



Beyond the Columns

First Presbyterian Church

JULY 2025

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM JACKSON

As the summer sun graces us with its warmth this July, our hearts are drawn to celebrations of freedom. Across our nation, we honor Independence Day with vibrant fireworks, joyful parades, and gatherings with loved ones, giving thanks for the liberties that define our country. These moments remind us of the sacrifices made for our earthly freedoms, yet as followers of Christ, we are invited to ponder a far greater liberty—one that surpasses all human achievements and endures for eternity. This is the freedom found in Jesus' redemption, the cornerstone of our faith.

In John 8:36, Jesus proclaims, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." These words resonate deeply, revealing a truth that transforms lives. The freedom Christ offers is not confined to physical or political realms; it is a profound liberation from the chains of sin, shame, and spiritual death. Through His selfless sacrifice on the cross, Jesus paid the ultimate price to redeem us, breaking the power of darkness and opening the door to a life of grace, hope, and reconciliation with God. This is the freedom that anchors our souls, no matter the circumstances we face.

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As we celebrate this month, let us pause to reflect on the magnitude of Christ's gift. Our earthly freedoms, while precious, are temporary and imperfect. The freedom we have in Jesus is eternal and complete. It empowers us to live with courage, to love without fear, and to walk in righteousness. Galatians 5:1 reminds us, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Let us embrace this calling, living as those who are truly free, unshackled by the worries of this world and filled with the peace that only Christ can give.

This July, may our celebrations be more than patriotic displays—may they be a testament to the joy and gratitude we carry as redeemed children of God. Let us show this freedom in our actions: by loving our neighbors, serving our community with humility, and sharing the good news of salvation with those who are searching. As a church family, let us come together in worship and fellowship, lifting our voices in praise for the One who has set us free. May our lives reflect the transformative power of Christ's redemption, shining as a beacon of hope in a world that longs for true freedom.

Jackson

Reminder that Son Servants will be stay at the church and serving in Danville July 14-18. You are invited to join for evening worship in the Fellowship Hall, Monday-Friday beginning around 7:00pm (schedules are a little loose with youth ministry, haha). Please be praying for the groups that will be serving in Danville.



Music Department

Finding the Extraordinary During Ordinary Time

Greetings from beautiful Montreat, North Carolina – a place that is anything but ordinary. It seems the perfect setting to contemplate the next and longest season in the church year: Ordinary Time. This season includes over thirty Sundays each year. Ordinary Time is split between a short period between Epiphany and Lent, and a much longer interval from Trinity Sunday through Christ the King Sunday (the week before Advent begins). We call this season Ordinary Time because of the Latin ‘ordinal’ numbers used for counting the weeks – first, second, third, and so on.

It can be easy to feel untethered or melancholy during a long season with no major holidays – neither civic nor liturgical. However, we can find hope and inspiration by daily walking on our Christian faith together. This is the time of year when we host our brothers and sisters from Son Servants as they do important missionary work. It is the time we celebrate, honor, and pray with our recent graduates, youth, and college students. It is the season when many of us “get away” from our usual surroundings for work or for leisure. Let’s give thanks for rest, reflection, and renewal together. Rest is part of our innate humanity. When we were created in the Image of God, we were endowed with the need for rest and Sabbath. It is part of the rhythm of our lives as the people of God.

Extraordinary Hope for Presbyterians!

- Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center has raised \$4.5 million out of the \$6 million goal for renovation and expansion (planned for 2026-2027).
- Over 1,400 people attended the 2025 Worship & Music Conference at Montreat.
- Over 350 of them are children and young people under the age of 21.
- Attendees represented thirty-nine states and at least sixteen denominations.
- In the recovery and rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Helene, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is on the front lines coordinating efforts between churches and organizations.
- First Presbyterian Church of Asheville, NC has given over \$2 million in aid following Hurricane Helene. Their church has become a center for aid – they worship surrounded by pallets of food, first aid supplies, tools, and home improvement items.
- Here at First Presbyterian in Danville, we have five working pianos and over 180 hymnals in our pews thanks to members’ generosity and stewardship.

I thank God for the chance to be part of a church which teaches, models, and values excellent worship and music. God has been so good to us. Jesus’ sacrifice merits an extravagant sacrifice from all of us – priceless time, Spirit-driven creative talents, and the precious herd of excellent instruments and committed voices.

This summer, let’s live into our identity as God’s children in need of rest. Come away from rush and hurry. Looking forward to worshipping together again soon.

