

**About the Anthem:**

Hal H. Hopson was born in Mound, Texas into a family of thirteen children in which playing music was the primary pastime. His first piano teacher was his older sister, Merle, whom he credits for much of the musical and personal influence on his life. His popular hymn tune, MERLE’S TUNE, was named in her honor. Hal first played for worship services at age thirteen; he went on to graduate from Baylor University (B.A.) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.S.M.). Mr. Hopson has been a working church musician throughout his life, as well as a conductor-clinician at many choral workshops and festivals. He served as Professor of Church Music at both Westminster Choir College and Scarritt Graduate School. Mr. Hopson served on the Symposium for Church Composers sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Milwaukee as well as the Task Force on Psalmody sponsored by the PCUSA, which resulted in the official Psalter for our denomination.

Hopson is one of the most prolific composers of church music during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. He has published over 3,000 pieces of music with more than thirty publishers. Hal writes for every sacred genre: children, youth and adult choirs, organ, piano, harpsichord, handbells, hymn tunes, responsorial Psalm settings, and liturgical services. One of Hopson’s cantatas, God with Us, was chosen by the Kennedy Center to be placed into a time capsule during the American bicentennial celebration in 1976. It will be opened and performed at the country’s tercentennial in 2076. Many of Hopson’s hymn tunes, arrangements, and settings can be found in our hymnal, Glory to God, as well as our choral and handbell libraries. His compositions are accessible to nearly all musicians, and yet they are beautiful, fresh, and interesting.

“Gentle Shepherd, Kind and True”

by Hal H. Hopson (b. 1933) | based on Luke 15

Gentle shepherd, kind and true, cares for all, not just a few.

He seeks the lamb that’s lost and cold,

and brings it back within the fold.

Sheep were in the fields of green,

yes, ninety-nine Luke said were seen,

But on that day the news went ‘round,

one small sheep could not be found.

Now I sing this happy song, I sing it loud, I sing it strong;

The God who made the land and sea loves a little child like me.

Gentle shepherd, kind and true, cares for all, not just a few.

He seeks the lamb that’s lost and cold,

and brings it back within the fold.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tuesday April 1st Handbells 5:00pm  
Property Committee 6:00pm  
Ladies Dinner 6:00pm  
Wednesday April 2nd Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00pm  
Thursday April 3rd Bible Study 10:30am  
Choir 4:30pm  
Saturday April 5th Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

If you are interested in serving on the 200 Year Committee, please contact the church office.

If you are applying or reapplying to college-it’s time to get your scholarship application from FPC. Call the church office for more info. We will email or mail you an application today! Deadline is April 30th!  
~ Scholarship Committee

We will have baked spaghetti, salad and a fantastic dessert for our Wednesday night dinner. Team 2 is in charge. Please use the reservation form in the bulletin or call the office by noon Wednesday if you plan to attend.

**SERVING TODAY**

Minister of Discipleship Jackson Weller  
Music Director Ashley Stanley-Robey  
Sound Sam Meadema  
Video Alex Walthall  
Liturgist Nancy Clayton  
Greeter Ava Barrett  
Side door/Offering Joan Reynolds

**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)

**BUDGET UPDATE**

	February ‘25	FY 2025
Contributions	\$9,961.12	\$82,359.33
Expenditures	\$26,149.49	\$70,411.70
Difference	\$(-16,188.37)	\$11,947.63

*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.

*THE COLUMNS  
OF THE*

# First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

**March 30, 2025**

**4th Sunday in Lent**



## 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.**

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

**First Presbyterian Church**

937 Main Street, Danville, VA 24541-1809—434-792-7822

E-Mail: admin@fpcdanville.com

# 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 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

W. Bradbury/C. Callahan

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 32)

Leader: In times of trouble, in days of fear,

**People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

Leader: When we are lost and lonely, not sure of our place,

**People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

Leader: When we are hard-hearted and cynical,

**People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

Leader: When we struggle to believe God’s promise of redemption.

**People: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

Leader: Together we look to God to teach us the way we should go.

**People: Steadfast love surrounds us, as together we place our trust in the Lord.**

### INVOCATION

Loving God, it was said of the Prodigal Son that he “came to himself.” Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to You. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect so that we might be more fully human. Help us not to chase after an imaginary life, and to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might notice Your arms open in welcome. Amen.

HYMN# 649                      **Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Scripture promises us that no matter how far we stray from God’s ways, when we make the decision to return to God, God runs to greet us with open arms. Trusting in the never-failing mercy of the Lord, let us turn to God together by confessing our sins.

### SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Psalm 32 says: “Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are those happy people whose sins have been forgiven. Believe in the good news of the gospel and rejoice!

### 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

As people who have received the overflowing God’s mercy, we respond with gratitude in our hearts and with the dedication of our lives to God’s ways. Our offerings give us the opportunity both to express our gratitude and to commit our resources to God’s gracious purposes in the world. Let us share what we have for the good of this community and the good of our neighbors.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord of all, we give you thanks for your unfailing love. All that we have and all that we are is a gift from you, and we return it to you now with thanks and praise. Take and bless what we offer here today, that it may be used to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, liberate the oppressed, care for the suffering, and share the good news of your redeeming love with the world. In Christ’s name we pray, amen.

**OFFERTORY**    *“Improvisation on ‘The King of Love My Shepherd Is’”*

C. Callahan

### 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**    **“Gentle Shepherd, Kind and True”**

by Hal H. Hopson (based on Luke 15)

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, your mercy is wide, but our understanding is limited. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, open our minds and our hearts, that your good news may reach the deepest places within us. Renew us in your forgiving love and enliven our imaginations to possibilities for sharing that love with others. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

<b>SCRIPTURE:</b>	<b>(154/160)</b>	<b>Joshua 5:9-12</b>
	<b>(819/860)</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 5:16-21</b>
	<b>(740/778)</b>	<b>Luke 15:1-3,11b-32</b>

**SERMON**                      **“I’m Coming Home”**                      **Jackson Weller**

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**HYMN# 611**    **Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

**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**                      **“How Firm a Foundation”**    **J. Funk,**  
arr. C. Berry

### BENEDICTION