

# 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	David Clark
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Bernadine Hayes
Greeter	David Swann
Side door/Offering	Eddie Blount

## 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 9, 2025

11 a.m.



**937 Main Street**

**Danville VA 24541**

**434-792-7822**

**[www.fpcdanville.com](http://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

*5th Sunday of Epiphany ~ February 9, 2025*

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE**      “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”    by Cesareo Gabarain,  
harmony by Skinner Chavez-Melo

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus promises that when we gather, God is present.

**People: God is with us here. God is with us today.**

Leader: Let us praise our Creator, the Alpha and Omega, the Almighty saying,

**People: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”**

Leader: The Lord of hosts is here. Let us ground ourselves in worship.

### 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# 840**

**When Peace Like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Tuesday February 11th

Handbells 5:00pm

Session 7:00pm

Wednesday February 12th

Youth 6:00pm

Thursday February 13th

Bible Study 10:30am

Choir 4:30pm

Saturday February 15th

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.

Admin Committee will meet this morning at 9am.

Reminder~ This Sunday we will have our Souper Bowl of Caring special collection. This will be taken after worship, all donations will go to feeding our neighbors at Saturday Lunch.

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

By Doris Mae Akers (1923-1995)

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
And I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord.

There are sweet expressions on each face,  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain: Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love;

And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;

Without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived

When we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive

Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;

You’re the one to profit when you say,

“I am going to walk with Jesus all the way.”

Refrain repeats.

#### **About the Anthem:**

Doris Akers was born to an interracial couple in rural Linn County, Missouri. She began playing the piano by ear at the age of six and wrote her first song at ten. As a teenager, she performed with several of her siblings in a gospel group “Dot and the Swingsters.” In the 1940s, Doris moved to Los Angeles where she co-wrote music with Mahalia Jackson (ca. 1958) and directed the Sky Pilot Choir, an integrated gospel choir that appeared on radio and television broadcasts as well as weekly worship services. She went on to record albums under the RCA Victor label with her choir, their organist, and as a solo artist. She collaborated with “The Statesmen,” most notably on “Highway to Heaven.”

Ms. Akers moved to Columbus, Ohio in 1970. It was there she began writing, recording, and releasing about one album per year through regional Midwest record labels. In total, she released eight collections and had at least thirty-four hit songs. She toured with the Gaither group for the last several years of her life while serving as a minister of music in Minnesota. Doris Akers became known in the music industry as “Miss Gospel Music” because she mastered every aspect of creating gospel songs – vocals, keyboards, direction, arranging, composition, and publishing. In 1992, the Smithsonian Institution honored Doris Akers as “the foremost Black gospel songwriter in the United States.” In addition to “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit,” another song by Ms. Akers is included in Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal – “Lead Me, Guide Me.”

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Lord of hosts, Jesus of Galilee, Holy Spirit, forgive us for the ways we have fallen short. You ask us to look to the margins and care for the lost; we center ourselves. You ask us to give away; we grab for more. You ask us to love one another; we cannot see beyond our divisions. The world is full of violence, from the macro to the micro. Forgive us. Help us. We call on you, our beloved, our help, our God, our hope. Hear our silent confessions now.**

#### **SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved, God hears us when we cry out. God knows our hearts, despite our failures, and treasures the beings that we are. You are forgiven. We are forgiven. You are loved. We are loved. Let us live in this peace and find the courage to try again to bring God’s kingdom into being, knowing that we will fail again but we are transformed by our small acts of trying.

#### **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**

We are called to participate in God’s abundance through the choices we make with our time, our talents, our emotions and our physical resources. Let us honor God with our offering.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, you are the source of all love, power and justice. Our world is broken, in need of your love, your light. Take these offerings and multiply them so they may bless others. Bless those who give and those who receive, that they may know you better.

**OFFERTORY:** "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"  
African American Spiritual, arr. Krug

**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's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" by Doris Akers

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy God, as we prepare to read your living Word, open our hearts, our ears and our eyes that we may encounter your Spirit.

**SCRIPTURE:** (467/444) Psalm 138  
(765/728) Luke 5:1-11  
(856/815) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**SERMON**

"Changed"

Jackson Weller

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**HYMN# 169**

**Dear Lord and Father of Mankind**

**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**

"Lord, I Know I Been Changed"

African American Spiritual, arr. L. Shackley

**BENEDICTION**