

About the Anthem:

Arlen Ronald Clarke was born and raised in New York state before attending Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi. After he graduated a year early in 1976, Arlen headed to Southern Methodist University in Dallas for a year before earning a Master of Music in Vocal Performance at Texas Christian University. He then spent six years as an officer in the U.S. Army. Upon his honorable discharge, Arlen first worked as a singer and the composer in residence at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Kansas City, Missouri. He was then appointed to be Director of Choral activities at his alma mater, Belhaven University.

Arlen has since relocated to Greenville, South Carolina, where he serves as the choirmaster at St. Mary's Catholic Church. He also directs Concordiae, a small a cappella ecclesiastical choir. Arlen has composed over three hundred pieces of music, primarily choral music for worship at St. Mary's. He has also completed five works for choir with orchestra, two orchestral symphonic poems, and four orchestral concerti. In studying Mr. Clarke's life, what impressed me most was his intentional rest in between projects and jobs. Arlen is an excellent example of seeking mental and physical rest, as well as God's peace, before taking up a new task or project. Upon revisiting this arrangement, I appreciate his development of a familiar tune and the interjection of very interesting harmonies during both the piano introduction and the second verse.

Let Us Break Bread Together

Traditional Spiritual | Arranger: Arlen Clarke (b. 1954)

Let us break bread together on our knees.
 Let us break bread together on our knees.
 When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
 O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.
 Let us drink wine together on our knees.
 When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
 O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees.
 Let us praise God together on our knees.
 When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
 O Lord have mercy on me.

Music during Communion -
 "There Is a Balm in Gilead" African American spiritual,
 arr. Mark Hayes
 "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" Southern Harmony (1835),
 arr. Ovid Young

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
 Monday September 8 PW Day Circle 12:30pm
 PW Evening Circle 7:00pm
 Tuesday September 9 Handbells 5:00pm
 Ladies Dinner 6:00pm
 Wednesday September 10 Youth 6:00pm
 Thursday September 11 Bible Study 10:30am
 Choir 4:30pm
 Saturday September 13 Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

The Presbyterian Women's Day Circle will meet on September 8th at 12:30pm in the Westminster Room. We will complete the series "Dust to Glory" with the final two DVD's, 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 Ava Barrett. All women are invited to attend 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 | David Clark |
| Video | Alex Walthall |
| Liturgist | Becky Meadema |
| Greeter | Joan Reynolds |
| Side door/Offering | Kim Wimer |

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

September 7, 2025

13th 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 “Bread of the World”

J. Sebastian B. Hodges/ Setting by Daniel Burton

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 139 and Jeremiah 18)

Leader: Like clay on a wheel

People: God forms us: shaping us, molding us, creating us.

Leader: And like moldable clay,

People: God continues to shape us.

Leader: Let us worship God.

INVOCATION

Lord, we come before You today asking for Your forgiveness. We confess our sins and ask for Your cleansing power to wash us clean. May Your mercy and grace cover us as we seek to live by Your will. Thank you for the sacrifice of Jesus that allows us to be forgiven and restored. Amen.

*HYMN#450

“Be Thou My Vision”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, you know us better than anyone else. You formed us in your own image. And yet, we sometimes stray from the gift you’ve given us. We keep people at a distance, letting systemic and personal barriers get in the way of relationships. Forgive us, Lord. Let us hear your call to change and do better. Empower us to ask for forgiveness from those whom we have wronged. Help us to think of you and those around us.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, the good news is this: God is not done with us. Our Creator is still forming and shaping us, forgiving us, and allowing us to grow. Hear the Good News of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

God has formed us and continues to do so. With thanks for God’s ever-present love for us, let us give back to God a portion of what God has given to us.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give because we have been given so much. Lord, take these gifts and use them to faithfully transform others. Allow your work to be continued in the world where it is most needed. Amen.

OFFERTORY “When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace ”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette/English folk tune; harmony by John Weaver
| Gregory Robey, guitar

*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 “Let Us Break Bread Together ”

Traditional, arr. Arlen Clarke

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, allow our ears to be open to your Word, especially where there are questions or challenges. Allow us to be open to where you are speaking to us in our discomfort.

SCRIPTURE: (549/580)

(845/887)

(739/778)

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Philemon 1:1-21

Luke 14:25-33

SERMON “Reshaped for the Kingdom” Jackson Weller

*HYMN#697

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD’S CHILDREN

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*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 “Praises Unending”

Jason W. Krung

*BENEDICTION

***Please stand if able.**