

# First Presbyterian *Church*

BEYOND THE COLUMNS | APRIL 2025

## Random Thoughts from Jackson

April begins with April Fool's Day, 1 Corinthians 4:10 says, "We are fools for Christ, but you are wise in Christ!" (These may not be the same type of fools). Paul is using the word fool to really emphasize that the Church's commitment to Christ and that Christ's message is seen as foolish by the world. Paul is writing to the church in Corinth which has become divided and prideful, valuing worldly wisdom and status over the message of Christ. Paul is really urging them to reconsider their priorities and focus on true wisdom that comes from Christ, even if it means being seen as foolish by the world. In Proverbs 3:5-6 it says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make you paths straight." God's calling us to throw out what we understand or recognize as the way to go about doing things (worldly wisdom) and to embrace the way that God would have us to do things (Godly wisdom); to trust God and not our own gut or our own understanding of the way things should be. It's trusting God when what He calls us to do doesn't make any sense at all. It's that stepping out of a boat onto water when we know perfectly well that we can't or at least shouldn't be able to walk on water, it's that rolling the stone away from Lazarus' tomb when you know he's been dead for 4 days,

continued on next page

## In this issue

- Pg. 2 Session Action Items
- Pg. 2 Presbyterian Women
- Pg. 3 Music Department
- Pg. 4 Holy Week Schedule
- Pg. 5 Youth
- Pg. 6 Day School

it's that dipping in the Jordan River seven times when you know there are cleaner rivers in your homeland, it's that going up to the mountain top to offer your son as a sacrifice when you know that he is the son God promised you, it's that staying in the prison cell when the gates have flung open and the chains have fallen off of you, it's that thing that doesn't make a lick of sense to you or the world around you, but you do it because you know that is what God would have you to do. We throw out what makes sense and we trust God because we know in our heart, we know fully, that God is faithful always and trustworthy always. As we approach the cross this month, let's throw out worldly wisdom and be fools for Christ's sake, trusting Him and knowing that He will carry us through everything (it's not as easy as it sounds, but trust God even when it doesn't make sense and seems foolish).

See you Sunday,

*Jackson*

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## SESSION ACTION ITEMS

### **From CE Committee**

Upcoming WNS changes (due to cancellations)

Joyce Perez and Jackson will lead a Lenten Bible Study on 3/19 (Team 1)

4/2 (Team 2)

No WNS on 4/16

There will be a Handbell Concert on 4/23 (Team 3)

### **From Worship Committee**

Holy Week services are scheduled for April 14-18, 2025

So far \$2195 has been raised for the hymnals



The Evening Circle will meet at the home of Harriet Beale April 7th at 7pm. All women are invited to attend for the bible study with Joyce Perez and fellowship with other members. For more information you may call Bernadine Hayes at 434-799-5662.

The Day Circle will meet at 12:30pm April 7th in the Westminster room. All are welcome.

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## **Spring Music and Worship Round Up**

This spring has been one of the most beautiful that I can recall. Everywhere I looked, trees and flowers started blooming 'right on cue' for the first day of spring. Along with warm weather and longer days, spring is filled with musical performances. Both of our church music interns will have their senior recitals this month, along with community group concerts and a special musical presentation at Wednesday night supper. I have prepared a list of several services, concerts, and recitals below. All of these are free and open to the public.

### ***Worship Services during Holy Week***

April 14-18th , Monday through Friday – We will have Holy Week services at 12:00 noon each day in the sanctuary, followed by lunch in the fellowship hall.

Tuesday, April 15th , 7pm – Tyrel Smith's Senior Percussion Recital, Grousbeck Music Center

Tuesday, April 22nd , 7pm – Kayla Stork's Senior Flute Recital, Blount Chapel

Wednesday, April 23rd , 6pm – Supper followed by a Handbell Choir Spring Recital

Friday, April 25th , 6pm – Averett University Band Spring Concert at Stratford House

(The same concert will be played again on May 2nd , below.)

Friday, May 2nd , 7pm – Averett University Band Spring Concert at Pritchett Auditorium

Saturday, May 3rd , 3pm – Danville Symphony Orchestra Spring Pops Concert,

Bonner Middle School Auditorium

Sunday, May 4th , 3pm – Martinsville Handbell Ensemble Spring Concert,

First United Methodist Church, 146 E. Main Street, Martinsville, VA 24112

### ***Notes of Thanks***

Thank you so much to everyone who donated towards the purchase of new Glory to God: Presbyterian Hymnals. We have ordered 136 new hymnals, and we expect them to arrive within the next few weeks. Thank you to everyone for your prayers, donations, and continued encouragement as I participated in the United Nations' annual Commission on the Status of Women. I will be submitting my written reflections to the PCUSA and the Presbyterian Mission at the UN by April 4th . I am looking forward to sharing some of my experience and pictures at Wednesday night supper on April 23rd , by email, and in upcoming newsletters.

### ***Happy Easter!***

We will celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 20th at 11:00am. Please invite family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate with us. Our choirs are working diligently as we prepare to lead worship. I hope to see you there and wish you a happy Easter in person!

Peace of Christ,

Ashley

The Congregation of First Presbyterian Church invites you ...



First Presbyterian is hosting the Community Services during Holy Week, April 14-April 18. A light lunch will be served at 12:30 each day.

