

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

African American spiritual | Arranger: Melva Wilson Costen (1933-2023)

When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go;
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go!
Refrain: Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
Tell old Pharaoh: let my people go!

"Thus saith the Lord," bold Moses said, "Let my people go!
If not, I'll smite your firstborn dead. Let my people go!" *Refrain*

"No more shall they in bondage toil: let my people go!
Let them come out with Egypt's spoil: let my people go!" *Refrain*

O let us all from bondage flee; let my people go!
And let us all in Christ be free: let my people go! *Refrain*

About the Anthem:

This spiritual is very popular in piano and music theory books, as well as in Sunday school classes and Bible study groups. It is a testimony of how deeply the Israelites' experience in bondage resonated with African Americans living in slavery during the 18th and 19th centuries. This spiritual always reminds me of a sermon point from Joyce Perez – God calls us to respond to and assist marginalized and oppressed people we encounter. Today we have chosen to use solos, call and response, and the printed full choir harmonization to illustrate the conversation within the lyrics. The bass solos represent the voice of God speaking through Moses, and the choral responses illustrate the cries of the enslaved people asking for their freedom.

Arranger Melva Ruby Wilson was born in Due West, South Carolina in 1933. She graduated from Harbison Junior College (1948), Johnson C. Smith University (1953), and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (1964), where she earned the Master of Arts in Teaching Music degree. While attending college at Johnson C. Smith University, Melva met and married seminarian James Costen. When James was called to pastor Church of the Master Presbyterian Church in Atlanta (1965), Melva became their music director. She joined the faculty at Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (1973) and directed the Center Chorus. She went on to earn a PhD in curriculum and instruction with a cognate in music from Georgia State University (1978).

Dr. Costen was named Visiting Professor of Liturgical Studies at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music in 2005. The Costen Institute for Worship Leadership at Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary was named in her honor. Reverend Dr. Diane Givens Moffett remembered Dr. Melva Wilson Costen as "a premier professor in Reformed Christian worship and African American Presbyterianism. She was a friend and colleague to so many, serving faithfully with energy, intelligence, imagination and love." Dr. Costen left a rich example to church musicians, ministers, and Christian educators.

May we each aspire to serve God and the church with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

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

Tuesday June 16 NO Ladies Dinner 5pm

Wednesday June 17 Youth 6pm

Thursday June 18 Choir 4:30pm

Saturday June 20 Sat. Lunch Ministry

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.

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 Nancy Clayton
Greeter Sam Meadema
Side door/Offering David Swann
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

	May 2026	FY 2026
Revenue	\$21,989.62	\$174,475.44
Expenditures	\$24,634.81	\$180,980.15
Difference	\$(-2,645.19)	\$(-6,504.71)

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.



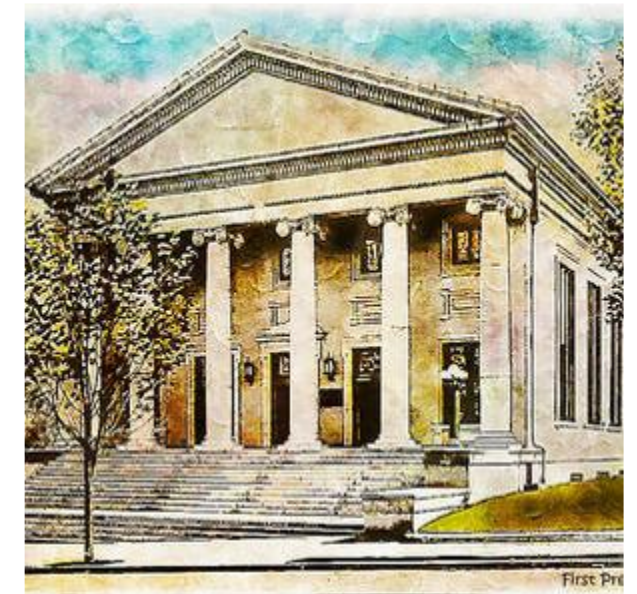
THE COLUMNS OF THE

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

June 14, 2026

3rd 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

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT "What Shall I Render to the Lord" Psalm 116
from The New Metrical Version of the Psalms, 1909 | Music by Hugh Wilson; adapted and harmonized by Robert Smith

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 116)

Leader: The Lord hears us when we cry out.

People: Praise the Lord!

Leader: The Lord showers us with blessings.

People: Praise the Lord!

Leader: Let us lift up the name of Lord for all to hear!

People: Praise the Lord!

Leader: Let us sing of God’s endless grace and compassion!

People: Let us worship God!

***HYMN#81 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”**

INVOCATION

God, as you met Abraham in an ordinary moment of hospitality, meet us today in the ordinary moments of our lives. Open our minds to recognize your presence among us; open our hearts to receive your promises; open our arms to embrace your miraculous works with joy, wonder, and laughter. As we gather to worship, help us find the courage to hope, the wisdom to trust, and the perseverance to cooperate with you as you fulfill our promises as you work for abundant life for all creation. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Romans 5)

Loving God, we come with heavy hearts. We have not lived as you have called us to live. We give up too easily. We ignore our neighbor’s cries for help and are silent in the face of injustice. We lose hope. We fail to see your blessings among us and are blind to the glimpses of the kingdom all around us. We are weak. Have mercy upon us. Shower us with your grace that we might be enlivened for service and for love. Lord, hear our prayer... Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, God loves you. God wants to be in relationship with you. God allows nothing to come between you and God. Believe this and know that you are forgiven and freed to love and serve. **Alleluia. Amen.**

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

All we have, we have from God, the one who made each of us with unique gifts that together make the body of Christ whole. In gratitude for all we have received, we reach up in thanksgiving, and we reach out in service, sharing our time, talents, and treasures, so that God’s kingdom may come here and now. Let us consider our gifts given in grateful praise.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, how can we thank you for all that you have given us? We give back but a tiny portion in hopes that it may bless the world as you have blessed us. In the name of Jesus, our brother and our Lord, Amen.

OFFERTORY “Morning Has Broken” Traditional Gaelic melody, arr. C.E. Walz

***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 “When Israel Was in Egypt's Land” African American spiritual, arr. Melva Wilson Costen | Ray Hayes, bass soloist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of joy and wonder, breathe your Spirit upon us. Open our hearts and ears to hear these ancient words and be surprised. Open our minds and our eyes to see our place in your living word today and every day. Amen.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES;
(12/11) Genesis 18:1-15
(839/798) Romans 5:1-8
(724/687) Matthew 9:35-10:8

SERMON “God is Extraordinary” Jackson Weller

***HYMN#223 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**
***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 “For All the Saints” Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. C.E. Walz

***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: