

Beyond the *Columns*

First Presbyterian Church

November 2025

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Family in Christ,

As the crisp autumn air settles over our community and the trees surrender their leaves in a final burst of color, November invites us to pause and give thanks. In a world that races forward, the practice of gratitude anchors us to the unchanging goodness of God. This month, let us embrace the theme of thankfulness—not as a fleeting sentiment, but as a deliberate posture of the heart.

The Psalmist declares, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name” (Psalm 100:4, NIV). These words are more than poetry; they are a roadmap. Thanksgiving is the doorway through which we approach the presence of God. When we name His blessings—seen and unseen—we step out of anxiety and into awe.

The Apostle Paul, writing from a Roman prison, models this radical gratitude: “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18, NIV).

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Notice the phrase *in all circumstances*, not *for all circumstances*. We do not thank God for hardship, but we thank Him *through* it, trusting that His grace is sufficient and His purposes are at work.

This November, I challenge each of us to keep something like a “Thankfulness Journal.” Each evening, write down three specific things for which you are grateful. They may be as grand as a healed relationship or as simple as the warmth of a shared meal. Over time, this practice rewires our perspective, training us to see God’s fingerprints in the ordinary.

Let us also express our gratitude through action. The early church lived out thankfulness by sharing generously: “They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts” (Acts 2:46, NIV). As we gather for our Wednesday Night Suppers this month bring a story to share at your table, a joke to fill hearts with laughter, or share some amazing thing that God has done—and let us feast with glad hearts, remembering that every good gift comes from above (James 1:17).

Finally, as we approach Advent, let our thankfulness point us to the ultimate gift: “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15, NIV). Jesus is the reason our gratitude never runs dry.

May this season fill your homes with laughter, your hearts with praise, and your lives with the unshakable joy of knowing a God who is always good.

With a grateful heart,

Jackson



Angel Tree Ministry

Our church has been blessed to have the Angel Tree Ministry for many years. This ministry reaches out to families with children who have an incarcerated parent. We purchase Christmas gifts for the children. The gifts tag shows the gifts are from their incarcerated parent. Each gift tag also has a special message from the child's parent printed on it.

Our Angel Tree display will be in Dunlinsong – Roberts starting Sunday, November 23. Please make this Angel Tree Project part of your family's Christmas tradition by taking an angel to purchase a gift for. Gift suggestions will be on each angel. We ask that you spend no more than \$25.00 per gift.

When you choose your angel please follow these instructions:

- Write your name, the child's name and the child's Angel Tree number on the Angel Tree sign-up sheet.
- Return your wrapped gift to Dunlinsong-Roberts by Sunday, December 7.

If you are unable to shop for a gift, you may give 25.00 to Brenna, Jackie, Barbara, Kathy, Kim or Harriet and we will purchase your gift for you, wrap it and bring it to the church.

On Saturday, December 13, we will have a "Christmas Gift Drive By" for the parents to pick up their child's gift. We will also have a special treat bag for each child filled with Christmas goodies, Christmas crafts and Christian literature for the children and their parents.

Thank you for supporting this very worthwhile ministry in our church. It is truly a time that we can reach out to others in our community, share the love of Jesus and spread a little Christmas cheer.



I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to our First Presbyterian Church family for your support of our music department throughout the year. Thank you for being willing to share our rehearsal space with DACAS ringers, our sheet music with DACAS, and our handbell ringers and time with St. Luke's choirs for a Christmas cantata next month. Thank you also for all the encouragement you have given me and the members of our choirs. I would like to say a special thank you to Greg Robey for sharing his instrumental talents with our church. Thank you to all members of our handbell choir and chancel choir for sharing your time and talents – we appreciate each of you so much!

Concerts and Services for Fall, Thanksgiving, and Christmas! *Free Admission!

Saturday, November 1st , 7:30p.m., Pritchett Auditorium – Averett University Symphonic Band's Fall Pops Concert *PLEASE NOTE: The start time is 30 minutes later than usual!

Sunday, November 16th , 3:00p.m. – Danville Area Choral Arts Society (DACAS) Fall Concert featuring works by Arvo Part, John Rutter, and Undine Moore, as well as Bach's famous Cantata No. 140, *Sleepers Awake*, with live orchestra.

Monday, November 24th , 7:00p.m., First Baptist Church – Community Thanksgiving Service including music from DACAS and DACAS Ringers handbell ensemble.

Wednesday, December 3rd , 6:00p.m., FPC Fellowship Hall – Wednesday Night Supper followed by our annual Advent Service

Thursday, December 4th , 7:00p.m., Pritchett Auditorium – Averett Celebrates Christmas featuring the Averett Symphonic Band, plus a few selections from the Averett Show Choir

Saturday December 6th , 4:00p.m., First United Methodist Church of Martinsville – Martinsville Handbell Ensemble's annual Christmas concert featuring several guest conductors including our music director, Ashley Stanley-Robey, on *In the Bleak Midwinter*.

Saturday, December 6th , 7:30p.m., Bonner Middle School Auditorium – Danville Symphony Orchestra presents "Sounds of the Season" featuring excerpts from *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty* by Tchaikovsky, *Wizards of Winter* as performed by Trans-Siberian Orchestra, *Traditions of Christmas* as performed by Manheim Steamroller, and many Christmas favorites including "Sleigh Ride" and "A Christmas Festival."

Sunday, December 14th , 3:00p.m., St. Luke's United Methodist Church – "A Thrill of Hope" Christmas Cantata featuring handbell ringers from First Presbyterian Church!

Wednesday, December 17th , 6:00p.m., FPC Fellowship Hall – Wednesday night dinner followed by our annual Christmas Carol Sing-Along!

Looking forward to giving thanks and celebrating together!

Day School Round Up

Fall is in the air at FPDS!! We love the cooler temperatures and brisk winds that October brings. From leaf art work to spooky Halloween crafts, we are really putting on a show in the rooms and halls of First Presbyterian!

October is when we really start to get creative with art work for the coming holidays. Pumpkin painting, ghostly hand prints, even Frankenstein heads-anything goes when we get out the paint! We like to have fun with Halloween and it shows!

Orange Day started our month off and really got us in the mood. We also had our school pictures with Alan Dalton Photography. This year we did them on the front steps of the church. We know our parents can hardly wait to see how they turned out.

October is not over yet, and there is still lots to do! We go to Harvest Ridge Pumpkin Patch on the 23rd- that's always a good time. Lastly, we will have our Halloween party on the 30th. We will be sure to take lots of pictures to share with you!

Until next time!!



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“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.” (Proverbs 19:17)

There are over 2,000 Bible verses about helping poor. That speaks volumes about God’s will. First Presbyterian Church, through its Mission Committee, provides support to various local mission partners. This article discusses these local mission partners.

Good News Jail Ministry: God tells us in Hebrew 13:3 to “remember those in prison as if you were yourselves imprisoned with them.” The Good News Jail Ministry of Danville offers counseling, bible study, and reading materials to incarcerated men and women in Danville.

Habitat for Humanity in Danville: This organization builds homes for low-income people who need adequate housing.

Endowing People: Reverend David Baker offers a class to young adults on budget management, saving and investing, home buying and financial planning. The class will start in two or three months and be held at FPC.

God’s Pit Crew: This volunteer organization offers food and rebuilding support throughout the country where people have lost everything due to disaster.

Salvation Army: This religious organization provides lunches Monday – Friday, housing and utility support to families in need, and clothing and Angel Tree Gifts.

House of Hope: The only emergency shelter in the Danville Area, the House of Hope annually provides shelter for almost 500 men, women and children who are homeless. Services at the shelter include hot suppers and breakfast, hygiene products, access to showers and washers, and case management to help guests identify and connect with needed services.

God’s Storehouse: This organization is the area’s Food Bank, providing weekly food for families in need, food backpacks for preschool and elementary children to take home on the weekend, and special meals for the hungry during holidays. FPC helps prepare the backpacks monthly.

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Of course, FPC's in-house mission, the Saturday Lunch Ministry, also provides weekly hot meals every Saturday morning thanks to your generosity of time and money ... and that of Mercy Seat Presbyterian Church, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Westover Christian Church, and Chatham Hall. Partners have reported that recent reductions in federal funding for organizations and individuals have made it more difficult to deliver services to an increasing number of people. Rising costs are making it harder for businesses, organizations, and individuals to donate enough. First Presbyterian Church is helping. Through the help of our Freddie Lamb Trust Funds, we donated additional funds to some of the organizations.

