"Come to the Celebration"
Sue Ellen Page (1949-2016) | Eric D. Johnson

Come to the celebration, let us lift off the rooftops,
Let us make all the stained glass sing.
Come to the celebration, let us rejoice in gladness,
Let all our voices sound and ring.

Refrain: What is the celebration? The gift of grace evermore;
What is the celebration? Worship to God whom we adore.

Join in the celebration, come fill your cup with sweetness,
Come taste the bread of life again.
Join in the celebration, come stand among your brothers,
And let all brothers stand as men. *(Refrain)*

Take home the celebration, take it to work and leisure,
Take it to man with peace and love.
Take home the celebration, carry it to the nations,
Tell them it comes from God with love. *(Refrain 2x)*

About the Choir's Music Today:

The anthem was written by a prominent music minister and children's choir director, Sue Ellen Page. She was the daughter of two church musicians and a two-time alumna of Westminster Choir College. Sue Ellen composed several large choral works and published a book for teachers of choral music during her last several years as Director of Choirs for Children and Youth at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, where she worked from 1982 until her death. Page's philosophy on worship was simple: Each person's spirit is bigger than the music and instruments traditionally used in the church. I share Sue Ellen's belief that every person reflects God's Image and God's love; people and music from every culture glorify God in Christian worship. Before Sue Ellen attended Westminster (and later joined the faculty), she was born in Keokuk, Illinois. Her parents brought her with them to college at Westminster when she was four years old); then the family went to lead music at First Methodist Church of Montgomery, Alabama. She credited her parents with teaching her to love all God's children and to love music.

The choral call to worship was composed by Edith McNeill (1920-2014). Very little is known about McNeill, except that she was a long-time member of the Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal) in Houston, Texas and her husband taught at the University of Texas. Church of the Redeemer underwent a charismatic renewal in the 1960s, greatly influenced by pastor Graham Pulkingham and his wife, composer Betty Pulkingham. (Composer Kathleen Thomerson also attended church with Edith and Betty.) This Psalm setting is unique because it pairs a canticle (sung scripture from Lamentations 3:22-23) with a responsive Psalm. It has been translated into Lithuanian and is sung in Lithuanian congregations. Find the full text at #59 in the hymnal.

Music during Communion:
"Now the Silence" Jaroslav J. Vajda/Carl F. Schalk
"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" Fred Kahn/Jamaican fold tune; adapt. Doreen Potter; Mack Williams , baritone soloist and "Fairest Lord Jesus" from *Schlesischer Volkslieder*, arr. Tom Fettke

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 by the Lord, please talk to one of the elders or our pastor.

OUR PARTNERS IN MISSION

ABUKLOI SECONDARY SCHOOL *(Abukloi Foundation) Rembek, South Sudan*
CHRIST FOR THE ISLAND WORLD *Greensboro, NC, Indonesia*
FRAISER, IAN & STEPAHNIE *(VIA) Springdale, AR*
PARTNER IN MISSION *(FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP) Indonesia & Central Asia*
LEE, MATTHEW & TERESA *((Wycliffe Bible Translators) Dallas, TX*
PERROW, WILLIAM & WANDA *(Open Arms Foundation) Medellin, Colombia*
PARTNER IN MISSION *(Paraclete Mission Group) US West Coast*
SYDNOR, PAUL & REINHILD *(TeachBeyond) Paris, France*
WEHMEYER, DONALD & MARTHA *(The Antioch Partners) Merida, Yucatan, Mexico*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad

Monday November 2	PW Circle 12:30pm
Monday November 2	PW Evening Circle 7pm
Tuesday November 3	Morning Bible Study 10:30am
Tuesday November 3	Handbells 5pm
Tuesday November 3	Property 5:30pm
Tuesday November 3	Ladies Dinner 6pm
Wednesday November 4	Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm
Thursday November 5	Choir 4:30pm
Saturday November 7	Sat. Lunch Ministry

~The Presbyterian Women's Day Circle will meet on Monday, November 2nd at 12:30 p.m. in the Westminster Room. Everybody is welcome!

