About the Hymns in Today's Service:

"Just as I Am, without One Plea" is an incredibly popular hymn. Its use as an altar call and closing song in Billy Graham's crusades only increased its popularity. The author, Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871), suffered from a debilitating disease at 32 years old. She entered a deep depression and spiritual crisis for twelve years. One sleepless night, Charlotte decided she needed to face her spiritual troubles. She relied on "grand certainties, not of her emotions, but of her salvation: her Lord, His power, His promise" while writing this hymn text. It is a comfort to all Christians who experience doubt, mental illness, or chronic physical maladies. The tune, WOODWORTH, was composed by William Bradbury (1816-1868), originally for another text ("The God of Love Will Sure Indulge" by Elizabeth Scott). The metrical index of Bradbury's tune requires us to repeat, "I come" at the end of each verse. Some hymnologists (including Austin Lovelace) claim the text would be stronger without repeated words, but I disagree. We are reaffirming our profession of faith and commitment to Christ; there are few better words to repeat.

The second hymn today, "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" was written by Joseph Hart (1712-1768), an English and language teacher from London. He experienced a dramatic conversion at age 45 and began writing hymns. The refrain has caused some controversy due to the final line, "In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms." This controversy is twofold, as there is no scripture verse that references "ten thousand charms" and the word charm can be associated with magic. However, it is obvious Hart was using the word charm to describe the personal relationship and affinity between the Savior and believers. Many people relate the refrain to the parable of the Prodigal Son. This is by far Hart's most popular hymn text. The anonymous American folk tune, RESTORATION, comes from Walker's *Southern Harmony* (1835). Open fourth and fifth intervals combine with the shape note harmonies and minor key to create a uniquely penitential melodic contour.

Our closing hymn combines a familiar tune with fresh lyrics. Michael John Saward (1932-2015) was an Anglican canon and church commissioner. He also served as radio and television officer for the Church of England's Church Information Office. Saward wrote "Baptized in Water" in 1981 in observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination. It is a compact declaration of the theology of baptism, but it is also a sung creed (affirmation of faith). We are cleansed and saved by the blood of Christ alone; we are buried with Christ and will rise again to eternal life in heaven. We believe in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, by which we are God's children. It is a powerful biblical profession of faith. The tune, BUNESSAN, is a Gaelic melody first published Scotland (1888). We know this tune well as "Morning Has Broken" by Eleanor Farjeon (1931), popularized in 1971 by Cat Stevens. The tune has always been intended for unison singing, from its first publication in 1888 through the contemporary arrangements included in our current hymnal published in 2013.

OUR PARTNERS IN MISSION

ABUKLOI SECONDARY SCHOOL (Abukloi Foundation) Rembek, South Sudan
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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

Tuesday November 10	Morning Bible Study 10:30am
Tuesday November 10	Handbells 5pm
Tuesday November 10	Session 6:30pm
Wednesday November 11	Youth 6pm
Thursday November 12	Choir 4:30pm
Saturday November 14	Sat. Lunch Ministry

*Commitment Sunday is today, place in the baskets before service. You may fill out a commitment card from the windowsill if you need one.
*The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany will host the community Thanksgiving service this year. The service will be at 7pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
*The Saturday Lunch Ministry Thanksgiving Meal is scheduled for Saturday, November 21. This event is one of FPC's primary missions to the community – and we need lots of help. We will serve a full Thanksgiving, sit-down meal from 11:30-noon. If you can help, please contact the office or Jackie.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Word & Sacrament	David Baker
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Video/Sound	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Kathy Dolianitis
Greeter	Jackie Rochford
Side door/Offering	Kent Shelton
Counters	Beale/Moore

List of Session members

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

2026 Budget Update

	September 2026	FY 2026
Revenue	$74,436.78	$347,947.12
Expenditures	$62,727.24	$375,131.27
Difference	$11,709.54	(- $ 27,184.15)

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.

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.

THE COLUMNS OF THE

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

November 8, 2026

24th Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE **"My Lord, What a Morning"** African American spiritual, arr. Jason W. Krug

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 78)

Leader: Give ear, O my people, and listen to the words of my mouth

People: We will tell the coming generations of the Lord's glorious deeds and the wonders God has done.

Leader: Let us set our hope in God and not forget the works of the Lord.

People: As we wait, we will tell the story and keep the commandments.

Leader: We come together to worship the living God.

***HYMN#442** **Just as I Am, without One Plea**

INVOCATON

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 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

God of grace, we have sinned against you by not honoring you or loving one another. We sleep when you ask us to be awake. We fall short in our preparations for the delays that inevitably come. We fail to share what you have provided. We have lost our hope. Forgive our sinful ways, tame our wayward wills and make us more like Christ. Inspire us by your Spirit so that we will be prepared to welcome the Lord when he appears. May our lives here and now be a glimpse of what we hope all may one day enjoy.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear these words, and listen to this good news: Jesus died and rose again, and will bring with him both those who have died and those who are alive. **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

The gifts of God are abundant, and we have received far more than we know. Out of gratitude and with hope, let us bring our tithes and offerings for God's work among us as we wait for the day of Christ's appearance in our midst.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks, O God, for the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us. Receive these gifts as symbols of the dedication of our very lives and signs of trust in your coming reign of justice and peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY **"The Love of God"** J.W. Krug

***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

***HYMN#415** **Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Inspire us by your Holy Spirit that the words we read on the page might Become living words in our hearts and lives as we encounter the grace, love and peace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES:

(560/531) Isaiah 64:1-6

(893/851) Hebrews 10:14-18

SERMON **"Sin"** **Rev. David Baker**

***HYMN#482** **Baptized in Water**

***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 **"Arise to Life"** Edward Broughton

***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: