barbara Wilkins

28 Walker Davis

29 Ina Dodson

31 Bill Smith

Anniversaries :

Aug 16, 2003 Dixie & Gene Hayes

If we've missed your special day let us know !!





Contact Jackson for details: Jackson@fpcdanville.com or 434.792.7822 ext. 3

August 22nd Lunch Ministry: We are going to ease back into helping with Lunch Ministry, if you are able please arrive at 10:00 a.m. (we will finish by 11:00 a.m.). Helping with Lunch Ministry will look very different than before the Covid-19 outbreak. We are putting together to-go boxes for our lunch guests. We ask that all volunteers wear a mask. We will remain in the kitchen/fellowship hall and assemble the box lunches. Our lunch guests will pick up lunches at the front door. Our volunteers will only be putting together lunches, they will not be distributing lunches. The process is very quick and most Saturdays it takes about 30 minutes to assemble and pack all our lunches. If you are able to help please contact Jackson at jackson@fpcdanville.com

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

Day School will plan to open back up after Labor Day.
We're still accepting registrations!!



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Founded in 1826, we were the first organized congregation in Danville. Our sanctuary and offices are located at 937 Main St, next door to the Sutherlin Mansion and Museum and a few blocks west of downtown.

You can reach us at
(434) 792-7822 or
vickie@fpcdanville.com



This year's Crop Walk will be different!
We will have a virtual walk October 4th.

More info to come....

If you are interested -

Contact Barbara Wilkins or

Jackie Rochford

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937 Main Street
Danville VA 24541-1809
Website: www.fpcdanville.com

Phone: 434.792.7822
Email: vickie@fpcdanville.com

