

About the Anthem:

Canadian author, playwright, and hymnwriter Mary Susannah Edgar was originally from Sundridge, Ontario. She attended Barrie High School, Havergal College, the University of Toronto, and finally the YWCA’s National Training School in New York City. In 1922, Ms. Edgar opened a girls’ camp called Glen Bernard near Sundridge on the edge of Lake Bernard. She served as the camp director until her retirement in 1956. Out of several hymns Mary wrote, our anthem today is her most popular in hymnals worldwide. It has been translated into several languages, including French, Portuguese, and Spanish. Composer, author, and arranger Austin C. Lovelace was born in Rutherfordton, North Carolina and became a church organist at fifteen. He attended college at High Point University (C/O 1939), and then graduate school at Union Theological Seminary in New York where he earned both a master’s and doctorate in sacred music (1941, 1950). Dr. Lovelace served as a chaplain’s assistant in the US Navy and then was a minister of music until the age of eighty-seven at many churches: First Baptist and First Methodist of High Point, NC; Holy Trinity Episcopal of Lincoln, Nebraska; Myers Park Presbyterian and Myers Baptist of Charlotte, NC; First Presbyterian of Greensboro, NC; Christ Methodist of NYC; Lover’s Lane Methodist in Dallas, Texas; and most recently Montview Boulevard Presbyterian and Wellshire Presbyterian in Denver, Colorado. He was a professor of music and worship at several colleges including Queen’s College and Davidson College in North Carolina, his alma mater Union Theological Seminary, Iliff School of Theology in Denver, and Garrett Theological Seminary in Illinois. Lovelace was very fond of jazz; he had both Dave Brubeck and Duke Ellington join his choir for services at Montview Boulevard Presbyterian. He published over one thousand pieces of music with forty different publishers, including contributions to over twenty denominations’ hymnals, solo organ works, vocal solos, and choral pieces. Due to his ecumenical spirit and dedicated ministry, Austin Lovelace is known as the Dean of American Church Music.

“God of Beauty”

Lyricist: Mary Susannah Edgar (1889-1973)
Armenian Carol | Arranger: Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010)

God, who touchest earth with beauty, make my heart anew;
with Thy Spirit recreate me, pure and strong and true.

Like Thy springs and running waters make me crystal pure;
like Thy rocks of tow’ring grandeur make me strong and sure.
Like Thy dancing waves in sunlight make me glad and free;
like the straightness of the pine trees let me upright be.

God, who touchest earth with beauty, make my heart anew;
keep me ever, by Thy Spirit, pure and strong and true.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today	Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
Nominating Committee will meet immediately following worship.	
Monday September 1	Office is Closed
Tuesday September 2	Handbells 5:00pm
	Ladies Dinner 6:00pm
Wednesday September 3	Youth 6:00pm
Thursday September 4	Bible Study 10:30am
	Choir 4:30pm
Saturday September 6	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!

The Presbyterian Women’s Day Circle will meet on September 8th at 12:30p.m. in the Westminster Room. We will complete the series “Dust to Glory” with the final two DVDs, The Christ of Revelation and The Glory of God. Everyone is welcome!
The Presbyterian Women’s Evening Circle will meet on September 8th at 7:00pm at the home of Ava Barrett. All women are invited to attend for the bible study with Joyce Perez and fellowship with other members. For more information you may call Bernadine Hayes at 434-799-5662.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	Eddie Blount
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Brenna Takata
Greeter	Kim Wimer
Side door/Offering	Gail Jones

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 31, 2025

12th 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

CHORAL INTROIT “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”
Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th cent.; translators J.M. Neale and H.W. Baker/
Plainsong, Mode V; harmony by C. W. Douglas

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: Gathered to worship God,
People: we are all right where we belong.
Leader: Called to this celebration of worship by God’s Spirit,
People: we approach God with joy in our hearts.
Leader: Nourished by the love of Jesus, God’s Son,
People: we gladly feast at this banquet of grace.

INVOCATION
In the face of all our realities: We are the people who heal each other, who grow strong together, who name the truth, who know what it means to live in community, moving toward a common dream for a new heaven and a new earth. In the power of the love of God our Creator, the company of Jesus Christ, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***HYMN#611 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Holy God, we compare ourselves with others, wondering if we are better than them. We judge one another, trying to justify ourselves. We seek to establish our superiority by assuming positions of honor. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to see ourselves truthfully and to love one another with humble, gracious spirits. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
God alone has the authority to judge, and by the grace of Jesus Christ, God has declared that we are forgiven of all our sin.

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
We are called to be light to the world. Let us share our talents and treasures in grateful praise.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Gracious God, we offer to you these gifts, both as signs of our gratitude and as instruments of your reign. Use these gifts, and us, that your way of love and peace, transformation and hope might flourish in this place. Amen.

OFFERTORY “The Lord’s My Shepherd”
by Jesse Seymour Irvine, arr. Ovid Young

***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 “God of Beauty”
Mary S. Edgar/Armenian Carol, arr. Austin C. Lovelace

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Open our hearts and minds, O God, by your Holy Spirit’s power, that as scripture is read and the Gospel announced, we might receive with open hearts whatever you speak to us this day. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: (563/534) Jeremiah 2:4-13
(896/853) Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
(777/739) Luke 14:1,7-14

SERMON “Humility, Hospitality and Grace”
Jackson Weller

***HYMN#645 “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”**

***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 “Festive Proclamation” by Jason W. Krug

***BENEDICTION**

***Please stand if able.**