

# Beyond the Columns

First Presbyterian Church  
January 2025

I cannot believe 2025 is here! Where does time go? With a new year comes the time-honored tradition of New Year Resolutions. I hate New Year Resolutions; I hate them because the overwhelming majority of people (myself included) don't follow through with them. We are left with this feeling of failure (over something that actually was probably good for us to do) and we just forget about trying to attempt it again. But you know what I think we can do, I think we can pray that God will give us new zeal for this new year. A zeal to love Him and love others unabashedly, a zeal like Jesus'. To show and share God's love and to speak in truth and love to a world that needs to hear God's message of the Good News of the saving grace of Jesus the Christ. To not care what people think, it's clear Jesus wasn't concerned about what people might think about him, he was only concerned about people being able to worship God. I have found that our biggest zeal killer is the worry over what people will think about us if we speak truth in love, and speak the Good News of God's love for them. But here is the reality... Do you know what happens after your funeral? In a few short hours the crying will die down, and your family will make plans with your relatives and some of your friends to share a meal. Some of your relatives are going to be discussing current events as they eat and share that meal. They are going to talk about how they don't get together enough and make loose plans for a family reunion that more than likely won't ever happen. Some people will call your family to tell them they couldn't make it in person to the funeral because of some emergency, other people are going to start making travel arrangements to go back to their own homes. Someone in your family is going to start arguing over something that doesn't matter (you probably know who), and they'll tell stories and laugh. Eventually the crowd is going to go their separate ways. Every once in a while, your cell phone will ring from people that didn't realize you had died. In a few days your children will go back to work, your employer will begin to search for your replacement.

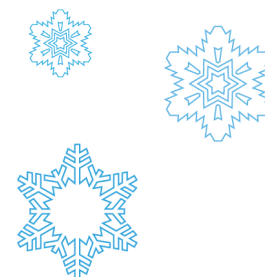
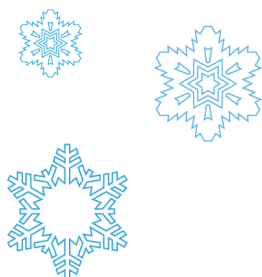
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There will be new elections, new scandals, and the traffic on Central Blvd and Riverside Dr will be the same. The NFL, NBA, MLB will start new seasons just as planned, in six months your spouse will be watching a comedy on Netflix or Hulu, and they'll start laughing. The first anniversary of your passing will be remembered and honored by family. However, you will be forgotten at an astonishing pace, not by everyone, but by more people than you can believe. Everyone's life will go back to normal, but in the blink of an eye years will have gone by, there will be very few people left who remember you. So, if people forget you so easily, why do you care what they think? Many of us spend our whole life worrying about what people think about us, they don't and they won't. People need to hear the good news of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, people need to see God's love for them through you, people need to be loved, and that isn't wrapped up in worrying over what they will think about you when you speak the truth and love of God to them. We need the zeal that consumed Jesus in the temple, where he didn't care what people thought because he knew they needed to see and experience God's love. We need to love with that kind of zeal; loving God and loving others. I pray that your goal for this year is to be consumed with a zeal for God's love. A zeal to love God and love others, with no remorse, no shame, unabashedly embracing God's love and truth and sharing it with everyone.

A new zeal for a new year.

*Jackson*



 **THANKS** 

Many, many, many thanks to the Outlook Class for hosting an outstanding breakfast this year! It was so wonderful to bring this long-standing tradition back! Over the years, attending the Outlook Breakfast fast became the moment when I knew the Christmas Season was truly here. Thank you for the wonderful blessing of great food and fellowship!!!

*Jackson*

# Mission Update

The **House of Hope**, one of the First Presbyterian Church's local missions, is Danville's only emergency shelter for homeless adults and their families. Located on Ridge and Patton Street, the program has served almost 400 people in 2024. The upstairs section, Norma's Place, shelters women and their children. Downstairs, Phil and Fran's Place, serves men and their children and includes two larger rooms for larger families. Norma's Place allows adults with children to remain in the facility 24 hours per day; Phil and Fran's Place stays open during extreme weather conditions for all guests. House of Hope provides emergency shelter for adults and children for up to 30 days along with breakfast, dinner, hygiene products, and a safe, caring facility. Guest supervisors and managers work with guests during their stay to make plans for finding longer term housing and to connect with needed services.

While not a Christian facility, it operates with Christian values of love, kindness and mercy. Operating a daily facility providing these services is expensive. Costs are covered through grants, donations from businesses, groups, and churches ... and lots of individual donations. Another source is the House of Hope's primary fundraiser, Coldest Night of the Year, scheduled at 5:00 p.m. for February 22, 2025. First Presbyterian Church supports this event by sponsoring a team (join us – walk is non-competitive and either 1 mile or 3 miles) – we are the FPC Chili Walkers. Why that name? Because we provide chili and cornbread (Jackson style) for participants after the race. You can walk and raise funds, support one of our other walkers, and/or help serve chili after the event. FPC also has donated its Ash Wednesday Service offering to the CNOY event. This year, Ash Wednesday is March 5.

Walking in late February at 5:00 p.m. may seem questionable. What many have found though is how, while walking the route in the cold dusk what it must be like for homeless adults and children to walk along in the dark – without light, without food, without adequate clothing. Through your efforts, God helps House of Hope provide warmth, food, clothing and hope – and more importantly the Light of our Lord.

~Submitted by Jackie R.

## 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, Ava Barrett

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

Trustees:

Class of 2027: Bob Newnam

Class of 2026: Ray Beale

Class of 2025: Gary Wimer

Nominating Committee 2025:

Kent Shelton & Jackie Rochford (co-Chairs)

Kathy Dolianitis

Alex Walthall

Erin Parris

Gary Wimer



# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

I hope each of you had a very merry Christmas! Looking ahead into January, we will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 5, 2025, as that will be the closest Sunday to January 6<sup>th</sup>. Epiphany comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia* which means manifestation of God. It has linguistic roots in ancient words for sunrise or dawn. The star that guided the magi to the Christ child is an important symbol showing that Jesus is the Light of the World. At Christmas we celebrated God coming to earth, and at Epiphany we will celebrate the light of Christ shining on all humankind. We will be reminded to show Christ's love to the world – witnessing God's true Light and Life to all.

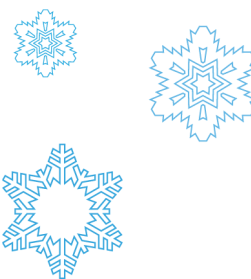
January 5<sup>th</sup> is also the twelfth and final day of the liturgical season of Christmas. If you'd like one more chance to reflect on the birth and majesty of Christ, please join us for a special musical performance. Danville Area Choral Arts Society will present Handel's Messiah to celebrate Twelfth Night and Epiphany. This will be a free concert – all are welcome! Please join us – several of our musicians from First Presbyterian will be participating in the chorus and the handbell ensemble.

Details follow:  
Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm  
Handel's Messiah by Danville Area Choral Arts Society

Accompanied by strings, bassoon, and keyboards  
Handbell selections by DACAS Ringers

St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
3090 North Main Street,  
Danville, VA 24540

Hope to see you there to celebrate the glory of the Lord!  
Happy New Year 2025!  
Ashley





3 Dick Stoakley

7 Barry Cutright

9 Martha Mallery

11 Gail Ramey

13 Bob Willeford  
Kim Meadows

14 Madeline Parris

15 Barbara Newnam

16 Lia Argyrakis  
Hunter Cutright

20 Grace Litzenberg

22 John David Parris

25 Lois Lea Paalman

31 Maggie Weller

Anniversaries: January 3 Robert & Kim Clifton

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



## Baked Blueberry Lemon French Toast

### Ingredients

1 (12-count) package KING'S HAWAIIAN Original Hawaiian Sweet Dinner Rolls, cubed

1 cup blueberries

1 ½ cups milk

3 large eggs

2 tablespoons maple syrup, or more, to taste

1 tablespoon lemon zest

1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

For the crumb topping

¼ cup all-purpose flour

¼ cup brown sugar, packed

½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

¼ cup unsalted butter, cut into cubes

2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

### Instructions

Lightly coat a 9 x 13 baking dish with nonstick spray. Place a layer of bread cubes evenly into the baking dish. Top with blueberries in an even layer, repeating 2 more times and ending with a layer of bread.

In a large glass measuring cup or another bowl, whisk together milk, eggs, maple syrup, lemon zest, vanilla, cinnamon and nutmeg. Pour mixture evenly over the bread cubes. Cover and place in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

To make the crumb topping, combine flour, sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Add cold butter and toss to coat, using your fingers to work the butter into the dry ingredients until it resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle the crumb topping evenly over the bread cubes.

Place into oven and bake for 35-45 minutes, or until golden brown.

Serve immediately, sprinkled with confectioners' sugar, if desired.

\*\*I omitted the nutmeg, mainly because I didn't have it when I made it and I think my rolls, were not fresh and it works better if it is not so soft. I used the brand from Aldi which was fine. I only did two layers. 1/2 bread, 1C blueberries, 1/2bread , 1C blueberries. I baked mine for 40 minutes. \*\*

This is one of the delicious dishes from the Outlook's breakfast.

Brenna gave us the recipe, please note she modified the recipe.



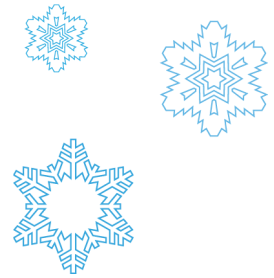
# Outlook Breakfast '24



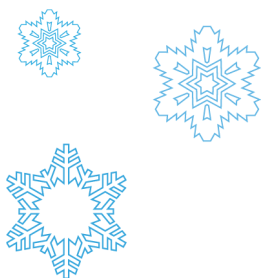
# Day School Christmas Program



Staff Picture



Children performing everyone is excited!  
The Dayschool is thankful for all the support that  
you give them! Wishing everyone a wonderful  
Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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)

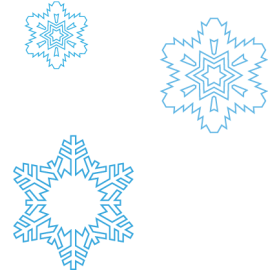
Office hours are

Monday– Thursday 9 am—1 pm

# Youth Group

Youth will meet January 8,15,22, and 29

Lunch Ministry Jan. 25th



## Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast & bible study will meet January 25 at 8:00 am.

### Our weather policy

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Danville VA

24541-1809

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"To Know Christ and to Make Him Known"