#### **About the Anthem:**

Reverend Frederick W. Faber came from a Huguenot and Calvinist family background; he grew up in the Church of England, attended Balliol College at Oxford, and was ordained in the Church of England. He later joined the Roman Catholic Church. Believing that Catholics should sing hymns like those written by John Newton, Charles Wesley, and William Cowper, he wrote at least 150 hymns. "Faith of Our Fathers" was long considered his most popular work, but "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" has arguably eclipsed it. This tune, HOLY MANNA, is not traditional for this hymn but the metrical indices align perfectly. Composer William B Moore is credited with writing it, but this is not certain.

Mark Gregory Schweizer, originally from Baltimore, Maryland, spent much of his musical career in Tryon, North Carolina. He attended Stetson University (BM) and later the University of Arizona (MM, DMA). Dr. Schweizer became an accomplished bassbaritone opera singer, including an appearance with Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony. He was a college professor, church music director, prolific composer, and the author of sixteen mystery novels. He also founded St. James Music Press, the publisher of our anthem this morning.

# "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Lyricist: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863) Composer (attributed): William B Moore (1790-1850) | Arranger: Mark G. Schweizer

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty. There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good. There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n; there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement giv'n.

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word; and our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

#### A Note on the Choral Benediction:

"Send Me, Jesus" is a traditional South African freedom song, originally written in the Zulu language. The lyrics can be found at #746 in our hymnals. The first Zulu stanza can be translated directly as, "Send me, Jesus; send me, Almighty."

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad

Tuesday August 26th Ladies Dinner 5:30pm

Wednesday August 27th Youth 6:00pm
Thursday August 28th Bible Study 10:30am
Thursday August 28th Choir 4:30pm

Saturday August 30th 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 David Parris
Video Alex Walthall
Liturgist Jackie Rochford
Greeter Kim Wimer
Side door/Offering Pat Pinckney

#### 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 24, 2025 11th 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 "O How I Love Jesus"

American folk tune/Setting by Jason W. Krug

# **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 71)

Leader: In you, O God, we seek refuge;

People: In Your justice, deliver us.

Leader: Be a rock of refuge for us, a strong fortress,

because You are our rock and fortress.

People: For you, O Lord, are our hope and trust.

Leader: Our praise is continually of You.

# **INVOCATION**

Heavenly Father, we begin this service with thanksgiving. Thank you for life, salvation, and the opportunity to gather. We are grateful for your provision and presence. Let gratitude overflow from our hearts and shape our worship today.

\*HYMN# 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our creator, sustainer and redeemer, we confess our feelings of exile and alienation, and we wonder where you are. We fear your absence when, in fact, you are most present to us. Restore in us a sense of your comfort and care. Renew our strength so that we might realize our calling as disciples of Jesus. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The God who hung the stars and the moon has come close to each and all with mercy and love. Hear the good news of the gospel, we are forgiven and empowered by God's Spirit to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint. Thanks be to God.

# SIGNS OF RECONCILIATION

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you**. **Leader:** Let us the children of God, having confessed our sins and been reconciled with God, having now been assured of God's graciousness, stand and offer that same peace and reconciliation to our brothers and sisters in Christ, forgiving each other and offering grace and peace. Please 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**

The God of all creation, who has stretched out the heavens and called the stars by name, also gives us strength for our journey. Let us now respond with gratitude to God's empowering presence by giving of our resources in return.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, we give you thanks for the gifts of creation, and for the gift of life itself. We dedicate our resources to you, trusting and hoping that they will build up your work in our world. Amen.

**OFFERTORY** 

"Amen"

by Jason W. 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

# ANTHEM "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Frederick W. Faber/Attr. W. B. Moore, arr. Mark Schweizer Charlotte Garrett, handbells and Jack Garrett, drums

# PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, open our hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit so that the words of Scripture that we hear this day may become your Word that empowers our lives in this time and place. Amen.

SCRIPTURE:	(563/533)	Jeremiah 1:4-10
	(555/527)	Isaiah 58:9-14
	(776/738)	Luke 13:10-17

SERMON "Called to Freedom" Jackson Weller

\*HYMN# 35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

\*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

# **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

life everlasting. Amen.

"Send Me, Jesus" (Thuma mina) South African; English translation from *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984

\*BENEDICTION

\*Please stand if able.