

# Beyond the Columns

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

January 2021

## Carols of Resistance:

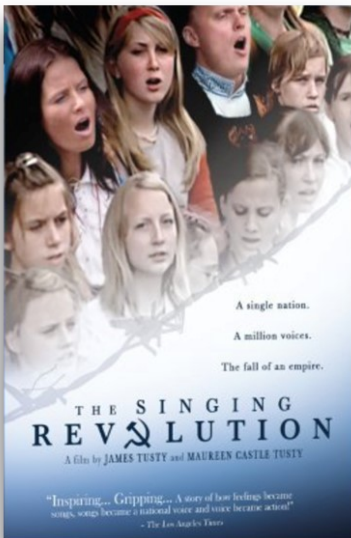
Some of you have noticed that our closing hymn during the month of December has been denoted as a Carol of Resistance.

Each of the carols that closed our services were written at a time with there was terror in the world. These carols were written with a subversive message that pushed back against the terror of the day and expressed hope in the face of despair, love in the face of hate, joy in the face of oppression, and the work for peace instead of apathy in our communities.

These carols closely mirror the narratives of the prophet Isaiah, the first chapters of the biographies of Jesus according to the Gospel authors, the stories of music in the midst of persecution and death, and the music of our own lives.

These carols express the yearning for a new and better day.

All of them are familiar but perhaps the stories of the contexts in which they were written are not so familiar.



Singing has always been a subversive way to imbed hope in our hearts and even the courage to truly make a difference. As we begin a new year and consider the work that needs done in our world, I am making the suggestion of a film, titled "The Singing Revolution" As many reviewers say, it is a "David and Goliath story." A tiny nation that has seen decades of horrors under the thumb of the Nazis and the Soviets, finds a way, without an army or any weapons, to reclaim their independence. Their only weapon... was singing. It is a deeply moving testament to the power of collective singing and its affect on the collective will and imagination of a people. Here is a [Description](#) by filmmakers James Tusty

and Maureen Castle Tusty:

*"Most people don't think about singing when they think about revolutions. But in Estonia song was the weapon of choice when, between 1987 and 1991, Estonians sought to free themselves from decades of Soviet occupation. During those years, hundreds of thousands gathered in fields to sing forbidden patriotic songs and to rally for independence. The Singing Revolution documents how the Estonian people regained their freedom and helped topple the Soviet Union along the way."*



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This is one of the most beautiful ways I can think of to end our worship series on the power of music in the midst of difficulty. What difference does our singing together make? By now I hope you are convinced that not only must we not ever take it for granted, but we must support music as much as we humanly can... for the sake of humanity.

Available on [Vimeo On Demand](#) for \$3.99

Or on [Amazon Prime Video](#) for \$3.99

See [bonus features](#) (director's commentary and interview with the filmmakers).

[Lots of information](#) about the film.

The Church office will be closed December 28th, 29th and January 4th.



The Church Office will be closed for Martin Luther King Day January 18th, 2021.

# 2021 First Presbyterian Church

## Session, Trustees & Committees

### Session

Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Barry Cutright	Ray Beale	Tom Gillespie
Eddie Blount	Bernadine Hayes	Susan Mathena
Mike Reynolds	Joyce Perez	Kim Meadows
Brenna Takata	David Clark	John David Parris

**Clerk of Session** - Brenna Takata

### Trustees

Jim Motley, Class of 2021  
 Jay Hayes, Class of 2022  
 Ray Beale, Class of 2023

### Administrative Committee

David Clark (S)

### Christian Education Committee

Kim Meadows, Chair (S)

### Finance Committee

David Parris, Chair (S)

### Nominating Committee 2021

Ray Beale, Chair(S)

### Membership Committee

Chris Moore(L), Susan Mathena(S) Co-Chair

### Mission Committee

Bunny Hayes, chair (S)

### Property Committee

Eddie Blount, Chair 2020 (S)

**Scholarship Committee** (sub committee of Finance)  
 John Parris, Chair 2020 (S)

**Stewardship Committee** (sub committee of Finance)  
 Mike Reynolds, chair(S)

### VIP Committee

Pat Argyrakis, Chair (L)

**Day School Committee** (sub committee of CE)  
 Brenna Takata, Chair (S)

**Endowment Committee** (sub-committee of Finance)  
 T. Gillespie, Chair (S)

**Communications** (sub committee of Membership)  
 F.Baker, Chair (L)

### Worship Committee

Joyce Perez, Chair (S)

***Any member interested in serving on any of these committees is asked to contact the church office or the committee chair.***

## Prayer and Praise

**PASTORAL CONCERNS—**  
Chuck Ayuso (Gail & Doug  
Jones son-in-law), Chuck  
Bolt, Amy Bracey, 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, Diane Shelton, 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

### CAREGIVERS

**THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY**  
**THE PEOPLE OF TOGO**

### 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.

### Get a Coat—Give a Coat

Membership Committee will be collecting **coats and socks only** during  
January. These will be distributed to the Saturday Lunch ministry guests.  
Please bring your gently used coat and new socks to the church office  
during church hours Monday—Thursday.



