

How Many Noels?
Music by Vicki Tucker Courtney (b. 1954) |
Text by Herb Frombach (b. 1940)
Quoting “The First Nowell,” Traditional English Carol

How many Noels will it take until the world will see
what the shepherds saw that first Noel, a Child who sets us free?

How many Noels will it take until we know the joy
that Mary knew that first Noel, her precious baby Boy?

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, bring us the King of Israel.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, bring us the King, Emmanuel.

How many Noels will it take until we live in love,
the love sent from God that first Noel, His peace sent from above?
(Refrain Repeats)

How many Noels, Noels, Noels, Noels, Noels?

About the Anthem:
Composer Vicki Tucker Courtney describes herself as “born to play the piano,” having begun lessons at four years old. (I believe you will agree that she was also born to write music!) She later studied under Paul van Katwijk. Ms. Courtney studied piano performance at North Texas University while serving as a church music director. Her biography section on Hal Leonard states, “Regrettably, the call of corporate America lured Vicki away from her musical pursuits. Many years went by until she was asked to perform...” Once she returned to playing piano, Vicki began apprenticing with Mark Hayes in 2002. By May 2004, Vicki published her first choral arrangement; five years later, she had acquired over one hundred published titles. Vicki composes and gives piano lessons full-time. She is routinely invited to play for church services and concerts. Vicki’s story is a testament that it is never too late to begin again; it is never too late to follow God’s call.

Writer Herb Frombach is a native of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He is an alumnus of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he earned the B.S. in Music Education. Mr. Frombach worked as a high school music teacher and church choir director. In his retirement, he works part-time as a piano technician and has published over three hundred manuscripts as a freelance composer/lyricist. Herb is an excellent example of dedication and excellence – continually serving God with his best efforts.

Music during Communion -
"The Coventry Carol with Away in a Manger"
"O Come, All Ye Faithful" and
"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" arr. C. Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS		
Today	Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad	
Tuesday December 9	Handbells 5:00pm	Ladies Dinner 6pm
Wednesday December 10	Youth 6pm	
Thursday December 11	Thursday Bible Study 10:30am	
	Choir 4:30pm	
Saturday December 13	Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am	

New Members/Presbyterian 101 Class: December 7th and 14th we will meet in the Westminster Room at 9:45 for a “What does mean to be Presbyterian class?” All are welcome.

We received the J. T. Minnie Maude grant for \$15,000 for Saturday Lunch Ministry.

The beloved church breakfast sponsored by the Outlook Class will happen on Sunday December 14th between 10:00am and 10:45am. **This year you don’t have to bring anything just come hungry!** We will meet in Overbey Hall. Everyone is welcome! Plan to come with your family to celebrate the coming of the Christ!

SERVING TODAY	
Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	Ray Beale
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Jackie Rochford
Greeter	Gail Jones
Side door/Offering	Joan Reynolds
Communion	Kent Shelton
	Jackie Rochford

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		
	October 1-31	FY 2025
Contributions	\$25,335.15	\$360,474.81
Expenditures	\$32,390.90	\$358,685.91
Difference	(\$7,055.75)	\$ 1,788.90

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 flowers in the chancel today are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of James McCorkle (Jimbo) Turner on his 60th birthday by his family.

THE COLUMNS
OF THE

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent



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 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Plainsong, arr. William H. Mathis

INTROIT "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" Yiddish folk song
arr. Wayne L. Wold | Gregory Robey, guitar | Ashley Stanley-Robey & Mack Williams, soloists

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE “Peace” Blount family
Leader: Last Sunday we lit the First Advent Candle signifying our hope in Christ. We light it again as we remember our Savior, born a king in the line of David. Jesus will come again to fulfill all of God’s promises to us, to rule the world wisely and bless all nations. [The First Candle, the Candle of Hope is lit.] Today we light the Second Candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace. The prophet Isaiah called Christ “the Prince of Peace.” Jesus said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through Him peace is found. [The Second Candle is lit, the Candle of Peace.]

All: Let us pray: Lord Jesus, Light of the World. Give peace in our hearts this season. We ask that as we wait for You to come again, that You would remain present with us in Your Spirit. Help us today, and every day, to worship You, to hear Your word, and to do Your will by sharing Your peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the One Who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 11:1-10)
Leader: A shoot shall come forth from Jesse’s stump,
People: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.
Leader: He will judge the poor with righteousness, and the meek with equity;
People: He will be clothed with righteousness and faithfulness.
Leader: The wolf and the lamb will live peacefully together,
People: The leopard and the kid will lie down side by side.
Leader: The cow and the bear will graze together; the lion will eat straw like the ox,
People: And a little child will lead them all.
Leader: They will neither hurt nor destroy on God’s holy mountain,
People: For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters fill the sea.

*HYMN# 347 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

INVOCATION
Come, Holy Spirit. Take full control of this service. Stir our hearts to worship. May Your presence be undeniable and Your voice clear. We yield to You. Have your way in this place. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into to bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Friends, hear the good news: God’s mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Before we repent and change our ways, God’s love has already claimed us as God’s own. Proclaim with me the good news of the gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

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. Amen.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING
God is the giver of every good gift, pouring out grace upon grace on us and our world. Let us give back a portion of those gifts as we receive the morning offering.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Glory to God #144)
“What can I give him, poor as I am? ... If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.”

OFFERTORY "O Little Town of Bethlehem" by Lewis H. Redner,
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

*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 "How Many Noels?" Vicki Tucker Courtney/ Herb Frombach

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Glory to God #88)
“O come, thou Wisdom from on high, Who orderest all things mightily: To us the path of knowledge show; ... Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:
(510/484) Isaiah 11:1-10
(845/804) Romans 15:4-13
(738/701) Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON “The Peace We Don’t Expect” Jackson Weller

*HYMN# 129 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

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 "Comfort, Comfort, Now My People" Genevan Psalter, 1551/arr. Paul Manz

*BENEDICTION

*Please stand if able.

**Hymn lyrics projected on the screen can be found in the “Glory to God” hymnal in the pew.*