

# Beyond the Columns

First Presbyterian Church, Danville | June 2026

## **Wrestling with the Word**

June has arrived—green, warm, and humming with the promise of life. Every year, this month feels like the season when creation takes a deep breath and invites us to do the same. School slows down, daylight stretches longer, and conversations shift outdoors. Yet even as life becomes lighter, the Scriptures appointed for June remind us that God is always at work shaping us, steadying us, and calling us toward deeper faithfulness.

This month's lectionary readings are wonderfully rich, speaking to both the beauty and the challenge of discipleship. Early in June, we hear again the majestic opening of Genesis 1—the same text we ponder each Trinity Sunday. "In the beginning, God created..." (Gen. 1:1). Those four words are more than a statement of cosmic history—they are a promise. They assure us that the world is not an accident and neither are we. We were created with intention, loved before we ever took our first breath, and placed in a world God delights in calling good.

We also hear from Psalm 8, where the psalmist marvels, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them?" (Ps. 8:4). Isn't that the question at the heart of our faith? Who am I that God should care for me? And yet He does. Not abstractly, not generally, but personally and tenderly. The God who hung the moon is the God who lifts your head when life wears you down.

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# Wrestling with the Word page 2

Later in June, Jesus' words from Matthew 9 and 10 ring loudly: "The harvest is plentiful... therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers" (Matt. 9:37-38). Then, in the very next chapter, He sends out the disciples themselves. Sometimes we pray for God to act, forgetting that God delights in acting through us. The call to discipleship is never passive. Christ invites us not merely to believe but to participate (caring for the weary, speaking peace, living courageously, and embodying the kingdom in daily, ordinary ways.)

And then comes one of June's most comforting promises, from Romans 5: "We boast in our hope... and hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:3, 5). In a world that often disappoints, Paul reminds us that Christian hope is different. It is not fragile. It is not based on good circumstances. It rests on the unshakable love of a God who has already poured Himself out for us.

That may be the message we most need this summer.

**Hope in God does not disappoint.**

God is faithful.

God is with us.

God is working in us, even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

As we step into June, I encourage you to look for signs of that hope. Maybe it will be in a quiet moment of prayer, or a conversation that encourages your spirit, or the beauty of a cool morning after a hot day. Maybe it will be in worship, where we gather as a people who dare to believe that God is forming something new in us and through us.

Whatever this month brings, may you feel the warmth of God's grace as surely as the summer sun. And may these lectionary texts remind you that from the very beginning of creation to the sending of the disciples to the pouring out of the Spirit, God's story has always been one of love, purpose, and hope.

Grace and peace to you,

*Jackson*

## Day School Round up

Wow! School is out for summer! What a great last month of school we have had! Field trip fun, Trikes and Tykes, school picnic and field day rounded out a great year at First Pres!

We had a great field trip to the Science Center. As always, it did not disappoint. It was a little cooler, so the butterflies were a little less enthusiastic, but the train tour and the play areas inside made up for that! We topped it off with a snack by the train tracks. It was a great day! Our Trikes and Tykes fundraiser was a success thanks to all of our wonderful parents. We've already added a few items to our playground thanks to their generosity.

Our last week of school was a hot one! But it didn't stop us from enjoying every minute! The school picnic felt like the best one yet!! We had tents up on the playground (thanks Ms. Teresa), Mr. Jackson at the grill, and our wonderful board members serving up the food. It was a great day with our families and friends.

Field Day was busy!! We tried to soak up every minute of our last day with our friends and teachers. Games, special snacks, and medals kept us so busy that we forgot we were going on break. It made it a little easier to say goodbye and see you soon.

Well, that's a wrap, folks! We will be sure to keep y'all up to date on our summer camp that starts on June 16th. Talk soon!!



**Father's Day Offering**, for June we will collect donations for Sunnyside Communities. Sunnyside Communities Fellowship Fund provides financial and personal resources for residents who can no longer fully pay for their care. In most cases these residents have no other means of support and often no family.

This fund provides assistance to those who have outlived their life's savings. Thank you for your support to our seniors in need. Please make your check to FPC and mark your check Sunnyside in the memo or use the envelopes in the window sill.

## MISSIONS



### **Paul & Reinhild Sydnor**

In December the Sydnor left their old organization and joined TeachBeyond. Teach Beyond is an educational mission with over 2000 workers from around the world serving in various schools and projects. Paul serves as a Diaspora Ministry Consultant and Network Lead. As a consultant he collaborates with church communities to build understanding for God's mission among and through people on the move. Concerning networks, he is helping and connecting with other TeachBeyond workers in similar kinds of ministry. Reinhild has been appointed as his "Assistant."

Paul's work helps immigrant communities such as refugees but also other diaspora groups to understand their role in God's mission. This has an educational focus which makes TeachBeyond a good fit. The organization sees a growing need for non-traditional approaches to educate in vulnerable contexts. Paul's experience among refugees and diaspora communities gives TeachBeyond a helpful resource in this growing area of need. In March Paul shared a message at the AtHome church in Paris. The pastor, Samir, is a computer technician, and they are exploring how a digital platform using AI could serve displaced people and their communities. Samir already has it mapped out as a programmer. Paul is using his connection to the Global Diaspora Network of Lausanne and other pastors and organizations in France. He asks that we pray for this project to take shape! The Sydnors will return to the States in June for their son Luke and Abbey's wedding in Virginia. Right after this they will go to TeachBeyond's annual orientation. They are thanking us for all of our prayers and financial support.

