

“Celebration”

By Catherine F. Payn and William A. Payn (b. 1946)

God is with us: let us join in celebration,
Telling of His love in hearts that sing and bells that ring.

God is with us; let us join with all creation,
Spreading forth the joyful news to all that Christ is King.

Alleluia, ring alleluia! Ring peals of joy, allelu!
Alleluia, sing alleluia! Sing endless praise, allelu!

So if this song within your heart in joy is ringing,
Filling ev'ry corner of your life with boundless love,
Give it voice! To others hope and courage bringing,
Sharing with your song all the love of God above.

About Today's Anthem:

Dr. William A. Payn was born and raised in Ashtabula, Ohio. He is an alumnus of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. After college, William attended graduate school at West Virginia University where he earned both an MM and DMA. Dr. Payn is currently Professor of Music and director of choral studies at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. He directs both the Rooke Chapel Choir and Rooke Chapel Ringers at Bucknell. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Westminster Choir College for his contributions to handbell literature. In addition to Dr. Payn's accomplishments as a professor, he also directs the Susquehanna Valley Chorale and Orchestra.

With more than thirty original handbell compositions to his credit, Dr. Payn's major contribution to the handbell world has been to write quality music that raises the standard and expectations for handbell choirs. He enjoys bridging the divide between handbells and other types of music, including a piece for handbells and orchestra, "Heart Melodies," which was premiered by the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra in 2002. Today's anthem is in a similar vein because it joins the handbell choir with a traditional vocal choir.

Dr. Payn wrote an extended introduction for handbells to prepare for the singers' strong entrance, followed by a soft section with an arpeggiated chordal accompaniment from the treble clef handbells. A static key change, or sudden direct modulation, introduces the celebratory alleluia section. Afterwards, both handbells and singers relax into the original key, melody, and accompaniment. Finally, a dramatic flourish is achieved by increasing the volume and decreasing the tempo. At the very end, the handbell choir repeats their initial fanfare at maximum volume. (I have given the ringers permission to ring "as loudly as possible" at the end of this piece!) I chose this anthem as a final celebration of Eastertide, and a look ahead to our 200th church anniversary celebration later this year.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad

Monday May 18	CE Committee 4:30pm
Tuesday May 19	Worship Committee 4:00pm
Tuesday May 19	Handbells 5:00pm
Tuesday May 19	Low Country Boil 6:00pm
Wednesday May 20	Youth 6pm
Thursday May 21	Bible Study 10:30am
Thursday May 21	Choir 4:30pm
Saturday May 23	Sat. Lunch Ministry

Our mission project for May will be the Baby Bottle Boomerang. We are collecting donations to help the local Transition Pregnancy Solutions Center. They provide parenting classes, Bible studies, and sharing God's love to clients facing a pregnancy. With your help they can continue their mission of helping women considering their options in an unexpected pregnancy. Baby bottles are on the table behind the sanctuary. Make your check payable to FPC with Transitions in the memo line. Turn in your donation today!

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.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley Robey
Video/Sound	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Ray Beale
Greeter	Kent Shelton
Side door/Offering	C.B. Strange
Counters	Reynolds

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., Sam Meadema, Jackie Rockford, Alex Walthall
Trustees: Bob Newnam, Ray Beale, Gary Wimer

2026 Budget Update		
	April 2026	FY 2026
Revenue	\$28,990.14	\$152,485.82
Expenditure	\$34,699.19	\$156,345.34
Difference	\$(-5,709.05)	\$(-3,859.52)

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.

Scan the QR code for today's scripture readings.



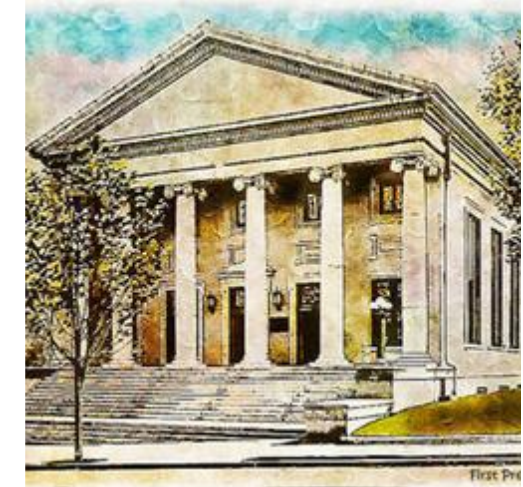
*THE COLUMNS
OF THE*

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

May 17, 2026

**Ascension of the Lord
7th Sunday of Easter**



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

PRELUDE "Were You There?" African American spiritual, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 68:7-10,32)

Leader: O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, the earth quaked,

People: the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

Leader: Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

People: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

***HYMN#468 "In My Life (Lord, Be Glorified)"**

INVOCATION

Lord, renew my heart today. Let this service ignite my spirit and breathe fresh fire into my soul. May every word spoken and every song sung lead me closer to You. Renew our church, our passion, and our purpose. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, you have loved us from generation to generation. You have shown your faithfulness more often than we can recall. The Bible tells us of your steadfast mercy. You even pray for us. Yet we live holding on to past hurts; we are not open to your new creation. We prefer the safety of what we know to the excitement of discipleship. Forgive us, we pray, and make us again as you would have us be. We make all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (2 Corinthians 4:14-15)

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. 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

In a time when affordability is top of mind for many people, it is often tempting to dwell on scarcity and to believe that there simply is not enough to go around, Christian faith offers a contrary word, proof that God has given us more than we can ever need, from the overflowing of God's love. Consequently, the people of God are invited to affirm that love with our own offerings, which will manifest the love of Christ to the world he died to save. The morning offering will now be received.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With abundance upon abundance, Almighty God, you have seen to our needs. We return this portion of our wealth, we offer these prayers, and we remember the gift of time you have given us as tokens of our commitment to know you, to love you, and to serve you. Bless these gifts, multiply and use them, and may we blessed ourselves as we see your work in our midst, Amen.

OFFERTORY "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise"
Robert Williams, arr. Cindy Berry

***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 "Celebration" Catherine F. Payn/William A. Payn

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Psalm 19:14)

May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of all of our hearts, be acceptable, even pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our strength and redeemer. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES;
(770/810) Acts 1:6-14
(859/902) 1 Peter 4:12-14,5:6-11
(765/805) John 17:1-11

SERMON "Living Between Ascension and Arrival"
Jackson Weller
***HYMN#384 "Soon and Very Soon"**

***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 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" Ithamar Conkey |
Setting: 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: