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 Pfautsch. 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

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 "Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus"

Ernest O. Sellers, arr. Ovid Young

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 80)

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

People: Stir up your might and come to save us!

Leader: You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

People: You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

Leader: The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;

People: It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the river.

Leader: Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see.

People: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

INVOCATION

Glorious God, we thank you for the cloud of witnesses, the multitude of the faithful of all ages, who surround us. Considering their example, and looking to Jesus, may we run the race of life faithfully. Encourage us, that we may not grow weary or fainthearted. Help us accept your gentle discipline, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN#624 "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-loving God, we confess that we are not always ready to trust your love. You call us to step forward in radical faith, but we cling to what is familiar, comfortable and non-controversial. You are eternally at work in the world, but we struggle to discern your presence in the signs of the times. Forgive us, O God. By your grace, give us courage to stand for what is right and good and to risk love and justice even when it is unpopular. Teach us faithfulness and perseverance for the journey ahead. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, look around! We are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We are the body of Christ, the family of faith, all of us both saints and sinners. The grace we receive in baptism washes away our shame and brokenness and unites us with one another in bonds of love and kinship. Proclaim the good news with me: In Jesus Christ, we 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

God is the giver of every good gift. Let us return our thanks to God as we receive the morning offering.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, receive these gifts as investments in your kingdom of love, justice and peace. Use this money and use our lives to bring about the world as you intend it. With gratitude we pray, Amen.

OFFERTORY "We've Come This Far by Faith"

Albert A. Goodson | Gregory Robey, bass

*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 "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

L. Scott/Jane M. Marshall

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord Jesus, who brought the fire of the Holy Spirit, may that fire burn within our hearts as we read the Scriptures today. Teach us to choose your Way. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE:	(584/554)	Jeremiah 23:23-29
	(895/852)	Hebrews 11:29-12:2
	(776/738)	Luke 12:49-56

SERMON "Fiery Word of God" Jackson Weller

*HYMN# 846 "Fight the Good Fight"

*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

POSTLUDE "And Can It Be"

Thomas Campbell, Setting by Charles Callahan

*BENEDICTION

*Please stand if able.

life everlasting. Amen.