

About the Anthem:

This hymn was penned in 1929 by Lesbia Scott in Britain. It was published in a collection, *Everyday Hymns For Little Children*. The hymn made its way to the United States; there retired Episcopal priest John Henry Hopkins composed a new tune for it, GRAND ISLE, named after the island community where he lived out his retirement in Lake Champlain in Vermont. “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God” with Hopkins’ new tune was included in the 1940 Episcopal hymnal. In the 1960s, it became the signature tune of BBC Scotland’s program, “Fireside Sunday School.” In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the committee to compile a new Episcopal hymnal proposed removing this hymn for ‘lack of theological profundity.’ This prompted a letter-writing campaign to keep it in the 1982 Episcopal hymnal. It was later included in the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal and remains popular in both denominations.

Composer Jane Manton Marshall was a lifelong resident of Dallas, Texas. She attended Southern Methodist University where she studied under Dr. Lloyd Pfausch. Jane Marshall later became a professor at SMU, teaching English, choral arranging, music theory, and choral conducting. As a composer, she was nationally recognized ecumenically. Jane published more than two hundred pieces of choral music; mentored other famous composers including Natalie Sleeth and John Thornburg; and collaborated with Alice Parker and Carlton Young. Jane’s treatment of this hymn is very compelling. She seamlessly combines a new tune in the key of A minor with Hopkins’ tune in the relative key of C major. She chose to arrange it in cut-time, which gives it a brisk, swingy feel compared to the repeated straight quarter notes in hymnal versions of Hopkins’ tune.

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

Composers: Jane M. Marshall (1924-2019)  
and John H. Hopkins (1861-1945)  
Lyricist: Lesbia Scott (1898-1986)

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,  
Who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,  
and one was a shepherdess on the green:  
They were all, all of them saints of God and I mean,  
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and his love made them strong;  
And they followed the right, for Jesus’ sake,  
the whole of their good lives long.  
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,  
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:  
And there’s not any reason... no, not the least,  
why I shouldn’t be one too.

They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still,  
The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus’ will.  
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,  
In church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea,  
For the saints, saints of God are just folk like me,  
and I mean to be one too.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad  
Mission Committee meeting 9:00am in Westminster this morning  
Tuesday August 19th Ladies Dinner 5:30pm  
Wednesday August 20th Youth 6:00pm  
Thursday August 21st Bible Study 10:30am  
Thursday August 21st Choir 4:30pm  
Saturday August 23rd Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

We are in the process of reviewing the church members’ needs with Hearing Assistive Devices. We have some available for use, but want to be sure that all who need one have access. It is possible that some members may have inadvertently taken one home and forgotten that they have it, or they keep it and bring it with them to church on Sunday. If you do have one at home, please return it to the charging base at the Sutherlin entrance or, if it is an older battery-operated model, please place it in the basket next to the charger. This way we can account for all the devices we have and know how many more we actually need to order. Thank you!

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship Jackson Weller  
Music Director Ashley Stanley-Robey  
Sound C. B. Strange  
Video Alex Walthall  
Liturgist Kathy Dolianitis  
Greeter Kim Wimer  
Side door/Offering Kent Shelton

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

|               | July 1-31      | FY 2025      |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Contributions | \$34,516.62    | \$257,195.03 |
| Expenditures  | \$44,201.79    | \$252,158.13 |
| Difference    | (-\$ 9,685.17) | \$ 5,036.90  |

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.

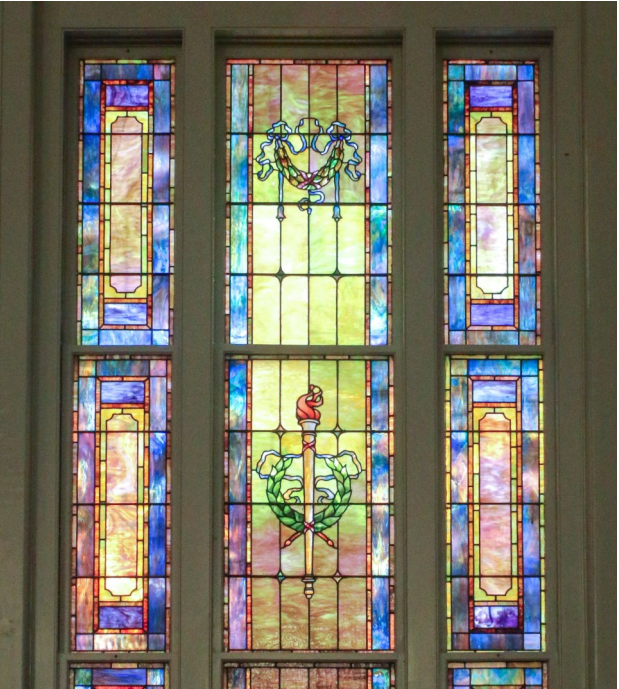
THE COLUMNS  
OF THE

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

August 17, 2025

10th 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