~The Evening Circle is starting a new study November 2nd. We will meet at the home of Karan Johnson. Joyce Perez will lead a study entitled "Jesus Calling -Putting Jesus First." If you would like the book accompanying the study, they are available on Amazon or call Ava 434-250-5599 to reserve a copy.

~Wednesday Night Supper November 4th. Menu: Pork BBQ, slaw, mac & cheese, salad, a tasty dessert and tea. Team 3 is in charge. Please use the reservation form in the bulletin or call the office by **noon Tuesday** if you plan to attend. A bible study is the program.

~Commitment Sunday is November 8th don't forget to bring your commitment card.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Video/Sound	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Gail Jones
Greeter	Jackie Rochford
Side door/Offering	Kim Wimer
Counters	Reynolds/Ramey

List of Session members

Class of 2026: Ava Barrett, Barry Cutright, Gail Jones, Kim Wimer
Class of 2027: Harriet Beale, Pat Pinckney, Joan Reynold, Kent Shelton
Class of 2028: Eddie Blount, Jr., Kathy Dolianitis, Jackie Rockford, Alex Walthall
Trustees: Bob Newnam, Ray Beale, Gary Wimer

2026 Budget Update

	August 2026	FY 2026
Revenue	$33,862.99	$273,510.34
Expenditures	$43,840.04	$312,404.03
Difference	(-$9,977.05)	(-$38,893.69)

Scan the QR code for today's scripture readings.

THE COLUMNS OF THE

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

November 1, 2026

All Saints Day



Welcome

This church opens wide its doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Celebrating 199 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
MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP
CHORAL INTROIT "The Steadfast Love of the Lord" (Psalm 105)
by Edith McNeill

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 43:3-5)
Leader: O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.
People: Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.
Leader: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?
People: Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

***HYMN#465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

INVOCATION
You do not want us to be ignorant of your dreams and hopes for us, God of holiness, so you speak to us in parables, so we might pay careful attention to your words; you tell us stories about our grandparents in the faith, so we might become mentors to our grandchildren, and theirs. Filling us with the holy oil of generosity and grace, you make us ready to welcome Jesus Christ into our lives, and to open our hearts to those who are in need. On this day, we choose to serve you, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Holy God, we know that we may rest in the promises of our baptism — we know that your grace rests on us this day and every day. Never for a moment are we outside of your constant care. And yet, things happen. Life tumbles in and your promises seem distant. We retreat into fear. We worry about what we cannot change. We forget why we do what we do in the name of our arisen Lord. Forgive our anxious fears. Lead us to be the people of God that you created us to be, disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer our prayers…

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION
ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Ephesians 2:8-10)
By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing: it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one might boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.
Believe the promise of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

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
Among the competing narratives that seek to claim our lives is the belief that we must compete for scarce resources. But our God is not a god of scarcity. Our God is a god of abundance who has provided for the needs of God's people. Trusting in the generosity of God, let us return our tithes and offerings to the one who has provided them in the first place.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
Gracious God, from your bountiful hand, we have received grace upon grace. From the abundance of your world, we return this portion to you asking that you would bless these gifts, multiply them, and use them. May we be blessed as we see your kingdom at work among us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Gavotte in F Minor" Michael Canales

***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.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM "Come to the Celebration" Eric D. Johnson/SueEllen Page

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your call. Inspire us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES;

(914/871)	Revelation 7:9-17
(906/863)	1 John 3:1-3
(719/683)	Matthew 5:1-12

SERMON "Blessed Are The People of God" **Jackson Weller**

***HYMN#295 Go to the World!**

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 "When the Saints Go Marching In" African American spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes

***BENEDICTION**
***Please stand if able.**
*Hymn lyrics projected on the screen can be found in the "Glory to God" hymnal in the pew.

Sermon Notes: