

# First Presbyterian *Church*

BEYOND THE COLUMNS  
FEBRUARY 2025

## Jackson's Pen

It's hard to believe the first month of 2025 has ended so quickly. February is here and with it the theme of love (Valentine's Day being the main motivator here). Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthian about love, he says this:

1 Corinthians chapter 13:1-3 English Standard Version

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

### Inside this issue

- **Pg.3 Music Director**
- **Pg. 5 Mission Committee**
- **Pg. 4 Happy Birthday!**
- **Pg. 6 Flower Committee**
- **Pg. 6 Presbyterian Women**
- **Pg.5 Session Update**
- **Pg. 4 Youth**
- **Pg. 7 Day School**

continued next page

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

When Paul writes this, his motivation is describing how useless and even destructive our actions can be and spiritual gifts are when not applied from the standpoint of love. The love Paul uses in this passage is the Greek word *agape*, often described as unconditional love. It’s unconditional in the sense that it doesn’t depend on the one being loved, but on the commitment of the one acting. Paul then describes what this unconditional love looks like (the same love that God has for us, we should have for others).

Paul sums it up: Love never fails. Christians may fail to love, as the Corinthians have clearly demonstrated, but God’s kind of love will always be effective. And unlike spiritual gifts, which will no longer be needed when Christ comes, love will last forever. While February is a month focused on love, let us learn to love each other with the same love that God has for us, a love that says, “I’m here with you, I’m not going anywhere, and there is nothing you need to do to earn my love.” I wonder what the Church would look like if we loved as we were called to love?

*Jackson*

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## **February – Worship and Pray Together**

It is hard to believe the first month of the year is already over! I hope you have enjoyed the beautiful snow while staying warm and safe! February 1 st marks the beginning of Black History Month. Throughout month, members of our choirs will sing and play several spirituals including, “Go Down, Moses,” “Let Us Break Bread Together,” and “There Is a Balm in Gilead.” I would like to thank my husband, Gregory Robey, for allowing the free use of his choral arrangement of “There is a Balm in Gilead” (circa 2012). Prayerfully, I am also preparing some solo organ arrangements of gospel songs and spirituals by the American composer, Jason Krug.

On the first Sunday of February each year, the Presbyterian Church observes, ‘Remember Our Chaplains’ in celebration of Four Chaplains Day, February 3rd . This observation began February 3, 1943, after four U.S. Army chaplains gave up their life jackets to save others when the USAT Dorchester sank from a torpedo strike. On this observation, we are asked to pray together for the more than 150 teaching elders serving as chaplains in the United States military, Federal Bureau of Veterans Affairs, Federal Bureau of Prisons, and other national departments. We are encouraged to pray also for all U.S. chaplains. Below is a prayer I adapted from the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel.

### **A Prayer for Chaplains**

Glorious God, you call us to love and serve, not only with words, but also in presence and actions. Lord, you surround us completely in time, space, and spirit. No matter where we go, you journey with us and use us to reveal your grace and mercy.

We pause to lift your beloved who serve as chaplains. Whether they serve in the military, health care, hospices, palliative care, prisons, with first responders, in commercial industry, or another setting, guide and protect them and magnify your grace through them. Through your chaplains open the eyes of those who fail to see your presence; encourage souls overcome with fear and worry; refresh those wearied from devotion to the works of healing, protecting, providing, and defending. Through your chaplains assuage the anguish of death; give hope during joy and sorrow, chaos and calm, success and failure, rest and exhaustion.

Provide your chaplains with endurance and protect them when they serve in heart wrenching, anxious, and dangerous places. Lord, provide your chaplains with words of comfort and truth, whether they sit beside families of loved ones, staffs of institutions, or leaders of people. May they effuse the peace that comes only from you. Encourage your chaplains to embrace their significance as they help all people. Embolden chaplains to persevere in their essential calling. Gracious God, we give thanks for chaplains. Amen.

### **Personal Request for Prayer**

I recently learned I was chosen to attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women with the Presbyterian Women’s delegation. I will attend online training during February. On March 6th I will travel to NYC, March 7 th - 8 th I will attend in person orientations, and March 10th - 14th I will serve in person at daily worship and the commission. I am planning to travel home March 15th. I will serve the commission virtually March 17th - 21st while working here at FPC. I would deeply appreciate prayers for focus, wisdom, and safety.

Peace of Christ, *Ashley*



1 Sara Weller

2 Ray Beale

6 James Gill, Jr.

8 Olivia Walthall

11 Virginia Jones

16 Adjowa Kassa

19 Brooke Atkinson

21 Jean Roman

Jill Perez

25 John Parris, Jr.

27 Bernadine Hayes

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

# Youth Group

Youth will meet:

February 5,12,19, and 26

Lunch Ministry

February 22nd

## Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast & bible study will meet

February 22nd at 8:00 am.

