

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

Pastor	Joyce Perez
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	Eddie Blount
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Ray Beale
Greeter	David Swann
Side door/Offering	Barbara Wilkins

BUDGET UPDATE

December 1 - 31 FY 2024

Contributions	\$59,889.64	\$377,286.79
Expenditures	\$41,994.24	\$507,382.92

List of Session members

Class of 2025: David Clark, Sam Meadema*, Eddie Blount*, Jackie Rochford*

Class of 2026: Barry Cutright, Gail Jones*, Kim Wimer, Ava Barrett

Class of 2027: Barbara Wilkins, Joan Reynolds, Pat Pinckney, Kent Shelton

***Denotes Steering Committee Members**

Trustees: Bob Newnam(27), Ray Beale(26), Gary Wimer(25)

First Presbyterian Church

February 2, 2025

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

4th Sunday of Epiphany ~ February 2, 2025

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Down to the River/Shall We Gather at the River?"
Traditional American tunes, arr. Pepper Choplin

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Leader: Love is patient.

People: Love is kind.

Leader: Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

People: Love does not insist on its own way.

Leader: Love is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing.

People: Love rejoices in the truth.

Leader: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

People: Love never ends.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord who loves us without boundaries.

INVOCATION

Everlasting Father, thank you for your faithfulness throughout the generations. By faith, we see your mighty hand in creation and in the lives of your people throughout history. By faith, your children have followed you through the wilderness. By faith, your people have called out to you for peace and mercy. By faith, in Jesus, your children have been rescued from sin. Help us to have faith in your promises. Help us to fix our eyes on you as we run the race of life. Help us to walk by faith and not by sight. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN# 693

Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Monday February 3rd

Day Circle 12:30pm

Evening Circle 7pm (see below)

Tuesday February 4th

Handbells 5:00pm

Ladies Dinner 6:00pm (weather permitting)

Property Committee Meeting 6:00pm

Wednesday February 5th

Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00pm

Thursday February 6th

Bible Study 10:30am

Choir 4:30pm

Saturday February 8th

Saturday Lunch Ministry 11:30am

Our weather policy Please use your own judgement when there is inclement weather. First Presbyterian Church will always be open for worship.

We will have pulled pork, slaw, mac & cheese, string beans, salad, and a delicious dessert for our Wednesday Night Dinner. Team 3 will be in charge. Please use the reservation form in the bulletin or call the office by noon Wednesday if you plan to attend.

The Evening Circle will meet Monday February 3rd at the home of Ava Barrett, at 7pm. All women are invited to the Bible study with Joyce Perez as our leader and fellowship with other members.

“Give Us Love”

Lyricist: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885) | Composer: Stan Pethel (b. 1950)

Love is kind and suffers long, Love is meek and thinks no wrong,
There is nothing quite as strong; Lord, please give us love.

Prophecy will fade away, melting in the light of day,
Love will ever with us stay; Lord, please give us love.

Give us love and fill us so, that the world will surely know,
We belong to you, help us love the way you taught us to.

Faith will vanish into sight, hope be emptied in delight,
Love in heav'n will shine more bright; Lord, please give us love.

Faith and hope with love we see joining hand in hand agree,
But the greatest of the three surely must be love.
Give us love, give us love, give us love.

About this Hymn:

The lyrics of this anthem are taken from the hymn, “Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost” by Christopher Wordsworth, nephew of the poet William Wordsworth and the son of an Anglican rector. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge and excelled as an academic and athlete. He became a parish priest alongside his many academic accomplishments. Wordsworth published thousands of writings, many in prose, including at least 127 hymns.

Contemporary American composer Stan Pethel adapted Wordsworth’s poem to fit the metrical index of this composition for two-part voices and piano. While learning this anthem, the choir appreciated its interesting, syncopated rhythms and pentatonic harmony. I love Dr. Pethel’s theological depth as he inserted the sung prayers, “Give us love and fill us so that the world will surely know, we belong to you. Help us love the way you taught us to.” He ended with the threefold superlative petition, “Give us love.” His talents have been duly recognized as he has published more than 1,300 pieces of music with over thirty publishers. Dr. Pethel served on the faculty of Berry College in Rome, Georgia for forty-three years where he taught music theory, arranging, composition, world music, and low brass lessons. He also worked as a music minister and received many ASCAP Standard Awards for his compositions. His dedication to glorifying God and serving others through the gift of music is truly commendable and inspirational.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we doubt your capacity to work through us. We hold on to fears that we are unworthy to speak your words, so we stay silent even as your Spirit pulls at our tongues. We struggle to fathom the wholeness of your claim over us, so we ignore the light of your love as it emerges in the dark places of our lives. We seek refuge in temporary towers, and are numb to the grasp of cruelty. Forgive us. Help us to trust you, to lean upon you, to speak your word to a weary world and accept the completeness of your loving claim on our lives.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on 1 Corinthians 13:7)

Hear the good news: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. We know this love through Jesus Christ, and by this love, we know that we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!** God has poured out love upon us, and we have received forgiveness for our sins. We can now live in peace! May mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

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 (based on 1 Corinthians 13:7-8)

For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. All that is, all that was, and all there will be belongs to God. Let us now return to God in part what is God’s in whole.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (based on Jeremiah 1:4-10)

Holy One, you are the giver of our lives. You know us completely, and you accept from us no weak excuses. Take these gifts, offered from our labors, our commitments, and our collections of interest. Transform them from temporal potential into your love at work in this tired world that thirsts for your Word. Amen.

OFFERTORY: "When Israel Was in Egypt's Land" GO DOWN MOSES
African American Spiritual, arr. Melva W. Costen

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 "Give Us Love" Christopher Wordsworth/
Stan Pethel

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way. Clear our minds of daily distractions. Fill our hearts with the humility we need to ear and receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: (533/563) Jeremiah 1:4-10
(727/765) Luke 4:21-30
(813/855) 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

SERMON "The Most Excellent Way" Joyce Perez

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN# 697 Take My Life

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S CHILDREN

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 "Standing in the Need of Prayer" arr. Jason W. Krug

BENEDICTION