



Between the Columns

First Presbyterian Church

OCTOBER 2025

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM JACKSON

As the crisp air of October settles over Danville, we gather in the warmth of our faith community to reflect on God's grace and the rich heritage of our tradition. This month, we look forward to celebrating Reformation Sunday on October 26, a day that invites us to honor the enduring legacy of the Protestant Reformation and what it means to be part of the Reformed Church.

The Reformed tradition, rooted in the 16th-century Reformation, emphasizes the sovereignty of God, the authority of Scripture, and the transformative power of grace through faith. For us at First Presbyterian, being Reformed means trusting in God's unending love, seeking to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ, and continually reforming our hearts and community to align with God's will. It's a call to humility, service, and a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit to guide us in all we do.

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Reformation Sunday reminds us of the courage of reformers like John Calvin and John Knox, who sought to renew the church by returning to the core truths of the Gospel. Their legacy inspires us to ask: How are we, as a congregation, called to grow and adapt in faith today? How can we embody God's love in Danville and beyond?

As we prepare for this special Sunday, let us also continue to support one another through our ministries, fellowship, and shared mission, trusting that God is always at work, reforming and renewing us for His purpose.

May this October be a season of reflection, gratitude, and joyful service. I look forward to celebrating this special day with you and seeing how God continues to shape our community.

In Christ,

Jackson

Youth

Crop Walk 3:00pm October 5th at Ballou Park. Arrive early to register.

Youth Group will meet October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

Youth Lunch Ministry October 25th , please arrive at 10:30am to prepare a meal for our community.

Reminder Sunday School meets every Sunday in the Youth Room upstairs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Reformation Sunday is October 26. After church refreshments will be served in the Dunglinson Roberts room honoring Reformation Sunday. We encourage everyone to join us.



Men's breakfast & bible study will be Saturday October 25th 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 October 6th at 12:30 p.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 Evening Circle will meet at the home of Karan Johnson October 6th 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.

Music Department

October Celebrations

The first Sunday in October is World Communion Day, when Christians all over the world celebrate the shared sacrament of the Lord's Supper. On October 5th, we will celebrate with special music and liturgy. Our Handbell Choir will be ringing two pieces by celebrated twentieth century American composers – "Prayer and Finale" by Eugene Butler and "A Joyful Ring" by Barbara Baltzer Kinyon. The Chancel Choir will be singing "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy," and I hope to prepare another Ovid Young selection on the piano. Come celebrate and remember the sacrifice of our Lord and the tie that binds us all together in Christian love.

Just as we begin October with a celebration, we will end the month with another. October 26th will be Reformation Sunday; please join us for the annual Kirkin' of the Tartans! We will welcome bagpiper Tim Carpenter to help lead us in worship. We will observe the necrology in memory of all the saints who joined the church triumphant over the past year. The Handbell Choir will ring a "Baroque Voluntary," and there will be a reception after the church service in the Dunglison-Roberts room. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us as we celebrate our Presbyterian heritage, our church family, and Christian friendships.

Concert Reminders!

Saturday, October 18th, 7:30p.m., Bonner Middle School – Danville Symphony Orchestra's "Halloween Spooktacular," including classical works by Mussorgsky, Dukas, and Strauss

Friday, October 24th, 6:00p.m., Commonwealth Living at Stratford House – Averett University Symphonic Band's Fall Pops Concert at Stratford. All residents at Stratford are invited to enjoy this free concert (weather permitting). Family, guests, friends, and neighbors are welcome to attend!

Saturday, November 1st, 7:00p.m., Pritchett Auditorium – Averett University Symphonic Band's Fall Pops Concert (same program as 10/24)

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. – Community Thanksgiving Service including music from DACAS and DACAS Ringers handbell ensemble. Location to be announced.

We hope you will join the audience at these upcoming concerts to enjoy some truly inspired musical works. Thank you for all your support for music and musicians in our community!

May the Peace of Christ remain with you,

Ashley

Mission Update

Christ for the Island World

First Presbyterian Church supports 9 overseas missions at \$2000 each and 6 local missions at \$100 each.

One of the missions we support is in Indonesia. CFTIW was started in 1983 by Rev. M. Kenneth Taylor from Greensboro, NC. After 13 years in Indonesia, he saw the need to provide support to Bible School and Seminary graduates so that they could spend full-time sharing the gospel of Christ at a fraction of the cost of a imported American missionary. This has proven to be very effective. Thousands have accepted Christ, hearing the Gospel in their own tongue by a native speaker.

Eleven Evangelist and twenty-four outpost pastors and three supervisors receive some support for their ministries. Because Indonesia is so flat they use an inexpensive Ram motor bikes to deliver the clean water to the villages. This was started by a CFTIW missionary. This "Living water" project has been very effective in spreading the gospel! You get clean running water 24 hours; a village, a garden, and a pastor. 50 of these villages have been started.

We thank God for the opportunity to give a little support to this ministry. Thousands have been baptized. The church is alive and growing.