*~submitted by Linda Copeland*

# Music Department

## **Exciting Music Department Updates**

During the last week of May, an exciting addition to our music department arrived. The board of the Danville Area Choral Arts Society (DACAS) decided to relocate their music libraries to First Presbyterian. They moved into the Outlook Class (room 322), right next to the music office. They have supplied their own shelving and will be using two folding tables from the previous handbell choir room. I am very excited to be sharing space with our community choir. I am looking forward to welcoming the full membership of DACAS into our building for future rehearsals and concerts here, as well. I should be able to provide more updates over the next couple of months.

In response to the above space sharing arrangement, our Handbell Choir plans to relocate back to their previous space (room 315). The DACAS Ringers have already been rehearsing here for the past few years. They will also rehearse in room 315 beginning in September. Our choir risers and matching blue chairs will all be returned to the choir room in anticipation of DACAS rehearsing there. I am very thankful for Jackson's help with moving chairs, tables, and instruments between these rooms. I deeply appreciate both of our choirs being so willing to share our spaces and their musical talents with DACAS.

## **Summer Choir Invitation**

Our Chancel Choir has only a few more rehearsals before we transition to our summer choir schedule. If you would like to sing with the choir during the summer, we will meet at 10:00am on Sundays only from June 28th through August 2nd. All are welcome to come sing with us for one week or all six weeks – we will focus on hymns. No outside practice time will be needed or expected. Come join us as we make a joyful noise to the Lord! (Guests and visitors are welcome – I always keep an extra folder of music ready for you.)

Next month I will travel to Massanetta Springs for the synod gathering of Presbyterian Women, and then it will be on to Montreat for the Worship and Music Conference! I am set to attend Painting with the Pipe Organ; adult choir twice daily; Black Women Composers' Faith Songs; Worship Reflections; and Hymns as Living Witnesses with Mary Louise Bringle. Dr. Bringle is an alumna of Guilford College in Greensboro and Emory University in Atlanta; she is a professor of philosophy and religion at Brevard College and the chair of the Humanities Division. Although I haven't met her yet, I have come to know Dr. Bringle through her hymns, twenty of which are included in our hymnal. These are the most familiar ones: God Is Calling through the Whisper (410), Sign Us with Ashes (433), Now Go in Joy (745), When Memory Fades (808), and In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness (850).

**Danville Symphony's "Star-Spangled Celebration"** Please join us at 6:00pm in the Carrington Pavilion on Friday, July 3rd (not the 4th!) for a FREE concert of patriotic music to celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary. Gates will open by 5:30 for the audience to find seats. No tickets or reservations are needed. There will not be fireworks on the 3rd, just the concert! Please go back out on the 4th to see fireworks!

Wishing you all a happy Father's Day, and a wonderful month of June! Peace of Christ,  
*Ashley*





4 Malcolm Mallery

Carol Stoakley

8 Emma Jones

10 Anne Pritchett

11 Jean Pritchett

12 Eddie Blount

13 Marissa Meadors

17 Erin Beale

24 Mikayla Kassa

25 Royal Motley

Carpenter Walden

28 Sallie Abreu

30 Sue Miller

#### **Anniversaries**

June 5,1966 Bernadine & Jay Hayes

June 14 Leigh & Wilson Walden

June 19,1976 David & Donna Parris

June 24,1972 David & Sally Clark

Let us know if we've missed your special day!



The Presbyterian Women's Day & Evening Circle will not meet in June. They will meet again in the fall. Enjoy your summer, news about the fall study will be upcoming.

Our new membership directory is available in the church office. Inside is a survey from the Membership Committee that we ask you to please fill out and drop in the offering plate on Sunday. Please contact Vickie in the church office, 434-792-7822 ext. 1 to pick up your survey. If changes or corrections need to be made, please email [admin@fpcdanville.com](mailto:admin@fpcdanville.com)

### Session Highlights

DACAS will be using our building for their practice & storage of music. They will also be holding concerts in the future.

New food training rules are in place for Saturday Lunch to satisfy our insurance policy directive. Copies of the session minutes are in the church office.



\*\*\*\* 3 YEAR OLD CLASS LEARNS ABOUT NOAH'S ARK\*\*\*\*

# Announcements

- Sunday June 28th Jackson Weller and Ashley Stanley-Robey will lead worship at Stratford House. The service is in the Evergreen Room at 2:00pm.
- Thursday Bible Study will meet Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. This will be our last class until the fall. We will continue our study of Daniel. Please mark your calendars.
- Men's breakfast & bible study will not meet again until the fall.

• Dear members and friends,  
As many of you know, it is our tradition at First Presbyterian Church to enjoy fresh flowers in our beautiful sanctuary, during worship. These flowers are usually placed in "honor of" or "in memory of" friends or love ones, and in celebration of a special birthday, anniversary, etc. For many years, there have been two arrangements displayed in the rear of the sanctuary on the reredos. We now have another option, and that is to display only one fresh arrangement in front of the chancel area. If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary during worship, please contact me at 434-203-1666 or email me at [rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net](mailto:rebeccaatkinson@comcast.net).

In Christ,  
*Rebecca Moore*

- **Youth**  
Youth will meet June 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. We will help with Saturday Lunch Ministry Saturday 27th.

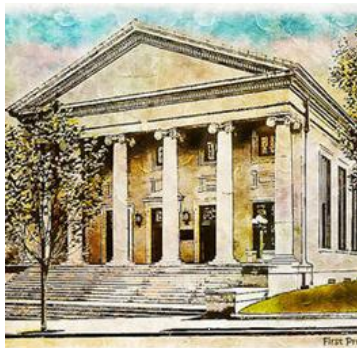




### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DANVILLE**

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](mailto:admin@fpcdanville.com)  
Office hours are Monday– Thursday 9 am—1 pm



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