

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Beyond the Columns December 2024



It is hard to believe we are quickly approaching the end of 2024. Where does time go? A couple of weeks ago I heard Sara begin the yearly reminder to the children of, “Don’t forget to put your Christmas list together.” Christmas list? How can this be right? How can we be this far along in the year? It seems like yesterday I was just getting summer clothes out and now, it’s December! Time flies by too fast. Here we are approaching the seasons of Advent and Christmas. We prepare for the celebration. We decorate our church and our homes in preparation. We prepare our hearts for Jesus’ arrival. Advent is the four-week season in the Church calendar dedicated to anticipating the arrival, or “advent,” of Jesus of Nazareth, the long-awaited Messiah and King. Christians from many backgrounds celebrate this time with reflections on hope, peace, love, and joy. And while their practices may look different, all focus on the hope-filled arrival of Jesus. The season of Advent anticipates the “coming of Christ” from three different perspectives: the physical nativity in Bethlehem, the reception of Christ in the heart of the believer, and the eschatological Second Coming or return of Jesus. Here’s the thing, too often the only time we focus on this is during the short season of Advent. The reality is that the season of Advent should be daily. Every day we live in the hope, peace, love, and joy of Christ. Every day we have hope, peace, love, and joy through the work of the Holy Spirit. Every day is the opportunity to share hope, peace, love, and joy for the glory of God the Father. Don’t wait until Advent and Christmas to live in promises of God, be anticipating Christ every day.

Hope, peace, love, and joy to you this season and every day through Christ our Lord.

Jackson

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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. This tradition began in the 1950's as a fellowship for the entire congregation and resumes after a few years of Covid. 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.

It is time to **order poinsettias** in honor of or in memory of a loved one this Christmas season.

Prices are \$14 for the 6.5 inch plants.

All orders should be in the church office by Sunday December 8th.

Please call Elizabeth Walden at 434.203.7778 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





The Evening Circle will meet December 2 at 7 PM 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.

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

Clerk's Corner
November Session Highlights
At the November 12, 2024 stated session meeting,
Session approved the following:

- Transfer of Membership of Joyce Jobe to Forest Presbyterian Church.
- Approve members of the Hughes board: Dick Stoakley and Martha Walker.
- There will be NO stated session meeting in December, however, if the need arises, the clerk and moderator will have a called meeting.
- Time for future meetings will be at 6:30 PM
- David Baker will conduct an officer training for our session on January 11, 2025 from 10am-12 noon - snow date-Jan. 25.
- COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING -It was suggested that the finance, scholarship, stewardship and endowment fall under the Finance Committee, with endowment as a sub committee. Christian Ed and Membership to become the Discipleship committee, w/VIP as a sub-committee. This was to reduce the number of committees to allow more people to serve on a committee. A revised committee structure will be presented to the session in January
- John Parris (Endowment Chair) and Jackie Rochford (Treasurer) will serve as the controllers of the Endowment Fund.
- Approved the 2025 budget that will be presented to the congregation at the Wednesday night supper on January 8, 2025.
- Communion will be on Dec. 8, 2024 with Joyce Perez leading service and serving communion. Jackson Weller will be leading the service at Mercy Seat that day. Jackson will preach all other services through the rest of the year.
- The large Communion Table will be moved back to its original home and to place the 1912 Communion Table at the bottom of the steps to be used for communion.

Other announcements

- Installation of officers will take place during the worship service on January 19. The Rev. David Baker will be presiding.
- There will be a Christmas livestream of ***Behold the Lamb of God 25th anniversary tour with - Andrew Petersen. Our church will host this event and invite Mercy Seat, Unity, Holbrook, Williamson and any other churches interested in viewing this concert. It will be on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 21, 2024 at 2PM in Overbey.***
- There will be an Outlook Breakfast for the congregation on Dec. 15 at 9 or 9:30 AM in Overbey.

A complete copy of the session minutes is available in the church office. Please feel free to view them at your convenience.

Music Dept.

Advent – Wait for the Lord

Our Advent liturgy this year is entitled, “Wait for the Lord.” It is titled after the Taizé chant by the same name, composed by French organist Jacques Berthier (1923-1994). This chant often accompanies the responsive reading of Psalm 27 in worship. The lyrics are as follows, “Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!” We will be singing this refrain each week in worship as we light the Advent candles and prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth at Christmas.

Even though Advent is a time of waiting, it is also a time for giving back to our neighbors and community. It can be a wonderful time to reflect on our blessings in life and share with others in need. Another opportunity throughout the season is to spend time in community with each other through live music and special worship services. Please consider attending and supporting some of these wonderful musical programs and services – they are free and open to everyone!

Wednesday, December 4th , 7:00pm – Advent service, Overby hall (after Wed. night supper)

Thursday, December 5th , 7:00pm – “Averett Celebrates Christmas!” Pritchett Auditorium, 101 Mountain View Avenue, Danville, VA 24541
Canned food drive for God’s Storehouse

Saturday, December 7th , 7:30pm – Danville Symphony Orchestra presents “Christmas at the Cinema,” Bonner Middle School, 300 Apollo Avenue, Danville, VA 24540
Canned food drive for God’s Storehouse

Sunday, December 15th , 2:00pm – Martinsville Handbell Ensemble concert, First United Methodist Church of Martinsville, 146 East Main Street, Martinsville, VA 24112 *Free will offering*

Wednesday, December 18th , 7:00pm – Christmas carol sing along, Overby hall (after Wed. night supper)

Sunday, December 22nd , 2:00pm – Christmas caroling at the homes of our VIP church family members, Stratford House, and Roman Eagle

Tuesday, December 24th, 5:30pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Wishing each of you a peaceful Advent and a very Merry Christmas!
Ashley

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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!