April 14	Norbert Folwaczny, Pastor	Christ the King Lutheran
April 15	Drew Herring, Pastor	West Main Baptist Church
April 16	Dr. Ralph Hawkins, Pastor	Chair of Dept, of Religious Studies at Averett University
April 17	Vicar Andy Taminger	Ascension Lutheran Church
April 18	Joyce Perez, Pastor	Mercy Seat Presbyterian Church

If you wish to help out with the Holy Week meals,  
please see Brenna Takata. There is still one day that need some attention.

# Youth Group

Youth Group: April 2, 9, 23, 30

(No Youth Group April 16th for Holy Week)

Youth Lunch Ministry April 26th



If you are graduation high school or reapplying to college, please stop by the office and get your scholarship application. Turn in your application by April 30th. Get your application today!



3 Linda Copeland

4 Benjamin Kassa

Anne Mason

5 Philip Baughman

Will Brown

20 Luis Abreu

22 Gwen Baucom

25 Alice Saunders

30 Bracken Erwin

## Anniversaries

April 5 Ray and Harriet Beale

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

# Men's Breakfast



Men's breakfast & bible study will meet April 26th at 8:00am

# Day School Round Up

Dr Seuss week, St Patrick's Day, Community Helpers, and the 100th Day of School- we really have a lot going on at FPDS!

- We rounded out February with Dr Seuss week. Being "silly" was our assignment, and we obliged! Silly snacks, silly socks/hats, even silly crafts- all to honor Dr Seuss and his legacy.

- St Patrick's Day never fails to bring out the green in us. For our party, we ate some Lucky Charms, and some green sugar cookies. We had a hunt for the gold at the end of the rainbow...well, in our classroom - but we like to use our imagination!

- Last week we learned about Community Helpers, and how important they are to our community. They keep us safe, and we are grateful. We can't wait to thank the police officer when she comes to see us on

March 26th.

- March 26th also marks our 100th day of school. We plan on celebrating with an ice cream treat!

We really hope that you are enjoying this Spring weather as much as we are. We plan on making the most of it! Until next time....

## Divine Intervention /Divine “Newnamvention”

Thanks to Bob Newnam and crew for a great job in cleaning up the disaster that occurred Sunday morning right before worship. We praise God that no one was injured. If you didn't know– part of the ceiling fell at the ladies bathroom and caused quite a mess. God was with us as no one was in the area, a large section of plaster & drop ceiling fell. The property Committee was on site and assessed the damaged. By Tuesday the repair was completed!



## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR MARY INA RUSSELL INGRAM

**WHEREAS** on January 17, 2023, Mary Ina Russell Ingram passed from the Church Militant into the Church Triumphant, there to dwell eternally in faithful worship of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, and

**WHEREAS** for almost sixty years Ina served faithfully as a member and leader in First Presbyterian Church, Danville, and

**WHEREAS** her loyal service included Deacon, Elder, Sunday School Teacher, Chairman of the Christian Education Committee, member of the Administrative Committee, and President of Presbyterian Women (formerly Women of the Church), who recognized her achievements with the award of an Honorary Life membership in Presbyterian Women of PCUSA, and

**WHEREAS** Ina's embrace of the Great Commission included active participation in Mission Trips to Turkey, Mexico, Belize, Chattanooga (twice), and Washington, D.C. (twice), and

**WHEREAS** her Christian leadership led to her appointment as a member of the Committee on Ministry in the Presbytery of the Peaks, and

**WHEREAS** Ina was a devoted wife and loving mother to husband James Franklin Ingram, daughter Ina Carol Ingram McGee, and sons James F. Ingram, Jr., and Robert Russell Ingram, and

**WHEREAS** Ina's extensive civic involvement included president of the Wednesday Club and active membership in organizations as diverse as the Gabriella Garden Club, Shakespeare Club, and Colonial Dames, and

**WHEREAS** her devotion to education included service as a public school teacher and one of the first Executive Directors of the Danville Community College Foundation, which raises money for scholarships for needy and deserving students, and

**WHEREAS** Ina was a gracious hostess after the fashion of Mary and Martha in the New Testament, which was owing to her natural love of people, her skill in conversation, her keen sense of humor, and her familial models (Ina was the granddaughter of First Lady of Georgia Mary Ina Russell; a favorite niece of U. S. Senator Richard Russell, whom President Lyndon Johnson referred to affectionately as "Uncle Dick;" a favorite sister-in-law of Georgia Governor Ernest Vandiver; daughter of Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Robert Lee Russell; and wife of Virginia Circuit Court Judge James F. Ingram), and

**WHEREAS** Ina's deep sense of humility would have caused her to blush as she read the accolades mentioned above.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** BY THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH that we extend our heartfelt thanks to God for Ina's Christian and civic service, and that we extend our deepest sympathies to her family in her death.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be sent to Ina's sons and surviving son-in-law, and a copy published in the Church bulletin and saved in these Session minutes.



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Written by Jay Hayes



Respectively Submitted,

Brenna Takata, Clerk of Session

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BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH that we extend our heartfelt thanks to God for Ina's Christian and civic service and leadership, and that we extend our deepest sympathies to her family in her death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to her sons and surviving son-in-law, a copy published in the church bulletin, and a copy included with the Session minutes.

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

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.



It's time to spring clean your closets and bring your **casual wear clothes** you don't wear anymore to church. We have scheduled a free clothes give away for our Saturday lunch program guests for May 3rd. Bags of clothes can be left in the church parlor.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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