

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Poinsettias may be picked up after the service.  
Please pick up your plant by January 7th.

The church office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 29th thru December 31st. The staff wishes the entire congregation of First a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1st, in observance of the New Year holiday.



The Columns of the  
**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
Danville, VA

December 24, 2025  
Christmas Eve Service



## **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**  
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*First Presbyterian Church*  
*Evening Worship 5:30 p.m.*  
*Christmas Eve December 24, 2025*  
*Please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it to your neighbor.*  
*\* Please stand if able.*

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## WELCOME

**PRELUDE**                      ***“Christmas Tapestry”*** arr. Cynthia Dobrinski  
First Presbyterian Handbell Choir | Jack Garrett, timpani

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

On this Christmas Eve we recall the hope we have in Christ.

Tonight we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

*First Candle:* We speak of hope because God keeps his promises to us.

*Second Candle:* We work for peace because Jesus is the “Prince of Peace,” and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

*Third Candle:* We share joy because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence of God.

*Fourth Candle:* We show love because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

*Christ Candle:* Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again, and with the shepherds we are filled with wonder and amazement.

**Let us pray: Lord, you came as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you we will ever walk in life. Amen.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 9,60)

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

**People: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

L: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

**P: but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will appear over you.**

L: Nations shall come to your light,

**P: and kings to the brightness of your dawn.**

L: The people who walked in darkness

**P: have seen a great light;**

L: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,

**FIRST LESSON** **Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19**  
*Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation.*

**SECOND LESSON** **Genesis 22:15-18**  
*God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.*

**THIRD LESSON** **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**  
*The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.*

**FOURTH LESSON** **Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9**  
*The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.*

**FIFTH LESSON** **Luke 1:26-35, 38**  
*An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.*

**SIXTH LESSON** **Luke 2:1-7**  
*Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem where Mary gives birth to her Child.*

**CAROL ANTHEM**      *“O Who’s That Yonder?”*  
Based on an African American Spiritual | arr. John F. Wilson |  
Mack Williams, soloist

## SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16

*Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.*

**EIGHTH LESSON** **Matthew 2:1-11**  
*Magi from the east come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.*

**NINTH LESSON** **John 1:1-14**

*The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.*

## HOMILY

**\*CAROL#122** **"Silent Night, Holy Night!"**

**\*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** **Psalm 96:11-13**  
 Leader: The Lord rules! He has set the world firmly in place; it  
 won't be shaken

**People: Let the heavens celebrate!**

L: Let the earth rejoice!

**P: Let the sea and everything in it roar!**

L: Let the countryside and everything in it celebrate!

**P: Let the trees of the forest shout with joy!**

L: For the Lord is coming.

**ALL:** He is coming to set the world right, and to establish justice among the people.

**\*SENDING CAROL #134** **"Joy to the World!"**

## \*CHARGE AND BLESSING