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work. Prayer is the greater work.” (Oswald Chambers)

As you review our proposed 2025 missions budget, please choose at least one or two mission CO-WORKERS. Get to know them, their area of service and the populations they serve. Talk to mission committee members. Do the hard work of prayer for all of our supported missions.

GLOBAL MISSIONS \$18,460

Abukloi School (student tuition)
Christ for the Island World (Wil Cocke)
Fraisers, Ian and Stephanie (Gary Wimer)
Frontier Fellowship (Linda Copeland)
Lees, Matthew and Teresa (Bernadine Hayes)
Paracletes (Jackie Rochford)
Perrows, Bill and Wanda (David Swann)
Sydnors, Paul and Reinhild (Linda Copeland)
Wehmeyers, Donald and Martha (Linda Copeland)

LOCAL MISSIONS \$6000

God's Pit Crew
God's Storehouse
Good News Jail and Prison Ministry
Habitat for Humanity
House of Hope
The Salvation Army
Transition Pregnancy Solutions (fundraiser)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN LOCAL OUTREACH

AA
Angel Tree
Backpack Program (God's Storehouse)
Day School
Endowing People
Saturday Lunch Ministry \$12,000 (separate church line item)
Son Servants

**Freddie Lamb Fund is a source of additional support for the above missions or new missions.

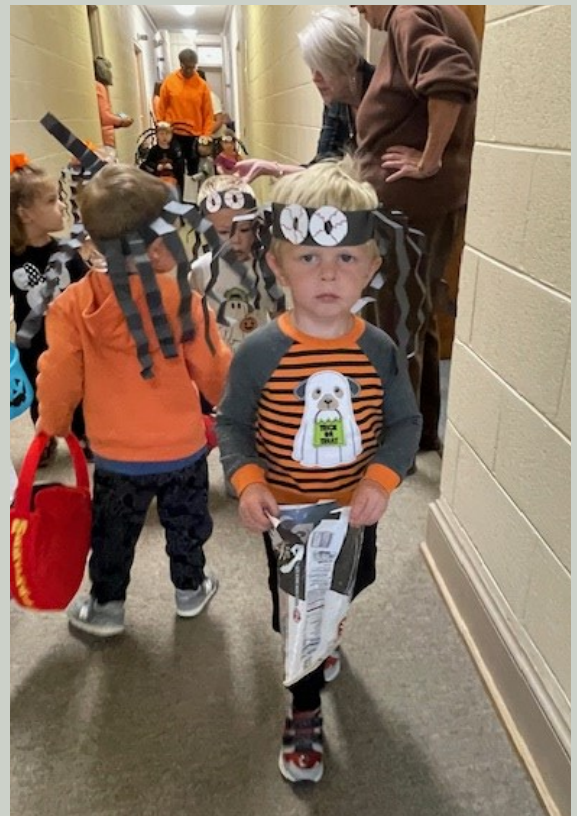
Submitted by Linda C.

DAY SCHOOL ROUND UP

October sure was a busy one at FPDS! Along with our weekly learning we spent lots of time on fun Fall activities/crafts; making candy apples, painting, reading our favorite spooky books, and wearing silly hats!

- We walked across the street to the museum for our school pictures with Alan Dalton Photography.
- We all met at the Harvest Ridge Pumpkin Patch for a day filled with hayrides, outdoor games, and a pumpkin of course!
- Our church family hosted us for Day School Sunday, and we shared a couple of our favorite songs. Lunch followed, and we even got to jump in a bounce house!
- October ended with our Halloween party, topped off with trick or treating downstairs with the CE Committee.

Needless to say, October was a blast, and we thank our church family for making it so memorable!



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open until 11am on Christmas eve. Closed on Christmas Day and December 26th. The staff wishes the entire congregation of First a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Everyone is invited to our Candlelight Christmas Eve service with Lessons and Carols which will be at 5:30pm.

The Men's breakfast and bible study will be Saturday December 21st at 8:00am.



The concert begins with songs in the round — in this year's case Jess Ray, Andy Gullahorn, Jill Phillips, Andrew Osenga, Skye Peterson, and The Arcadian Wild will sing a song or two of their own. Then there's an intermission, followed by the entire Behold the Lamb of God album sung with no breaks and no talking between songs. The concert will be Saturday December 21st at 2pm. Please invite your friends and neighbors! Mercy Seat, Unity, Holbrook and Williamson will also be invited!



Congratulations to Ben Lowther for completing basic training! He will now continue on to the next level of training and his MOS! So proud of Ben!!

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 of west downtown.

You can reach us at
(434) 792-7822 or
admin@fpcdanville.com

Youth Group News

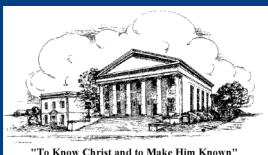
Youth Group will meet Dec 4th and 18th
Youth Lunch Ministry December 28th
Youth help with Angel Tree December 14th
Youth Christmas Party December 15th



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"To Know Christ and to Make Him Known"