# Session Action Items

Session approved the following at its monthly meeting for January

- To increase Day School fees for the 2025-2026 School Year as outlined in the CE report.
- To place the money in the General Fund as a contribution to help offset budgeted costs for Overby window treatments and Missions (SLM and Foreign/Local Mission Support).
- Session approved the 2025 Special Offering Requests
- Session approved a special collection to raise \$1,200 in donations to match the budgeted \$1,200 for the purchase of a congregational set of Glory to God: Presbyterian Hymnals.
- Create a Committee for the 200th year anniversary - December 31, 2026  
The process will begin by creating a committee which will be open to all members of the congregation.

A complete copy of the minutes is available for congregation review in the church office.

---

## Mission Committee

Open Arms Foundation

Missionary Rev. Bill and Wanda Perrow

How thankful we are to support the church with his mission work in Columbia, South America. The home for boys helps meet the needs of the street children. Reading from John 17:11b *Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one.*

Here are some of the ways you can pray for the Perrows:

That all of the “our” boys will have their own true faith in Christ as they grow up on the farm.

That the staff will be encouraged in the Lord and will continue to work to instill faith in Christ in the boys’ hearts.

That Bill and the Board of Directors will have wisdom as they continue to steward and make decisions for the Foundation.

Please continue praying for provision for all the boys at the farm.

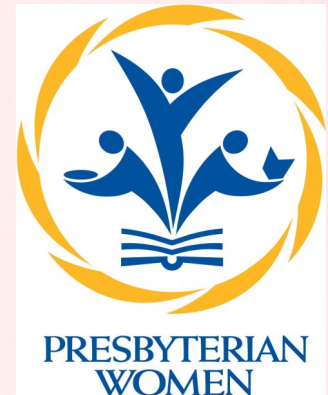
Please pray for protection for the boys at the farm and all the animals from any spiritual, physical or mental attack from the enemy.

~Submitted by David Swann



If you are interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary, please contact Brannon Blount at 434-334-9935 or [brannon\\_blount@yahoo.com](mailto:brannon_blount@yahoo.com) for the dates available.

You will notice a change in the sanctuary. Session approved moving the communion table back to its original location in the chancel at the last meeting, and the move has been made. The table was moved onto the sanctuary floor to eliminate having to navigate the steps in the chancel while carrying the communion elements. We will continue to serve communion from a table in front of the chancel however we will use the original 1912 communion table. The 1912 communion table will be placed in front of the chancel on Sundays when communion is served. On Sundays when communion is not served the 1912 table will be just outside the sanctuary on the Sutherlin side. When you have an opportunity, please take note of how the design of the 1912 communion table matches the design features of the pulpit chairs and the baptismal font (all original to 1912).



The Evening Circle will meet at the home of Ava Barrett Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. All women are invited to attend for the bible study with Joyce Perez and fellowship with other members.

For information you may call Bunny Hayes, 799-5662.

The Day Circle will meet at 12:30 February 3rd in the Westminster room. All are welcome.

# Day School Round Up

Thanksgiving season at FPDS was a flurry of activity! We decorated with turkeys, wore Pilgrim hats, and sang a lot of songs about turkeys! We gave thanks to God for all that he has provided, and broke bread with our friends.

- We made centerpieces for the Community Thanksgiving lunch with our handprints and gourds.

- We had a delicious Thanksgiving feast of our own provided by the school. It was a great way to start off our break, and a great rehearsal for Thanksgiving Day.

December was filled with carols, decorating, glitter, snowmen, santa hats, Nativity scenes, and Santa, You name it, we covered it! We never forgot that Jesus is the reason for the season!

- We got to wear our pj's to school one day, and watch Frosty the Snowman. There were lots of smiles, popcorn and cookies that day!
- Our moms even got together after hours at Ms. Rhoda's house for a cookie exchange. We were not invited. Apparently it's important for moms to have a night out sometimes!
- We wrapped all of our festivities up with our Christmas program- and it was a blast! Ms. Ashley and all of our teachers worked with us until we had our parts learned, and our songs perfected. Our families loved it and rewarded us by bringing lots of good food for us to feast on. It was a great day and thank you to the CE Committee for serving all of us and making sure the show went off without a hitch,

That's a wrap on our Holiday season, Can't wait to share our upcoming adventures with you!

*the Day School Kids*

## 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](mailto:admin@fpcdanville.com)

Office hours are

Monday– Thursday 9 am—1 pm

## House of Hope

The session approved at its last meeting the offering collected at the Ash Wednesday service to be designated to the House of Hope fundraiser “Coldest Night of the Year.” Please mark your calendar for March 5th to attend this service.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

937 Main Street

Danville VA

24541-1809

Website: [www.fpcdanville.com](http://www.fpcdanville.com)

Phone: 434.792.7822

Email: [admin@fpcdanville.com](mailto:admin@fpcdanville.com)