



Beyond the Columns

First Presbyterian

May 2021

194 YEARS OF "KNOWING CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN"

MOVING DAY IS APPROACHING

Yes, we are preparing to move worship from the sanctuary to the fellowship hall on Sunday, May 16. As with all moves, it will come with some challenges, but we are looking forward to the sanctuary and Sutherlin entrance renovations along with changes to the ladies' restroom in the sanctuary wing.

The media enhancement system will be installed beginning May 10. In preparation for our return to the sanctuary, we will utilize the fellowship hall screen and projector during Sunday morning worship. What can you expect? Some graphics and words and music for our hymns will be projected along with the bulletin content, but we will also be bringing in some outside participation as a result of the technology that can connect us to people outside our doors. Songwriter Richard Bruxvoort Colligan will introduce his works based on the Psalm being studied, and those songs will be our pastoral prayer of the day.

You might be questioning the validity of these changes after decades of cruising right along. One reason is to be good stewards of the property entrusted to us. However, the more valid answer is that we are preparing a place of welcome and rest for a weary world – and more importantly, a weary people. People, like us, who are sick and tired of the world in which we are living – a world that seems to be in constant turmoil and chaos.

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Proverbs 22:17

*"A merry heart does
good like medicine"*

MOVING DAY IS APPROACHING

We seem to have taken one of two paths: withdrawal or angry engagement - neither of which leads to hope or positive transformation. Instead, we are drawn in each week to experience God's grace – the Balm of Gilead to our sin sick souls. Our internal worship and living spaces should reflect the beauty of God's grace and presence. Not just for us, but the community around us.

Another moving day is approaching that is vital to God's mission and ministry – MOVE-IN DAY - the day when we open the doors and invite others to use our facility. Session is currently exploring two avenues of hospitality that we hope to formally announce in the coming weeks, but we need to prepare our hearts to welcome others into our building – to share the resources God has given us with the community. This connection is imperative, because while God has drawn us in, we are also drawn together. We are neighbors, and it is our responsibility to recognize the needs of our neighbors and to anticipate how we walk and work together for God's glory.

And last, but even more difficult than coordinating calendars for the use of our space, is the need to literally move outside – to be drawn forth – from this place of safety into the world. While we want to invite people beyond our columns to engage with us, WE also need to see beyond our columns to the outside.

FPC, along with other community churches, will be hosting a Covid 19 memorial the first week of June in the green space near the HOME sign. The event, "YOU are Remembered at HOME", is a recognition of all we have lost in the last year – loved ones, security, good health, time with friends and family. Watch for details.



Session is also engaging in conversations with an organization, One America Movement, that hopes to house a facilitator in Danville. That individual will actively work to draw faith communities together to address needs within the community – not the least of which is the polarization that is rampant in our culture. Surprisingly, the goal is not to change your mind on your core beliefs but to recognize the thing that is most important – and that is that we are called to service. Within that context, we can begin to see one another as co-workers in the Kingdom rather than adversaries. By modeling that ability to reach across dividing lines, we hope to minimize the polarization of our society.

Yes, polarization is a HUGE word and not just in syllables. It is huge because the divisions being created in our society can only be solved by recognizing and addressing the danger when we fail to see others as our neighbors, as people stamped with the image of God. So, the greatest moving day of them all is when the Spirit of God moves into our hearts and rearranges our preconceived opinions.

Amen?

Upcoming Events

Opportunities to Connect and Have Some Fun!

The Membership Committee is busy working to connect our congregation in some creative activities that allow us to feast and frolic while abiding by Covid 19 restrictions. Details will be announced prior to the event, but we wanted to give you some idea of dates so you can keep your calendar free.

May 16 Join church friends following worship at Frank's Restaurant for a dutch treat meal. We will plan a lunch together on the 3rd Sunday of each month, with a different restaurant each month.

June 20 Get ready for some baseball action when the Danville OtterBots face the Princeton Whistlepigs. Details to be announced.

July 17 Pastor Beth will host their annual birthday bash from 5 to 8 p.m. Plan for hotdogs and all the fixings, birthday cake, and a covered dish bevy of picnic food.

August 1 Take a kayak trip from Angler's Park to the Milton boat ramp, followed by a meal at Aunt Millie's Restaurant. For those not wanting to kayak, you can meet us at the restaurant. Details to be announced.

September The world-famous low country boil is on the table for a to be determined date in September.

Session has also given the tentative green light to resuming our Wednesday Night Suppers in the fall.



Happy Mothers Day to all the Mothers and Ladies of our church who mentor our young people.

YOUNG DISCIPLES

YOUTH

Youth group will resume on Wednesday May 5th. We will meet in the big fellowship hall from 6:00—7:30 p.m. beginning Wednesday May 5th. We will be following CDC and Health Department guidelines of meeting. I will email with more information, but we are super excited to be meeting again!!!

