

Beyond the Columns

First Presbyterian Church of Danville
193 Years of "Knowing Christ and Making Him Known"

November 2020



Embodying God's Grace in an Election Year

Election seasons are seasons of heightened anxiety, fear, and division. Following Jesus' model of caring for the most vulnerable, we believe God calls us to stay attentive to the policies and leaders that impact our collective well-being. We believe God calls us to use our vote to work toward building God's beloved community on earth. Therefore, this simple liturgy is designed to carve out space for reflection, listening, and connection—in the midst of staying active and engaged throughout election season.

Read: Psalm 126

Read: "To Carry A Dream" a poem by Sarah Are

To carry a dream is to walk at night,
Or to walk by light,
But with a pebble in your shoe.
To carry a dream is to Wake at night
To wake and blink twice,
In case you see something new.
To carry a dream is to plant trees in old age,
To be a part of a church,
That is human and frayed.
To carry a dream is foolish and wild.
It's the faith of a child,
Wishing on stars.
But to carry a dream is also hopeful and wise
The faith of our elders,
Saying God will provide.
So may we walk
Until we see the light.
May the pebble in our shoe
Remind us why we fight.
May they say We are foolish and unwise
And may we continue to dream;
May hope keep us alive.



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1. In this election season, what dreams do you have for our nation? What dreams do you have for your church? What dreams do you have for human connection?

2. If carrying a dream is like walking in the night, what gives you the strength to continue walking? Who in your world is weary of walking who could use your support? Who is walking in the opposite direction and how could you continue to be a neighbor to them?

<https://sanctifiedart.org/creative-written-liturgy/those-who-dream-advent-poems>.

Holy God, we come to you today in prayer, full of emotions. Election seasons always seem to bring that out in us—Worry and hope, fear and frustration. The list could go on. So today we bow our heads and ask for guidance. Open our ears to hear the groans of creation. Open our eyes to see the needs of others. Open our hearts to make room for empathy. Give us the wisdom to navigate challenging conversations. Give us the patience to disagree with grace. Give us the compassion to make decisions for the greater good. And when all else fails, bring us back to love. Bring our hearts and our hands, our dreams and our hopes, our anger and our frustration, our hurt and our fear, all back to love. With hope we pray. With hope we are sustained. Amen.

Pastor Beth

Message from the Vision Committee

The Vision Committee is meeting again, and we have selected three of the seven vision statements to concentrate on:

- 1) We see a church where every member participates in the life and work of the church.
- 2) We see a church that is Missional and outward focused in serving our community.
- 3) We see a church that is open to change where change is called for.

Even though these are challenging times, we have identified several action items to work on under each vision. You will be hearing more about these, and we invite everyone to get involved.

November 21st —Movie Night—more info to follow

November 28th —Youth Lunch Ministry

Contact Jackson for details:

Jackson@fpcdanville.com or 434-792-7822 ext 3



Worship Committee

The worship committee at FPC works throughout the year to plan our congregation's worship experiences. The committee is made up of members from session, Heather Anderson, Pastor Beth, and some members at large in the congregation who are especially interested in worship and music.

We enjoy several services throughout the liturgical year. Some examples of these are Holy Week & Easter, Reformation Sunday, and Advent & Christmas. The Worship Committee arranges for special music and guest musicians as well as guest preachers, groups to light the advent candles, etc.

If the worshipping life of FPC is of particular interest to you, maybe you should consider membership in the Worship Committee.

It is time to **order poinsettias** in honor of or in memory of a loved one this Christmas season. Prices are \$7 for the 4 inch wrapped plants and \$13 for the 6.5 inch plants.

All orders should be in the church office by Sunday December 6th.

Please call Elizabeth Walden at 203.7778 for more information.

I desire to have _____ poinsettias dedicated as follows: (Check) _____ In Honor of _____ In Memory of

Given

by: _____

(Name as you wish it to appear in the Bulletin)

Please enclose a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church and return it to

First Presbyterian Church

937 Main St., Danville, VA 24541

Prayer and Praise

PASTORAL CONCERNS—
Chuck Ayuso (Gail & Doug
Jones son-in-law), Chuck
Bolt, Lisa Bolt, Amy
Bracey, Bill Copeland

(Linda Copeland's father) Judy Cox (Kristen Cox's sister-in-law), Kathy Cropp, Lib Cuttle, Janet Cutright (Barry Cutright's mother), Matthew Dolianitis, Bill & Betty Fitzgerald, Fred Gunn (W. Gunn's brother), Lois Hayes, Ina Ingram, Peggy Lackey, Bob Lowther, Larry Mann, Ruth Meadors, Tony Parker (W. Barrow's father), Diane Shelton, Mary Lou Snead, Pam Temple, 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

CAREGIVERS

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

THE PEOPLE OF TOGO

Our condolences to Susan & Tommy Mathena & family in the loss of Ronnie Mathena on October 12, 2020.

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.

Clothing Drive What's in your closet?

We are asking for winter clothing donations to be given to the Saturday lunch guests with the Thanksgiving meal on November 21, 2020. We need warm clothes such as jeans, coats, sweaters, sweatshirts and shoes. Please bring your gently used clothes to the church office.

There will be a congregational meeting Sunday November 8th to vote on our revised by-laws and terms of call. Please plan on attending our worship service November 8th.





Sunday Flowers on the Reredos

November 1- The flowers are given in loving memory of our parents, Jack and Dot Barrett, and “Shine” and Iris Ireson, by Tom and Ava Barrett.

November 8- The flowers that enhance our worship are given in memory of Catherine Deaver Cuttle, Bob Cuttle, and Charles Cuttle, and in honor of Elizabeth Cuttle, by Parks, Frances, and John Newby.

November 15- The flowers today are given in loving memory of our mother, Ella Frances Ryan, by Kent and Diane Shelton and Robert and Kim Clifton.

November 22- The flowers that enhance our worship are given in remembrance of her parents, R. Vincent and Eva Stack Nostrandt, by Jeanne Nostrandt.

The Evening Circle will be in charge for the month of November.

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please contact Rebecca Moore 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.

November 1 — Fae Smith
661 Timberlake Drive
Danville, VA 24540

November 8 — Charlotte Lowther
345 Mowbray Arch
Danville, VA 24541

November 15— Chuck Bolt
133 Westmoreland Ct.
Danville, VA 24541

November 22—Betty Fitzgerald
2240 Lady Astor Place #6
Danville, VA 24541

November 29— Bill Fitzgerald
2240 Lady Astor Place #6
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, 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

Elevator repairs
Completed

Boiler work
completed in rental

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

We've had such a wonderful start to school. Our number may be small this year, but our FUN IS GREAT! We're still accepting new students. For anyone interested, please contact Erin Parris via Facebook or the church website! We're in need of a few things from our Amazon wish list. If you're looking for ways to help out please contact Erin! With Danville Public Schools going back soon, our Covid Care will come to an end. There aren't words to express my gratitude for Laine Friend and her willingness to go above and beyond in helping out when we needed her. She's been a true lifesaver, Jackie Rochford, Harriet Beale, Lorraine Willeford and Joan Reynolds also deserve a MASSIVE thank you as well! Their volunteer time was SO very helpful. We couldn't have done this without them. This was a very long 9 weeks, but we made it!! Please keep praying for these students as they learn and grow at school. Pray for their safety and health as well as the teachers and staff. Thank you all for your continued prayers! God is SO good!

Erin Parris





Congratulations to Chris & Lucy Hill on the birth on Molly Meadema Hill.

Proud grandparents are Sam & Becky Meadema.



2 Hampton Wilkins

8 Alex Walthall

11 Elliot Stowe

12 Jim Pritchett

Kent Shelton

13 Becky Meadema

Joyce Perez

14 Joan Reynolds

17 Julia Gregson

20 Ruth Meadors

24 Dale Haley

25 Lisa Argyrakis

26 Wayne Womble

27 Beth Brown

ANNIVERSARIES

20 Diane & Kent Shelton

28 Carolyn & Fred Baker



Congratulations to Chris Moore & Rebecca Atkinson who were married on October 10th.



There will be a community Thanksgiving Service Monday November 23rd. This service will be on Facebook. Mark your calendar—more info to come.

Let us know if we've missed your special day!

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



The Salvation Army needs Red Kettle volunteers!! Starting November 9th and ending December 24th. Please consider a 2 hour shift any Monday thru Saturday. To sign up call Major Ray Jackson at 434-792-3963.

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937 Main Street
Danville VA
24541-1809

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www.fpcdanville.com

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vickie@fpcdanville.com

