

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday February 24th	CE 4:30pm
Tuesday February 25th	Handbells 5:00pm
Wednesday February 26th	Youth 6:00pm
Thursday February 27th	Bible Study 10:30am
	Choir 4:30pm
Saturday March 1st	Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

For the past four years we have been using the Presbyterian "Glory To God" hymnal projection during Sunday morning Worship. The Worship Committee recommended to Session purchasing physical "Glory To God" hymnals for several reason:

1. Pew hymnals that correspond to our hymn projection during worship make for a more cohesive worship service (especially for guests and visitors).
2. Having the "Glory To God" pew hymnals will cut down on the amount of photocopying that must be done for special services where the screen projection is not used (i.e. funeral services, Christmas Eve, Holy Week, etc.)
3. Many beloved hymns were not included in our current blue hymnal that are in the "Glory To God" hymnal such as:
Be Still, My Soul • I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say • I Love to Tell the Story • I Need Thee Every Hour • Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me • We Praise Thee/You O God, Our Redeemer, Creator • His Eye Is on the Sparrow • It Is Well with My Soul • Leaning on the Everlasting Arms • Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling • Standing on the Promises.

Session approved \$1,200.00 in the 2025 budget to be used to supplement the purchase of "Glory To God" pew hymnals. Session also approved a special donation to collect for new "Glory To God" hymnals. So we will be collecting for new hymnals now through March 21st, if you would like to contribute to the purchase please note in checks "Hymnal." The new hymnals cost \$25.00 each. The goal is to at a minimum match the \$1,200.00 approved, however we would also like to be able to distribute new hymnals throughout the sanctuary.

Session has approved the formation of a 200 Year Anniversary Committee. As you know December 31, 2026 will mark 200 years of First Presbyterian Church as a worshipping community. If you are interested in serving on the committee to organize a celebration of this anniversary please contact Vickie in the Church Office.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	Ray Beale
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Brenna Takata
Greeter	David Swann
Side door/Offering	Sam Meadema

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

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

If you enter the hospital, your church will have no way of knowing unless you notify us. Please let us know of your hospital stay so that we may respond with pastoral care.

A Warm Welcome

We would love to have you join our church family. If you are moved to do so by the Lord, please talk to one of the elders or our pastor.

First Presbyterian Church

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*THE COLUMNS
OF THE*

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

February 23, 2025

7th Sunday of Epiphany



Welcome

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whosoever will come—this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are visiting,

We warmly welcome you to our service today and invite you to join us for refreshments after the service.

*Celebrating 198 Years of Knowing Christ
and Making Him Known*

A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad to them.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

African American spiritual, arr. Douglas E. Wagner

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 37:39-40)

Leader: Our salvation is from the Lord;

People: God is our refuge in times of trouble.

Leader: The Lord helps us and rescues us;

People: God saves us because we take refuge in our Lord.

INVOCATION

Holy Jesus, You call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not. You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us. We want the easy way, but You have given us the hard path. Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You, to allow ourselves at times to stumble, to live into the hard way so that we might fully experience Your love, grace, and peace in this world, by becoming a people full of love and grace and forgiving others. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN# 819

Be Still, My Soul

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you have commanded us to love you above all and to have no other gods. You have called us to love others as you love them. But we are personally and socially deformed by the love of other “gods” – the false gods of prosperity and materialism, racial and ethnic privileging, gender exclusivity, and nationalistic imperialism. Forgive us our sins and transform us by your Spirit so that we might learn to love as you love and live as people baptized as your own children. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel – God’s radical forgiving, transforming and justice-seeking love will not let us go and is ever bringing resurrection and new life. Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God’s mercy to restore our right standing as God’s own. Thanks be to God!

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

The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof. God has given us life and resources for it, so let us give in return.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, may these gifts be used as a witness to your love, peace and justice at work in the world, renewing the face of the earth.

OFFERTORY:

“Here’s One”

African American spiritual,
arr. Tom Fettke

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

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

African American spiritual,
arr. Gregory E. Robey

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the Scripture we are about to hear will become God’s Word for us in this day and age. Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

SCRIPTURE:

(35/36)

Genesis 45:3-11

(729/767)

Luke 6:27-38

(398/416)

Psalms 37:1-11

SERMON

“You Serious?”

Jackson Weller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN# 192

Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining
(Shine, Jesus, Shine)

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

“I’m Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing”

African American spiritual, arr. Jason W. Krug

BENEDICTION

About the Anthem:

This spiritual was written by anonymous enslaved musicians, likely during the early 1800s. Remarkably, the lyrics have remained largely unaltered since then. The text is rich in Scriptural allusions, containing at least fifteen Old Testament and fifteen New Testament references. The most direct references are from Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:2 and Jeremiah 46:11. Gilead was known for having excellent physicians and a pain-relieving balm made from the gum of a local tree. Many people believed the balm had miraculous powers to heal illness or injuries. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God told his people that they could not trust those powers for spiritual healing or for relief from their oppression. Only God could relieve spiritual pain. This song offers a poignant perspective on this story – enslaved people relied on God to heal the spiritual pain of oppression. His balm of love and forgiveness is freely available to every soul. Greg Robey is originally from Lynchburg, Virginia and began learning bass guitar with his father during elementary school. He later studied trombone in the Lynchburg City Public Schools and earned the Bachelor of Music in music education at Longwood University (2013). Mr. Robey continued his education at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro where he earned the Master of Music with a concentration in trombone performance (2020). Greg currently teaches music online at Germanna Community College (Fredericksburg, VA) and works as a public servant in the Danville Pittsylvania County health department. He previously taught at Longwood, UNCG’s Middle College, and Danville City Public Schools. Greg plays trombone and orchestrates big band music for the funk group Apple Butter Soul. He is the principal trombonist in the Danville Symphony Orchestra and a member of many ensembles – Martinsville Handbell Ensemble, Danville Area Choral Arts Society, DACAS Ringers, and Averett University’s band. We at First Presbyterian are blessed with Greg’s talents and generosity weekly in handbells and Chancel Choir.

There Is a Balm in Gilead”

African American spiritual | Arranger: Gregory E. Robey (b. 1991)

Refrain: There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,

There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work’s in vain,

But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. *Refrain*

Don’t ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,

And if you lack for knowledge, He’ll ne’er refuse to lend. *Refrain*

If you can’t preach like Peter, if you can’t pray like Paul,

You can tell the love of Jesus, and say, “He died for all.” *Refrain*