Sunday School— Middle and High School meets in the upstairs Youth Room every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

May 22nd Lunch Ministry— We are still serving to go meals on Saturday. If you can help pack meals, please come and help. We meet at 10:00 a.m., meal packing takes 30 minutes or less and then we clean up. It is very quick and easy, but it is a huge ministry to our community (you also are welcome to help any Saturday, not just the 4th Saturday of the month).



May Birthdays

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Pat Argyrakis |
| 5 | Nancy S. Clayton |
| 7 | Gary Wimer |
| 8 | Jackie Rochford |
| 9 | Cabell Barrow |
| 10 | Kathy Dolianitis |
| 11 | Martha Cutright |
| 12 | Leigh Blount |
| | Kimberly Clifton |
| | Frank van Valkenburg IV |
| 15 | Kathryn Beale |
| 18 | Gene Hayes |
| | Jim Turner |
| 20 | Brannon Blount |
| | Lyla Parris |
| 21 | Lois Hayes |
| 24 | Larry Miller, Sr. |
| 30 | Catie Clarke |
| 31 | Victoria Shelton |

Anniversaries

May 6 Hampton & Barbara Wilkins

May 8 Roy & Pat Pinckney

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

MISSION FOCUS

The Sydnors, ministering in Lille, France with the International Association for Refugees, (IAFR), reported last December on a fire that destroyed a makeshift refugee camp of about forty asylum seekers. There are 50,000 requests for subsidized housing in Lille. Paul Sydnor went to see the situation and brought back heavy blankets for some who had lost everything. One of these men spoke this to Paul, “No one can separate me from the one who created me.” Paul writes, “the man’s statement reminds him that their stories and events are like a refining fire for the image of God in their lives. The events that displaced people go through are often traumatic, ground zero for finding or strengthening the connection back to God.” Paul and another mission worker lead a small group of asylum seekers in trauma healing and involving a small church to deliver gifts.



Please pray with our mission co-workers to find housing solutions for asylum seekers and for the ongoing ministry efforts of IAFR.

~submitted by Linda Copeland

New To Our Family

We give praise and thanksgiving to God for the birth of Lillian “Lillie” Brown Chima born April 10, to Maria (Abreu) and Andrew.

Proud grandparents are Sallie and Luis Abreu.



Prayer and Praise

PASTORAL CONCERNS— Chuck Ayuso (Gail & Doug Jones son-in-law), Gwen Baucom, Chuck Bolt, Amy Bracey, Gretchen Campbell (Pat A.), Judy Cox (Kristen Cox's sister-in-law), Kathy Cropp, Lib Cuttle, Janet Cutright (Barry Cutright's mother), Matthew Dolianitis, Bill & Betty Fitzgerald, Lois Hayes, Ina Ingram, Linda Kile, Peggy Lackey, Bob Lowther, Charlotte Lowther, Larry Mann, Ruth Meadors, Alexander Miller, Anderson Miller, Alice N. Saunders, Diane Shelton, Judy Small, (J. Rochford's sister), 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



Sunday Flowers

May 2- The flowers are given in memory of Wanda Perez and in honor of Pat Argyrakis by the Perez children.

May 9- The flowers that enhance our worship are given in honor and remembrance of all mothers, by the Takata family.

May 16- The flowers that enhance our worship are given to the glory of God, by the Blount family.

May 23- The flowers that enhance our worship are given in memory of Homer (Bus) B. Lowther by his family.

The Bible Fellowship Class will be in charge for the month of May.

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.

May 3th Fae Smith
661 Timberlake
Danville, VA 24540

May 10 Charlotte Lowther
3445 Mowbray Arch.
Danville, VA 24541

May 17 Chuck Bolt
133 Westmorland Ct.
Danville, VA 24541

May 24 Betty Fitzgerald
2240 Lady Astor Place #6
Danville, VA 24541

May 31 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.

From the Vision Committee

“We see a church that is responding to Jesus mandate of the Great Commission to make Disciples”

We are all familiar with the parable Jesus told about The Lost Sheep. A shepherd had 100 sheep. One of his sheep had wandered off. He left the other 99 and searched for the lost stray. When he found it, he joyfully carried it home and called his friends saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep”.

This is how much Joy God has when one of his children are bought back into the flock. Each of us needs to take responsibility for reaching out to everyone in our community, not just people like us. Who is someone God has laid on your heart to tell them your faith story? Carry the Gospel wherever you go.



Outlook Class

Come and join us as the Outlook Class returns to their classroom Sunday May 2nd at 10:00 a.m. for Sunday School. All members are encouraged to attend!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DANVILLE

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



DAY SCHOOL NEWS

We've made it!! The end of our Covid school year has arrived and boy are we thankful for a FULL year!! Our children and staff have had a new year full of interesting challenges. With much guidance from our church family, we've made it! We look forward to graduation this year on May 27th in the sanctuary and a few more fun activities for our children. This year we'll also offer summer school. Those dates are June 21-July 28 on Monday & Wednesday. Please spread the word on our registration for the fall. It's currently going on, and we have openings in every class. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We're so very blessed!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH—DANVILLE

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