~submitted by Wil Cocke



Gold
Transparency
2024

Candid.

Session Highlights

September Session Highlights

A complete copy of the session minutes are available in the church office.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/Dayschool: Wednesday night suppers will begin on October 8.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Jackie Rochford

- Session approved the 2026 budget proposal. Motion approved. This budget will be presented at the Oct. 22 Wednesday night dinner.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Ava Barrett-A video to open the stewardship campaign will begin on Oct. 5th with various programs being highlighted each week.

Commitment Sunday will be November 9.

MISSIONS

- Session approved Freddie Lamb Fund payments which totals \$13,000. This will be sent to the Trustees for disbursement. Motion approved by consensus

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Work on the roof has begun

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Hearing aids. 10 functional in the charger. 6 in charger and 5 that work with batteries.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jim Pritchett passed away on Sunday, September 7
- Motion made by David Clark and seconded Kim to Write a letter to Greg Robey for his contribution to our music program. Motion approved by consensus.
- Cameras will hopefully install cameras this week.



OCTOBER

5 Wilson Walden

7 Bob Newnam

9 David Clark

Michael Jones

11 Brenna Takata

15 Nicholas Argyrakis

17 Maria Abreu Chima

23 Iya Kassa

26 Carolyn Baker

Nick Argyrakis

28 Fred Baker

Please let the office know if we have missed your special day!

Day School Round Up

Wow! This first month of school has been busy and exciting! From meeting new students and a new teacher, to welcoming returning students, our September has been filled with adventure!

September 2nd marked the first day of school for the 2's and 3's, and we are so happy to be back in the swing of things. We really took that first week to settle in and get used to our new rooms. Mrs. Rhoda's class got to go to chapel for the very first time, and let's just say, we love Mr. Jackson even more! We just know that our relationship with Jesus will grow so much under Mr. Jackson's guidance.

PMO had their first day on the 8th, and were greeted by a brand new teacher. Stormy Wilson is a seasoned pro as she has 4 kids of her own. We know we are just going to love her. She won us over, and with Ms. Penny to guide her, we know she will do great things.

Well, that wraps up our first few weeks of school. The grand finale is Thursday the 25th when the fire department visits us. We will be sure to share their visit with you. Stay tuned!



More Day School
Pictures



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The theme for the stewardship campaign this year is love where you serve. During the next few weeks, the committee will highlight some of the ways we use our time, talents and treasure here at First Presbyterian church.

In the spring, the session sponsored a clothing drive. It was very successful and prompted one of the helpers to write about her experience. You will see the letter below.

Humbling Experience

On May 3rd, 2025, I experienced an incredibly humbling experience at First Presbyterian Church. A clothing giveaway was being held and I was helping that day. Standing in the hallway, looking towards the front door, I noticed a young woman carrying two backpacks walking in. She asked if it would be ok if she came in and looked for a few clothes. I told her it was absolutely ok and proceeded to show her where the women's items were. As we walked into the first room, I noticed her shoes were slipping on her feet and actually looked like men's slip on tennis shoes. The next thing she told me was heartbreaking. She said she was homeless and needed something to wear to a job interview the following week. I told her I would help her find something. The first thing she noticed was a pair of women's tennis shoes and asked if she could try them on. They fit perfectly and she wanted to know if she could leave them on and put the ones she had been wearing out for someone else that might need them. I encouraged her to see if there was another pair that fit to wear to the job interview. She told me she didn't want to be greedy, but did find another pair and was thrilled. As we moved to another room, she found a coat and several other items that would be appropriate for a job interview. She thanked me for helping her and asked if she could hug me. Of course, I said yes. I told her I would pray for her and wished her good luck with the job interview. As we walked towards the door she mentioned she had been wanting to start going to church and asked if she could come to First Presbyterian. I told her what time the Sunday morning service was and she would absolutely be welcome to come. I truly wonder how things turned out at the interview.

WE CAN HELP THE HUNGRY!

CROP Hunger Walk

October 5, 2025

3:00 p.m. – Ballou Park

The Danville Area CROP Hunger Walk raises funds to fight hunger amid rising food and housing costs, reduced benefits, and frequent natural disasters. God's Storehouse, our local food pantry, will receive about 30% of the proceeds, with the remainder supporting Church World Services' global efforts in over 80 countries. Funds go toward essentials like seeds, tools, water systems, and training communities to address their own developmental priorities. Our CROP Walk has raised almost \$300,000 since 2008.

First Presbyterian Church is once again participating in the CROP Hunger Walk on October 5 at Ballou Park. Choose between a one mile or 5K walk—or any distance you prefer. Your involvement counts!

Ways to support FPC:

Join our team:

Donate to our team: Help us reach our \$1,500 goal by

Donating online at crophungerwalk.org/danvilleva (select First Presbyterian Church), OR

Write a check and note it's for CROP Walk.

For more details, see the bulletin board at the Sutherlin entrance.

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.

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