Your help is needed . . .

. . If you have some extra funds as the year ends, consider donating to some of our local citizens experiencing hunger, homelessness, and/or incarceration. These organizations can use financial support or donations of food, clothing, cleaning supplies, etc.

. . . Everything starts with prayer. Please include those who are struggling in your prayers.

'For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to help your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.' Deuteronomy 15:11

**Saturday Lunch Ministry will hold its Thanksgiving Meal on Saturday, November 22. This meal is served to our guests – we expect a big crowd. Please put the date on your calendar – we will need cooks, greeters, servers, pie cutters, table setters – and more.
Let Jackie, Jackson, or Vickie know if you can help.**



November

2 Hampton Wilkins

8 Alex Walthall

Cameron Kassa

11 Elliot Stowe

12 Kent Shelton

13 Becky Meadema

Joyce Perez

14 Joan Reynolds

17 Julia Gregson

20 Ruth Meadors

24 Dale Haley

25 Lisa Argyrakis

26 Wayne Womble

27 Beth Brown

ANNIVERSARIES

28 Carolyn & Fred Baker



If you are interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary, please contact Brannon Blount at 434-334-9935 or brannon_blount@yahoo.com for the dates available

Youth

Youth Group will meet November 5th, 12th, and 19th.

No Youth Group on November 26th.

Youth Lunch Ministry and Thanksgiving Meal November 22nd -- Help us serve a Thanksgiving meal to our community. Please arrive at 10:30am to assist with meal preparation.

Reminder Thursday Bible Study will not meet on November 27th (Thanksgiving Day)



Men's breakfast & bible study will be Saturday November 22nd at 8:00am in Westminster Room. Please bring your breakfast as we join together in study.



The Presbyterian Women's Day Circle will meet on November 3rd at 12:30 p.m. in the Westminster Room. We will look at a new Series on First Peter "Sojourners and Exiles" by Sinclair B. Ferguson. All are welcome.

The Evening Circle will meet at the home of Harriet Beale November 3rd at 7pm. 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.

Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at First Baptist Church on Monday November 24th at 7:00pm. DACAS choir and Handbell choir will offer music and Jackson Weller will be offering a Thanksgiving message. Please join us for this worship service.



Saturday October 11, Danville Public Schools, were excited to induct their inaugural class into Danville Public Schools Hall of Fame, honoring outstanding alumni and educators whose achievements continue to make them proud. The first class is made up of record setting athletes and coaches, talented musicians, ambitious businessmen and women, and incredible educators that have made a lasting impact on our schools, our community, and their perspective fields. They serve as a reminder that greatness lives on in our city through education. Congratulations to our honorees, and thank you for inspiring the next generation of DPS students!

~Danville Public Schools FB page



Congratulations to Rebecca Moore's grandfather, Lawrence "Lefty" Wilson and his many achievements.

Pastor Appreciation



Crop Walk 2025



It is time to **order poinsettias** in honor of or in memory of a loved one this Christmas season.

Prices are \$14 for the 6.5 inch wrapped plants. **All**

orders should be in the church office by Sunday November 30th.

Please call Elizabeth Walden at 203.7778 for more information.

I desire to have _____ poinsettias dedicated as follows: (Check) _____ In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____

Given by: _____

(Name as you wish it to appear in the Bulletin)

Please enclose a check made payable to **First Presbyterian Church** and **return it to**

First Presbyterian Church

937 Main St., Danville, VA 24541

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DANVILLE

Founded in 1826, we were the first organized congregation in Danville. Our sanctuary and offices are located at 937 Main St, next door to the Sutherlin Mansion and Museum and a few blocks of west downtown.

You can reach us at (434) 792-7822 or admin@fpcdanville.com

Office hours are Monday– Thursday 9 am—1 pm

November 23rd Jackson Weller and Ashley Stanley-Robey will lead worship at Stratford House. The service is in the Evergreen Room at 2:00pm.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Danville VA

24541-1809

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Phone: 434.792.7822

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