

About the Anthem:
Stephen Paulus was a very prolific American classical composer. He wrote over six hundred works for chorus, opera, orchestra, chamber ensembles, solo voice, concert band, piano, and organ. Dr. Paulus was posthumously awarded two Grammy Awards for Best Contemporary Classical Composition and Best Classical Compendium in 2016. His career began in 1979 when, as a PhD graduate of the University of Minnesota, he received a commission from the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis to compose an opera. He went on to write eleven more operas with performances from the Boston Lyric Opera, Washington Opera, Minnesota Opera, Sacramento Opera, and The Berkshire Opera Company. Dr. Paulus has over fifty-five orchestral works, a violin concerto, a jazz concerto co-written with his son, Greg, and two organ concerti. He wrote over four hundred choral works, including “Pilgrims’ Hymn,” which was sung at the funerals of Presidents Reagan and Ford. Although Stephen Paulus passed away in October 2014 from complications of a stroke, his music continues to be frequently performed and deeply appreciated. Dr. Paulus is considered one of the premiere American composers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. His music is described as rugged, angular, lyrical, lean, aggressive, original, moving, and uniquely American. *The New York Times* says of him, “Mr. Paulus often finds melodic patterns that are fresh and familiar at the same time...His scoring is invariably expert and exceptionally imaginative in textures and use of instruments.” I find this description very apt concerning the Psalm setting we are singing this morning. It has that lovely familiar yet fresh feeling, and he altered the original text just enough to fit with the metrical index of his new composition. He was not afraid to change the dynamics, meter, and key within this one brief choral piece. This anthem is soothing, challenging, and inspiring all at once. It is hauntingly beautiful and sonorous. I am equally as impressed as the critics at *The Times*.

Hear My Words

From Psalm 5, *The Psalter*, 1912 | Composer: Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

Hear my words, O gracious Lord, to my thoughts attentive be:
Hear my cry, my King my God. I will make my prayer to Thee.

With the morning light O lord, Thou shalt hear my voice arise;
And expectant I will bring prayer as morning sacrifice.

Thou art Holy O my God, Thou delightest not in sin;
Evil shall not dwell with Thee, nor the proud Thy favor win.

O gracious Lord, hear my words. O gracious Lord,
I will make prayer to Thee.

Music during Communion -
"Deep River" and "Were You There?" African American Spirituals,
Arr. Mark Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS		
Today	Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad	
Tuesday November 4	Handbells 5:00pm	Ladies Dinner 5:00pm
Wednesday November 5	Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00pm	
Thursday November 6	Bible Study 10:30am	No Choir Practice
Saturday November 8	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 individuals who have agreed to serve this church. We hope you will come and support this endeavor.

We will have chili, cornbread, salad, a delicious dessert, and tea/coffee for our Wednesday night dinner. Team 1 is in charge. Please use the reservation form in the bulletin or call the office by noon Wednesday if you plan to attend.

SERVING TODAY		
Minister of Word and Sacrament	Rev. David Baker	
Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller	
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey	
Sound	C.B. Strange	
Video	Alex Walthall	
Liturgist	Ray Beale	
Greeter	David Clark	
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, 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

November 2, 2025

21st 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

PRELUDE "Baroque Voluntary" Anonymous, edited by Dale Wood

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The changing colors of leaves, the laughter of children playing dress-up, the flowers and trees that become food for foraging creatures:

People: Lord, your creation boasts of your goodness.

Leader: The Sunday school teachers who taught us your Word, the stranger who asked us if we were okay, the parent who showed us right and wrong, the neighbor who dropped by to say hello:

People: Lord, your creation boasts of your love.

Leader: Let us join together as a community and worship our Creator, the author of everything that is beautiful.

***HYMN#300** **We Are One in the Spirit**
(They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love)

INVOCATION

Gracious God, all that we have comes from you. We gather in your presence, surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, people from every tribe and nation, every kindred and tongue, to lift our voices in praise, to be transformed into your saints, to be sent out to gather others to share the eternal banquet. Receive the praise we offer, work in us and through us. You alone are holy, you alone are the Most High, you alone are worthy of our praise. Glory to you, O God, and to the Lamb, our Shepherd, and to the Spirit that unites us all, today and ever more. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God, you are the author of every good thing. Forgive us for the ways we fall short of the beautiful story you invite us to step into. You ask us to look to the margins and care for the lost; we center ourselves. You ask us to give away; we grab for more. You ask us to love one another; we cannot see beyond our divisions. The world is full of ugliness, from the macro to the micro. Forgive us. Help us. We call on you, our beloved, our help, our God, our hope. Hear our silent confessions now.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, God hears us when we cry out. God knows our hearts, despite our failures, and treasures the beings that we are. You are forgiven. We are forgiven. You are loved. We are loved. Let us live in this peace and find the courage to try again to bring God’s kingdom into being, knowing that we will fail again but we are transformed by our small acts of trying.

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

We are called to participate in God’s abundance through the choices we make with our time, our talents, our emotions and our physical resources. Let us honor God with our offering.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, you are the source of all love, power and justice. Our world is broken, in need of your love, your light. Take these offerings and multiply them so they may bless others. Bless those who give and those who receive, that they may know you better.

OFFERTORY Stewardship Medley "For the Life that You Have Given" Carl P. Daw, Jr./Leavitt's Christian Lyre, 1830/31 and "We Lift Our Voices" by Dwight Liles

*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 "Hear My Words" Psalm 5, The Psalter, 1912/ Stephen Paulus

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION(A Variation of Psalm 19:14)
Lord, may the words of my mouth and the meditation of all of our hearts be pleasing and acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our foundation. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT (406/389) **Psalm 18:1-6**
NEW TESTAMENT (871/828) **Ephesians 4:17-32**

SERMON “Change is Hard” **Rev. David Baker**

***HYMN#694** **Great God of Every Blessing**

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.

***BENEDICTION**
POSTLUDE "Finale" **by Eugene Butler**
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
***Please stand if able.**