Wishing you all safe travels and sweet rest,
Ashley

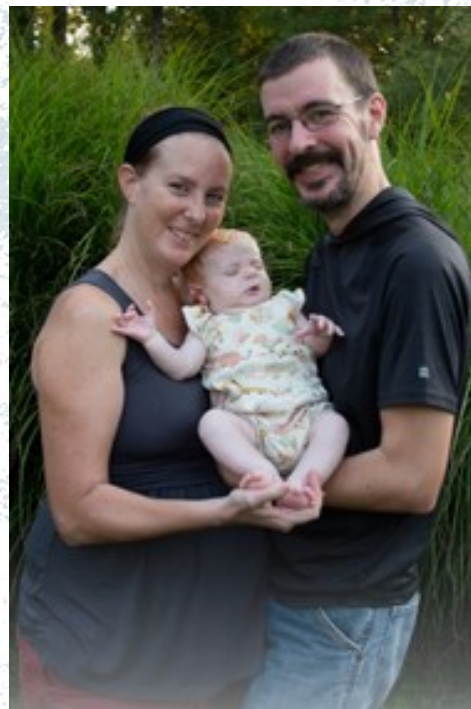
Mission Committee

News from Matthew and Teresa Lee

The Lees have had a full year of transition, moving from Cameroon to Texas and celebrating their daughter Juliette's first birthday. Adjusting to life back in America and building a team of partners have required intensive work. Matthew will continue to work with **Wycliffe Bible Translators** as a Language Technology Consultant and teach some classes at Dallas International University. Teresa seeks a teaching job. Doug Higby, Matthew's immediate supervisor, wrote the following:

"In my years with Wycliffe, I've seen time and again how crucial partnerships are. Just as 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 reminds us that the church needs diverse gifts working in unison, the ministry of Bible translation depends on people with all kinds of skills—teachers, translators, IT specialists, administrators, doctors, and more—each playing a vital role. Matthew and Teresa represent this beautifully: Matthew in technology and training, Teresa in caring for and educating children. I can testify firsthand to the eternal value of their work and the countless lives that have already been touched by their ministry."

Members of First Presbyterian continue to pray for the Lee family in their new area of service. ~submitted by Bernadine Hayes





2 Alex Garcia

Dickie Green

3 Sophie Van Valkenburg

7 Gail Davis

Elizabeth Walden

10 Ben Lowther

Davis Shelton

11 Pam Green

Laura Jones

13 Judy Hooker

25 Cliff Walden

Whitney Barrow

26 Colin Meadors

28 Mallie Walden

30 Scott Machado

31 Matthew Dolianitis

Anniversaries

July 7, 1984 Martha & Barry Cutright

July 29, 1973 Brenna & Calvin Takata

July 29, 1989 Leigh & Eddie Blount

If we've missed your special day let
us know !!

YOUTH

No Youth Group or Sunday School
for the month of July.





Thank you to my church family!

I want to thank everyone for the cards, food and other care shown me during my recent ordeal. The concern and love shown to me was very much appreciated and contributed to my recovery. God bless all of you. It's so wonderful to have my church family. I hope to be back to church very soon.

Love, *Elaine Lea*

Lois and Nancy

Day School

We remember Barbara “Bobbi” Fulton Mott, a former First Presbyterian member who started our Day School in the early 1960’s. The Day School in it’s early days was a Kindergarten, when the public schools started their kindergarten program, the Day School began it’s four year old program and a three year old class on Monday, Wednesday & Friday with one teacher and on Tuesday and Thursday with another teacher. Ms. Bobbi wrote the curriculum for the dayschool. The Dayschool was an asset for the church with many parents and children becoming members. Many of our own members have been teachers, Gwen Baucom, Lee Norman Diane Gentry and Harriet Beale, just to name a few.

Barbara “Bobbi” Fulton Mott December 20, 1922– June 15, 2025
Service will be Monday June 30th at 1:00 at Townes Funeral Home.
Interment will follow at Mt. View Cemetery.

Session Highlights

May Meeting

Session approved \$6,000 in scholarships. Congratulations to the following graduates who were awarded \$2,000 each: Bridget Belk (College of Charleston), Margaret Weller (University of South Carolina), and Rafael Garcia (Danville Community College).

Update on Clothing drive - about 80 people benefitted from the drive. Most of the women's clothes and all of the men's clothing were given away. Extra clothes were given to the House of Hope.

The Bulletin board is a work in progress with the map for outlining the location of our missionaries.

The hearing assist console is not working properly. We have 5 working systems. We need to order more. An announcement will be made to return one if anyone might have taken one home.

June Meeting

- July Meeting - There will be no July Session meeting unless there is a called meeting.
- Kent Shelton will serve as our Presbytery commissioner at the next Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian, Martinsville on June 26, 2025.
- A new folding machine has been purchased to take the place of our current one that has seen better days.
- DAR will be using the Dunlinson-Roberts room on the second Tuesday of each month from September-May at 2 PM.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DANVILLE

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

Office hours are Monday– Thursday 9 am—1 pm

The church office will be closed
Monday July 7th in observance of
Independence Day.



If you are interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary, please contact Brannon Blount at 434-334-9935 or brannon_blount@yahoo.com for the dates available.

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