## Sunday Flowers on the Reredos

**January 10-** The flowers that enhance our worship are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Ronnell D. Belton by his family.

**January 17-** The flowers that enhance our worship are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Pat Bolt, Buck Collins, Sarah Collins, and Tom Collins by Charles Bolt and the family.

**January 31-** The flowers that enhance our worship are given in loving memory of Katherine Setzer Barrett Buchanan by Susan Mathena.

The Elders will be in charge for the month of January.

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary, please contact Rebecca Moore at 434.203.1666 or [rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net](mailto: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.

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### 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.

January 4— Lois Hayes # 45  
Roman Eagle Nursing Home  
2526 N. Main St.  
Danville, VA 24540

January 11 — Grace Litzenburg  
954 Main St.  
Danville, VA 24541

January 18 — Alice Bradshaw  
Colonial Suite  
1111 Main St.  
Danville, VA 24541

January 25 — Chuck Bolt  
133 Westmoreland Ct.  
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

Women's bathroom  
to be refreshed

Painting around  
church

#### Completed Items

Replaced fuses & box  
in basement.

Playground shed door  
replaced

**SESSIONAL RESOLUTION**

In the death of  
**ZANE CARSON EVANS**

**Whereas**, on September 7, 2020 the Lord welcomed Zane Carson Evans to his eternal heavenly home,

**Whereas**, Zane was a dedicated member of First Presbyterian Church, a disciple steadfast and enduring, serving many years as an elder,

**Whereas**, he was a devoted husband to his wife Elizabeth Ann Longworth Evans and a loving father to his children Diana, Becky, and Wendy,

**Whereas**, Zane was a lifelong seeker of knowledge, possessor of a keen intelligence and a delightful wit, and a loyal friend,

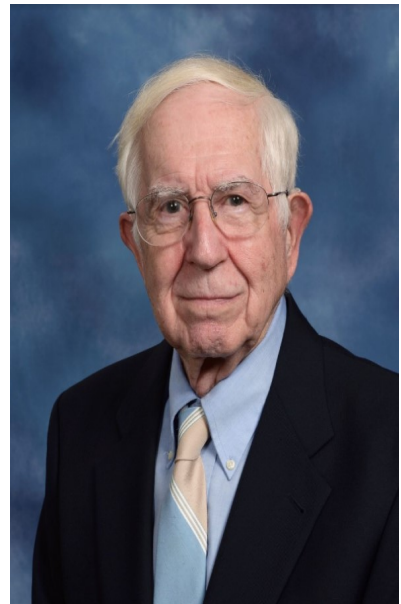
**Whereas**, his selfless service as a volunteer at Danville Regional Medical Center for twenty years was unequalled,

**Therefore, be it resolved** that we the session of First Presbyterian Church give thanks to God for Zane as a faithful member of this church and a devoted servant of Jesus Christ.

Written by Sam Meadema

Respectively Submitted by,

Brenna Takata  
Clerk of Session





## Sessional Resolution

### Gail Gunn

**WHEREAS**, God in his infinite wisdom and mercy carried Gail Gunn from the Church Militant into the Church Triumphant on September 14, 2020, and

**WHEREAS**, Gail Gunn dedicated many years to mentoring and loving young people as a librarian for Danville City Schools and later achieving excellence and qualifying as a regional director with ACN, and

**WHEREAS**, Gail Gunn was active in the Danville community, serving as a volunteer and supporter of education, even endowing scholarships for African American students with entrepreneurial interests, and

**WHEREAS**, Gail Gunn offered her faithful service as a liturgist, deacon, and elder, and

**WHEREAS**, Gail offered the gift of encouragement and positivity to all, showing genuine interest and care to the children she encountered as librarian, the members of her church family, and her wide circle of friends and acquaintances, and

**WHEREAS**, Gail Gunn's every action and thought gave Glory to God;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Danville, give thanks to our Heavenly Father for Elder Gunn as a faithful member of this church and a devoted servant of Jesus Christ.

Written by Joyce Perez  
Elder, First Presbyterian Church

Respectively submitted by  
Brenna Takata  
Clerk of Session



3 Dick Stoakley

7 Barry Cutright

9 Martha Mallery

10 George Snead

11 Gail Ramey

13 Bob Willeford  
Kim Meadows

14 Madeline Parris

15 Barbara Newnam

16 Lia Argyrakis  
Hunter Cutright

20 Grace Litzenberg

22 John David Parris

24 Nancy Wilson

25 Lois Lea Paalman

27 Mary Lou Snead

31 Maggie Weller

### Anniversaries:

January 3 Robert & Kim Clifton

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](mailto:vickie@fpcdanville.com)



We want the church members to know we still think of you and we cherish the good moments Marie-Louise had with you. Wishing you and your families lots of love.

Merry Christmas  
from

Willem and Louise

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Danville VA  
24541-1809

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