

Our Mission

To Know Christ and To Make Him Known

Welcome to today's worship service. We are delighted that you are here. If you are visiting, we invite you to join by profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, by reaffirmation of faith, or by transfer. Please speak to the pastor after the service.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	Sam Meadema
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Jackie Rockford
Greeter	David Swann
Side door/Offering	Gail Jones

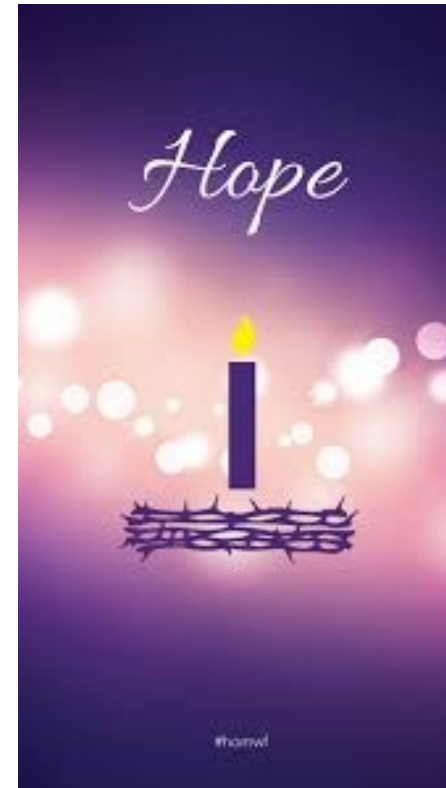
BUDGET UPDATE

	October 1 – 31	YTD
Contributions	\$33,143.12	\$303,731.49
Expenditures	\$40,694.11	\$433,983.30
Difference	(-\$7,550.99)	(-\$130,251.81)

First Presbyterian Church

December 1, 2024

11 a.m.



937 Main Street

Danville VA 24541

434-792-7822

www.fpcdanville.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

1st Sunday of Advent ~ December 1, 2024

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Ivory Palaces" by Henry Barraclough
Mack Williams, tenor | Ashley Stanley-Robey, soprano

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Luke 21:25-28)

Leader: Christ is coming

People: We see the signs!

Leader: Christ is coming!

People: Christ is coming! Raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near!

Leader: Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.

INVOCATION

Lord, today we recall your faithfulness. Thank you that you walk with us every day, that you are with us always. We proclaim that your promises are true and your goodness and love never fail. In this moment we come to you and lay our lives before you.

HYMN#89

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

December 2nd	Day Circle 12:30pm Handbell 5:30pm Evening Circle 7pm
December 3rd	Ladies Dinner 6:00pm
December 4th	Choir 5:15pm Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00 pm
December 5th	Choir 4pm *Note Early Start Time!*
December 7th	Saturday Lunch Ministry 11:30am

The congregation can choose Angels from the Angel tree. All gifts should be returned by December 8th.

The Day Circle will meet on Monday December 2nd at 12:30 p.m. in the Westminster Room. All are welcome.

The Evening Circle will meet December 2 at 7pm in the home of Bernadine Hayes. Joyce Perez is the leader for Bible study and discussion. Join this fellowship of Christian women for an evening of preparation for the Christmas season focusing on the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Call 799-5662 if you need directions.

Great News!! The treasured church Christmas Breakfast sponsored by the Outlook Class returns this year on December 15 at 9:15 AM in Overbey Hall! There will be delicious homemade breakfast casseroles, ham biscuits, sausage biscuits, fruit, donuts, coffee cakes, juices, and coffee for everyone to enjoy. If you are able to help, speak to a class member. Plan to come with your family to celebrate the coming of the Christ!

The JOY Offering is a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. These funds are distributed to two recipients, the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping future Christian leaders of color. Gifts of over one million dollars in 2023 were distributed to support needy retired Presbyterian church workers or their spouses for assisted living, in-home care, or long-term care. Your offering will bring JOY to both older Presbyterians and students who are in need of help.

“Arise, Shine”

By Eugene Butler (1935-2024) | Text adapted from Isaiah 60

Arise, shine, for your light is come, for your light is come, for your light is come.
Arise, shine, for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is upon you!

Lift up your eyes round about, round about, lift them round about.
Lift up your eyes round about, and His glory will be seen among you!

Darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the people,
But the Lord will arise, will arise upon you and His glory will be seen upon you!

Then shall our hearts thrill and rejoice, thrill and rejoice, they shall thrill and rejoice.
Then shall our hearts thrill and rejoice, for the glory of the Lord is among us!

About the Anthem:

The late American composer, Dr. Eugene Butler, composed this piece for choir with handbells and trumpet. He selected verses from Isaiah chapter sixty and adapted them rhythmically. I love his use of threefold statements (theological superlative language) to emphasize that the Light of Christ is the brightest light in the universe. The handbells play ascending and descending scales to illustrate the excitement the earth will feel at Christ’s coming. I thought it would be equally majestic and celebratory to use trombone rather than trumpet to accompany the voices and handbells. After thinking some more, I decided the timpani would be the perfect addition to Dr. Butler’s composition to emphasize the majesty and glory of God as we prepare to greet Christ in Bethlehem in just a few weeks’ time. Many thanks to Greg Robey for writing and engraving the timpani part, as well as sharing his talents on the trombone.

As we light the candles this month, remember the brightest light of our lives is Jesus Christ. Just as we remember the song from our childhood, “this little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine,” let us remember the message. Let us shine the Light of Christ’s love on our family, friends, each other in our church family, and all our neighbors during this season of waiting and preparation.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace in the midst of our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (2 Corinthians 5:17; Book of Common Worship)

“Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us, the children of God, stand and greet those around us with a handshake, hug, or reconciling words, sharing God’s blessings and then remain standing for the “Gloria Patri”.

RESPONSE

“Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING (2 Peter 3:8-15)

“All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation.” Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ’s ministry. May these gifts help to free the captives, heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, heal the wounded. As Christ’s hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved community. Amen.

OFFERTORY: "Savior of the Nations, Come" by Robert E. Smith

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host. praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM "Arise, Shine" by Eugene Butler
Gregory Robey, trombone | Jack Garrett, timpani

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Savior God, guide us by your word and Spirit, that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ’s coming this Christmas. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: (563/594) Jeremiah 33:14-16
(836/878) 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
(746/784) Luke 21:25-36

SERMON "Not Exactly Optimism" Jackson Weller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN# 82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles’ Creed
I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

POSTLUDE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" 13th cent. Plainsong, arr. Cindy Berry

BENEDICTION

List of Session members
Class of 2024: Kathy Dolianitis, Brenna Takata*, Barbara Wilkins*, David Swann
Class of 2025: David Clark, Sam Meadema*, Eddie Blount*, Jackie Rochford*
Class of 2026: Barry Cutright, Gail Jones*, Kim Wimer
*Denotes Steering Committee Members