

About the Hymns in Today’s Service:

“Lead On, O King Eternal” was written by Ernest W. Shurtleff (1862-1917) after his classmates requested that he write a hymn for their graduation from Andover Theological Seminary in 1887. This hymn can be seen as a call to be prepared to follow wherever God leads us in service. Self-taught organist and composer Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879) gave up a legal career to become a church musician. This tune, LANCASHIRE, was written for a missions festival commemorating the three-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation in England, originally set to the text, “From Greenland’s Icy Mountains” by Reginald Heber (1783-1826). It was later set to Shurtleff’s text, “Lead On, O King Eternal” in the 1905 *Methodist Hymnal*. This is how much of the English-speaking world has sung this hymn for 120 years. It is also sung by some German-speaking congregations.

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” was written in 1923 by a Methodist pastor and writer from Kentucky, Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960). He said that there were no special circumstances for his inspiration when writing this hymn; he simply wrote about the theme of the “faithfulness of God.” Chisholm was a prolific poet, having written over 1,200 poems; over three hundred of them have been published as hymns. His songs have been translated into many languages including Arabic, Chinese, German, Malayalam, Portuguese, and Spanish. While “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” is Chisholm’s most popular hymn, “Living for Jesus a Life That Is True” is a close second. The tune for “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” was composed especially for this hymn by another Methodist minister and organist, William Marion Runyan (1870-1957). In 1943, Runyan wrote about this composition, “Mr. Chisholm and I were devoted coworkers, and I wrote harmonies to some 20 or 25 of his poems. This particular poem held such an appeal that I prayed most earnestly that my tune might carryover its message in a worthy way, and the subsequent history of its use indicates that God answers prayer.”

Considered the hymn of the Reformation, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” was written and composed in 1529 by Martin Luther (1483-1546). This hymn is based on verses from Psalm 46, though many other cross-references can be made to other Psalms and other books of the Bible. The English translation was completed by Frederick Henry Hedge (1805-1890) in 1852. Dr. Hedge was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, attended college in Germany and at Harvard; after graduating from Harvard Divinity School, he became a Unitarian minister and a professor of Divinity and German literature. Despite his impressive academic and ministerial career, Hedge is most remembered for translating “A Mighty Fortress” into English. “A Mighty Fortress” has also been translated into Hebrew, Spanish, Welsh, and Yiddish. It appears in at least 437 hymnals worldwide. While it is very popular to sing, “A Mighty Fortress” on Reformation Sunday, it is sung throughout the liturgical year – a song of assurance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Today	Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
Tuesday July 29th	Ladies Dinner 5:30pm
Saturday August 2nd	Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

Looking ahead...

Worship Committee will meet immediately following church Sunday August 3rd.

Youth will start meeting Wednesday at 6:00pm on August 13th.

Thursday Bible Study starts back up on August 14th at 10:30am.

Many thanks to Kayla Stork for assisting with the music this morning!

SERVING TODAY	
Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	David Clark
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Nancy Clayton
Greeter	Pat Pinckney
Side door/Offering	David Swann

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		
	June 1-30	FY 2025
Contributions	\$46,226.42	\$221,148.01
Expenditures	\$37,170.48	\$207,956.36
Difference	\$ 9,055.94	\$13,191.65

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

July 27, 2025

7th Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome

**This church opens wide its 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>

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

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

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” Jason W. Krug

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 9 and Psalm 33)

Leader: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;

People: I will tell of your wonderful deeds.

Leader: I will be glad and exult in you;

People: I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Leader: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.

People: Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Leader: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even
as we hope in you.

INVOCATION

Lord, we surrender ourselves to You today, asking for a spirit of humility to reign in our hearts. Remove any distractions that may hinder our worship and allow us to focus solely on You. May Your grace fill us, and may our hearts be open to the transforming power of Your love. Amen.

***HYMN#269** **"Lead On, O King Eternal!"**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we pray the Lord's Prayer each week, even daily, but we do not always walk the walk. We pray that your kingdom will come and your will be done, but we are reluctant to do the work of justice and mercy that characterize your kingdom. We ask for our daily bread and then hoard as much as we can. We ask you to forgive us as we have forgiven others, but we are quick to anger and slow to forgive. Loving God, have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Help us to seek your will for our lives and walk in the way of Jesus Christ; in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Galatians 5:13)

For freedom Christ has set us free. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. 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 (2 Corinthians 8:5)

The apostle Paul commended the churches of Macedonia with these words for their generosity, “They gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us.” As a sign of our dedication to God, let us present our tithes and offerings with abundant joy for all God has done for us.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we know that every good and perfect gift comes from you. With glad and generous hearts, we give back what rightfully belongs to you. With open hearts and willing hands, may we joyfully use your gifts to share the good news of Jesus Christ, your indescribable gift to this world. Amen.

OFFERTORY Voluntary on "Beach Spring"

B. F. White/J. 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

***HYMN#39 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, your Word is our comfort in distress. It holds
your promises that give us life. Give us ears to hear your
hope and call. In the name of Jesus Christ, your Word made
flesh, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: (636/671) Hosea 1:2-10
(12/12) Genesis 18:20-32
(834/876) Colossians 2:6-19

SERMON “God’s Relentless Grace” Jackson Weller

***HYMN#275 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

***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 Voluntary on " O God, Our Help in Ages Past "

C. Callahan

***BENEDICTION**

***Please stand if able.**