

About the Anthem:
O Waly Waly is a traditional English folk tune that likely originated as a love song in the early 1700s. Contemporary American composer Hal H. Hopson chose this same tune in 1971 for his canticle setting of 1 Corinthians 13, “The Gift of Love.” Beverly Easterling is a writer and voice teacher in Louisiana who is also a popular lyricist; she contributed to the 1982 Episcopal hymnal. Composer Mark Schweizer collaborated with Easterling for this two-part setting. Originally from Florida, Schweizer was well known in our area as the previous editor of the St. James Music Press in Tryon, North Carolina. The text of this anthem celebrates the beauty of creation and gives thanks for the warmth of spring. It is also deeply rooted in re-formed theology. Easterling points out that our eternal souls share the life God breathed into humankind at creation, and God is always present with us. It is a tangible blessing to stretch and grow spiritually as all of nature grows in the warm sun and nourishing rain. As Christians we get to celebrate the joy of living, the sacraments, and the presence of our Living God each time we meet together for worship.

“Eden’s Song”
Traditional English folk tune | Arr. Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)
Text by Beverly Easterling (b. 1949)

A memory of Eden stirs, and walks within the warmth of spring.
It whispers ev’ry hope God has to Life Eternal, listening.

Stretch past the gloom of winter’s grey; unfurl by faith and not by sight,
To touch the light of length’ning day that calls thee forth to green delight.

The season of new growth begins, embrace the promise we all share,
Lift ev’ry voice and celebrate, the Living God, who’s always there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Today	Missions Committee 9:00am
Monday May 19th	CE Committee 4:30pm
Tuesday May 20th	Ladies Dinner 6:00pm
Tuesday May 20th	200th Year Committee 5:00pm
Wednesday May 21st	Youth 6:00pm
Thursday May 22st	Bible Study 10:30am
	Choir 4:30pm
Saturday May 24th	Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

We will collect the Sunnyside offering this morning. This offering goes to the Sunnyside Communities Fellowship Fund. This fund provides assistance to those who have outlived their life’s savings. Thank you for your support to our seniors in need. Please make your check out to FPC and mark your check Sunnyside in the memo or use the envelopes in the window sill.

SERVING TODAY	
Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	Ray Beale
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Jackie Rochford
Greeter	Kim Meadows
Side door/Offering	Eddie Blount

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		
	April 1-30	FY 2025
Contributions	\$17,800.70	\$157,861.33
Expenditures	\$28,343.01	\$134,818.53
Difference	(-\$10,542.31)	\$ 23,042.80

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

May 18, 2025

5th Sunday of Easter



Welcome

**This church opens wide it’s doors and offers welcome
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

*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
Website: <http://www.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 **“Be Thou My Vision”** Irish folk song,
arr. Hal H. Hopson

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 148)

Leader: Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

**People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him,
all his host!**

Leader: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him,
all you shining stars!

**People: Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

**People: He established them forever and ever; he
fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

INVOCATION

Generous God, come to us now, in this time, opening our imagi-
nations to your promise for us, in us, and in all you have made.
We pray in the name of your Dream made flesh, Jesus the Christ.
Amen

*HYMN# 610 **“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you call us to your merciful, gracious love, freely
given without expectation or strings attached, like the uncon-
ditional love of a bridegroom. While we are eager to
experience your mercy and grace in our own lives, we are
quick to make our extension of your mercy and grace
conditional for others, holding court in our own hearts. We
would rather show mercy to those we judge worthy, forgetting
the new commandment to love as you have loved us. We
would rather extend grace to those who will show us grace in
return, missing the trustworthy and true nature of your bound-
less forgiveness. Forgive us, Redeeming God. And transform
our hearts with your amazing grace and unconditional love so
that our relationships and your world are transformed.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Behold: The former things have passed away, and God’s grace
flows like a river of new life. Friends, hear the good news:
through the grace of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! You are made
anew!

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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Just as God pours out new blessings without measure, let us,
with hearts overflowing with gratitude for this divine generosity
in our lives, offer ourselves and our resources for the ongoing
ministry of Jesus Christ in this new creation being ushered in.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, receive these gifts that we place before your
throne. Do more with them than we can ask or imagine, further-
ing the holy work of your new kingdom in the name of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ who revealed to us the truth of your
loving commands.

OFFERTORY **“Let’s Sing unto the Lord”** by Carlos Rosas,
arr. Raquel M. Martinez

*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

ANTHEM **“Eden’s Song”**
B. Easterling/English tune, arr. M. Schweizer

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious and Loving God, as you once declared, “See, I
am making all things new.” So now, through your Holy
Spirit, open our hearts and minds to your transforming
word in Scripture. Grant us a new vision of the height,
depth, and breadth of your trustworthy and true love, that
we may be inspired to live as faithful disciples of Jesus
Christ, reflecting the new creation you have begun in us.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE: (88/85) **Leviticus 19:9-18**
 (819/779) **Acts 11:1-18**
 (803/763) **John 13:31-35**

SERMON **“Love, Law, Grace”** Jackson Weller

HYMN# 384 **“Soon and Very Soon”**

*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 **“A Time for Joy”** by Cynthia Dobrinski

BENEDICTION

* Please stand if able.