

About the Anthem:

Contemporary American composer and arranger Allen Pote was born in Halstead, Kansas and earned the Bachelor of Church Music degree at Texas Christian University. He went on to attend Union Theological Seminary in New York for graduate studies. Mr. Pote was selected as a Fullbright Scholar and studied in Belgium with the composer Flor Peeters. Throughout his career as a church music director, Allen Pote has published over one hundred pieces of music. Most of his works are for church choirs, children’s choirs, and church children’s musicals. After working for over twenty years as a church musician and music director, Allen Pote and his wife, Susan, went on to direct the Pensacola Children’s Choir in Pensacola, Florida for twenty-six years. Mr. Pote continues to compose and arrange music in his retirement.

This anthem was originally written as a youth choir anthem, but I really appreciate its fresh energy and folk style. The imagery of each soul traveling on its way home to Jesus felt perfect for remembering all the saints who have joined the church triumphant, as well as contemplating our souls’ journeys “through earth’s little while” (as Thomas Chisholm put it in last week’s anthem). Musically, I love how Allen Pote explores the full range of dynamics and articulations available at the piano. I may be biased, but I believe our Steinway rebuilt player piano has one of the most beautiful *unacorda* sounds now that her damper pedal has been reconnected after some woodwork and pedal repairs. It has an almost celeste-like timbre during the second verse of this anthem. Members of the choir have really enjoyed preparing this anthem and looking forward to experiencing both the peace and glory of the Lord throughout eternity.

I See the Morning Breaking

Traditional folk melody | Arranged by Allen Pote (b. 1945)

I see the morning breaking through the valleys and the hills.
I see the morning breaking as I go, as I go.
I see the morning breaking through the valleys and the hills,
And I’m goin’ home to Jesus, bless my soul, bless my soul.

I feel the fresh wind blowing through the valleys and the hills.
I feel the fresh wind blowing as I go, as I go.
I feel the fresh wind blowing through the valleys and the hills,
And I’m goin’ home to Jesus, bless my soul, bless my soul.

I hear the people stirring through the valleys and the hills.
I hear the people stirring as I go, as I go.
I hear the people stirring through the valleys and the hills,
And I’m goin’ home to Jesus, bless my soul.
Bless my soul. O, bless my soul.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today	Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
Tuesday October 28	Handbells 5:00pm Ladies Dinner 6:00pm
Wednesday October 29	Youth 6:00pm
Thursday October 30	Bible Study 10:30am Choir 4:30pm
Saturday November 1	Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

There will be a congregational meeting Sunday November 2nd, immediately following church. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect officers for 2026. Your nominating committee has been working to find individual who have agreed to serve this church. We hope you will come and support this endeavor.

Families are urged to join the processional for the Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans. We will serve light refreshments immediately following the service in the Dunglinson Robert room.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	Sam Meadema
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Becky Meadema
Greeter	Barbara Wilkins
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, Ray Beale, Gary Wimer

BUDGET UPDATE

	September 1-30	FY 2025
Contributions	\$57,095.31	\$335,139.66
Expenditures	\$48,200.37	\$326,295.01
Difference	\$ 8,894.94	\$ 8,844.65

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

October 26, 2025
Reformation Sunday



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

PROCESSIONAL Tim Carpenter

KIRKIN’ O’ THE TARTANS Gaelic Blessing
A Dhè, beannaich na Gàidheil agus na h-Albannaich bho ‘n d’ thàinig Sinn; Beannaich sinne, ‘s na breacain a tha sinn fhathst a’ cur oirnn; Agus beannaich an dualchas a tha sinn a’ cumail suas. Amen. (O God, bless the Gaels and Scots from whom we are descended; Bless us, and the tartans we still wear, bless the heritage that we uphold. Amen.)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Luke 18:14)
Leader: All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.
People: We humble ourselves before our God, ready to hear and receive God’s truth.

*HYMN# 275 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Holy God, your truth is so often sharp and unsettling. We confess the ways we skirt the hard edges of your Word, turn up the volume on lesser noises, and lean into the comfort of our own certainty rather than submit to the discomfort of your challenge. You send us messengers, and we sidestep them; you challenge us, and we defend ourselves. Again and again, Holy God, we resist what we do not want to hear. And yet you keep calling. Have mercy on us. Interrupt our evasions. Soften what pride has hardened in us. Let us hear and receive your truth. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from the Book of Common Worship)
Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

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 to God, having been assured of God's graciousness and mercy, 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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING
Let us give and live generously in response to all that God has done for us. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Holy God, these offerings are only a portion, a single slice, of the abundance you’ve handed to us. Still, we press them into your care, set them down where they might become more. We hand over these gifts, grateful, but also in awe at how you shape small things into good news. Let these gifts find their way into the broken places, find the ones carrying heavy burdens. May these humble offerings help relieve those who need it most. Amen.

OFFERTORY "O Holy City, Seen of John" from Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second; harmony by Richard Proulx; trombone countermelody by Douglas Smith | Gregory Robey, trombonist

*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.

NECROLOGY “Flowers of the Forest” Tim Carpenter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

ANTHEM "I See the Morning Breaking" Traditional folk melody, arr. Allen Pote

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
God of Wisdom and Grace, you speak through your Word read and proclaimed. Prepare us, then, to listen well. Open our ears to your truth; open our minds to the unexpected. Humble us here, in your presence, so nothing stands in the way — not pride, not distraction, not weary hearts. Let your Word reach us as we are now. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: (681/645) Joel 2:23-32
(886/843) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
(781/742) Luke 18:9-14

SERMON “The Just Shall Live By Faith” Jackson Weller

*HYMN# 326 “ For All the Saints”
Countermelody by D. Smith | Gregory Robey, trombonist
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Scots Confession of 1560
We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to Whom alone we must cleave, Whom alone we must serve, Whom only we must worship, and in Him alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons-the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By Whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by His inscrutable providence, and for such end as His eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of His own glory.

*BENEDICTION
*RECESSIONAL Tim Carpenter
*Please stand if able.
Thanks to The Virginia-Carolina Scottish Society for participating in worship today, with special to President Bill Smith and Pipe Major Tim Carpenter.