

Beyond the Columns

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

December 2020

I Believe, Even When ...

Our worship series this Advent calls on the power of sung poetry that inspires those who hear it to a brighter tomorrow.

It has been a difficult time in this pandemic for singing to be restricted. In its absence, we have been reminded just how important it is to sing together. Indeed, music has often been the soundtrack of hope. Someday, we will once again be able to join our voices in song in our sanctuary. But for now, rather than turn away from music in sorrow, we will turn toward the story of music and deepen our appreciation of its role in healing, change, and reconciliation.

Throughout this Advent season, our theme song features the poetry of an anonymous Jewish person during the Holocaust. These words were found scrawled on a wall and have now been shared with the world, reminding us of the resilience of hope. May we never forget what can happen when evil is allowed to go unchecked, and may we always use our music, our art, our poetry, even our simple acts of kindness, as inspiration to create goodness, not evil in this world.

"I believe in the sun
even when it is not shining
And I believe in love,
even when there's no one there.
And I believe in God,
even when he is silent.

I believe through any trial,
there is always a way
But sometimes in this suffering
and hopeless despair
My heart cries for shelter,
to know someone's there
But a voice rises within me, saying hold on
my child, I'll give you strength,
I'll give you hope. Just stay a little while.

I believe in the sun
even when it is not shining
And I believe in love
even when there's no one there
But I believe in God
even when he is silent
I believe through any trial
there is always a way.



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May there someday be sunshine
May there someday be happiness
May there someday be love
May there someday be peace....”

– Unknown

You can find a choral rendition of this anthem on our Facebook page.

On Thursday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. we will host a zoom viewing of the powerful documentary film, *Defiant Requiem*, in which Jewish prisoners turned to music as a way of surviving their despair and also naming the evil perpetrated against them.

If you are unable to attend this zoom viewing, you can purchase the documentary from Amazon, or if an Amazon Prime member, it is included in your subscription.

Pastor Beth

Message from the Vision Committee

As 2020 draws to an end, I am reminded of the phrase “Hindsight is 20/20.” It’s the idea that an individual has a realization about an event that should have been obvious all along, yet they didn’t catch on because they were acting in the heat of the moment. This year started with the theme of “20/20 Vision,” we thought we had a perfect vision or perfect sight for where God wanted us to go, but it has ended with “Hindsight Being 20/20” (the idea that after we have lived through something we see it clearly). One of the Vision Statements that our congregation adopted is “Being open to change where change is needed.” This year has opened our eyes (or at least my eyes) to see that many times the change we need is to go back to what matters. Our lives together as a worshipping community, as the family of Christ, matter. The relationships we have and have built together through Jesus’ love, matter. The tears we share and the joys we celebrate together, matter. Those small and big moments in life that push us to chase God together, matter. As we pause for a moment and look back at this year, the change that we need is to rebuild what matters. To be open to sharing our lives and our faith with people again, with our church family again.

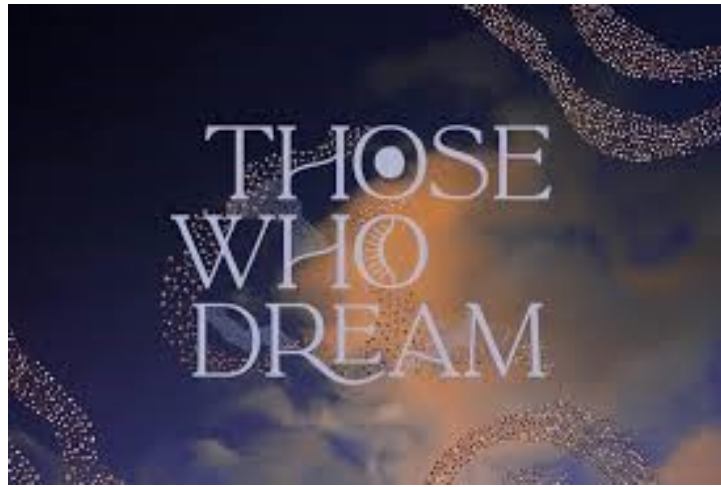
Let’s start rebuilding this life together by remembering how important we are to each other and let’s move forward, changing how we appreciate the things that we didn’t realize were so very important until they were taken from us. Let us change by being more open and honest about Jesus’ love for us and others, and let us change by sharing that love and life every day, everywhere, and with everyone.

Change by being risky with Jesus, take a leap of faith, call someone and remind them how much you and God love them, pray with them, worship with them, share God’s Word with them, speak God’s truth to them, and challenge them to grow as a Follower of Christ.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

We will be sending out an Advent Devotional each week via email. This devotional, "Those Who Dream" includes art, reflections and prompts for a season of dreaming about "the hopes and dreams of all the world" that is heralded by the birth of Christ. If you do not have a printer please request a hard copy from the church office. We will be printing them only as requested, so please give Vickie some lead time for your request.



The Church Office will be closed for the Christmas holidays the following days: 1/2 day Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas.



Youth Group Sunday School will begin meeting December 6th at 10am. More info to come.

Youth Christmas Party (TBA).

Prayer and Praise

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

Cox's sister-in-law), Kathy Cropp, Lib Cuttle, Janet
Cutright (Barry Cutright's mother), Matthew Do-
lianitis, 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

Our condolences to Ava Barrett and family in the loss
of Tom on November 10, 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.



Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,
There are not enough words to express my thanks for the
prayers, food, cards, and many other acts of Christian
kindness you expressed to me during the recent loss of my
beloved Tom. I appreciate you all and know that you will
help support me as I transition from a we to me.
In Christian love, *Ava*

Welcome to our newest members!! Tom Meadows, Joyce Jobe, Jackson
Weller, and the Perez family—Paula, Joe and Joe, Jr.
When you see them, welcome them to the FPC family!





Sunday Flowers on the Reredos

13- The flowers today are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Guy T. Fowlkes and Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Kirk by the family.

20- The flowers that enhance our worship service are given in loving memory of the deceased members of the Wiseman family by Paige and Frank Wiseman.

27- The flowers today are given in memory of our beloved Marie Louise Crane by the Handbell Choir, the Chancel Choir, and her church sisters.

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

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.

December 6— Lois Hayes # 45
Roman Eagle Nursing Home
2526 N. Main St.
Danville, VA 24540

December 13 — Grace Litzenburg
954 Main St.
Danville, VA 24541

December 20 — Alice Bradshaw
Colonial Suite
1111 Main St.
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

Light bulbs replaced in AA room

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

Here is a picture of some our COVID Care students and our wonderful volunteers! Thanks so much for your help!



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE:

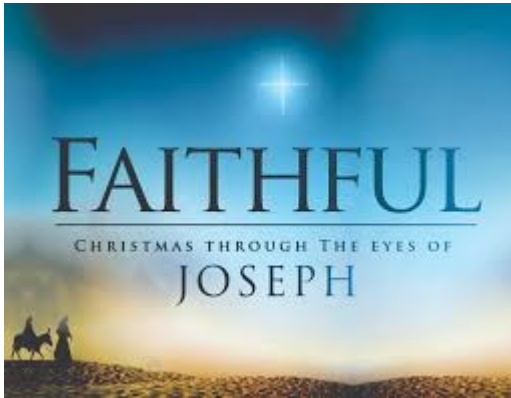
We have experienced unprecedented loss this year. Family and friends have succumbed to death in this pandemic, millions have lost economic security through loss of jobs, some have lost businesses they built over a lifetime. Most of us have lost our beloved rhythms of life that felt familiar and gave our lives the richness of gatherings and adventure. And we can name losses related to hatred and violence. As we proclaim love, joy, peace, and love during Advent, we will come together on the Longest Night of the Year (Dec. 21 at 5:30 p.m.) to speak of our loss and to light luminaries which remind us of the light of Christ that shines even when all around us is pain and loss.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Wednesday December 2nd and ending December 23rd we will join together at 6:30 p.m. for a Bible Study in the Overbey Fellowship Hall. Using Adam Hamilton's guide, we will explore Christmas through the eyes of Joseph and the valuable lessons for our lives.

If you are interested in joining for this study please contact Vickie in the Church Office.

We will operate under our Covid-19 safety guidelines: physical distancing, wearing a mask, asking folks that are symptomatic to not attend.



CLOTHES DONATIONS

We have a vision of being a missional, outward focused church serving our community. Recently members donated warm winter clothes. These clothes were given away on November 21st with the Saturday Thanksgiving box lunches. Thank you for your donations; and isn't it nice to have some extra space in your closet!



5 Frank Wiseman

7 Charlotte Garrett

9 Kathleen Harris

10 Holt Whitt

11 Christopher McCorkle Hill

12 David Swann

15 Edward Blount

16 Lisa Bolt

18 Elaine Lea

Spencer Stoakley

21 Bob Whitt

23 Chuck Bolt

25 Cooper Crews

27 Sharon Whitt

Ellen Thomas

28 Robert Clifton

29 Carol Ellis

Martha Bell

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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Each year we return to the story of Jesus' birth as it is told in the Gospel of Luke. This account is the narrative we need to hear again and again. While the presentation may be adjusted to accommodate the restrictions of living in a pandemic, our time honored tradition of gathering will happen at 7:30 p.m. The evening will include singing Silent Night and lighting our candles, but we will be doing this segment of worship outside—a visible reminder that we are called to take our light out into the world.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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