

When We Must Bear Persistent Pain

Lyrics by Ruth Duck (1947-2024) | Tune from Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835
Harmony by David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

Please see #807 in the hymnal for complete lyrics of all four verses.

About the Choir's Hymns Today:

Dr. Ruth Carolyn Duck was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Annapolis, Maryland. When she was sixteen, her family moved to Memphis, where she learned about the ministry of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and became committed to working to end the injustice of racism. Ruth earned her BA in 1969 from Southwestern at Memphis University (Rhodes College today), a Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary (1973), an MA from Notre Dame (1987), and a Doctor of Theology from Boston University in 1989. Dr. Duck's academic work focused on liturgy, worship, and Trinitarian baptism. She pastored several United Church of Christ congregations and was a professor of worship for twenty-seven years at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. Ruth was best known as a hymnwriter; she published over two hundred hymns and Psalm paraphrases. Today's anthem was written in 2004, inspired by a long bout of recurring migraine headaches. Dr. Duck's words remind us the Comforter is here with us whether we deal with emotional, physical, or spiritual pain. God "hears our complaint," even when we have caused our own distress. We can trust God every day, "our hope, our health, our song."

This "new" hymn was set to a very familiar tune, PROSPECT, from Walker's Southern Harmony. The harmonizer, David Johnson, was an American organist, composer, educator, and choral director. Johnson was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas; he attended college at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corp from 1942-46 in India, Burma, and China. Upon returning home, Johnson continued his music studies at Trinity University (BMus, 1950) and Syracuse University (M.M. 1951, PhD 1956). Dr. Johnson was organist and instructor at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota for seven years (1960-67). He then moved on to Syracuse University (1967-69) and Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ where he taught until his death in 1987. He and his wife, Margaret S. Teal, had six children. He was prolific, publishing over three hundred pieces throughout his career. You may recognize today's tune as "The Lone, Wild Bird," the first text Johnson set to it.

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.

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 July 28 Ladies Dinner 5pm
Saturday August 1 Sat. Lunch Ministry
Today at 2pm Jackson Weller and Ashley Stanley-Robey will lead worship at Stratford House. The service is in the Evergreen Room. You are invited to attend.
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	Gail Jones
Greeter	Ava Barrett
Side door/Offering	Harriet Beale
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 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

	June 2026	FY 2026
Revenue	\$43,543.50	\$217,668.94
Expenditures	\$33,242.90	\$214,223.05
Difference	\$10,300.60	\$3,445.89

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.



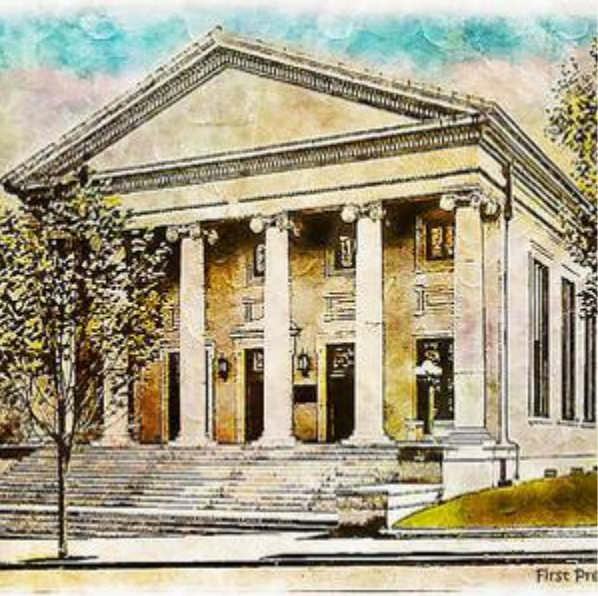
THE COLUMNS
OF THE

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

July 26, 2026

9th 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 CALL TO WORSHIP "The Steadfast Love of the Lord" (Psalm 105) Refrain: Edith McNeill/Responsive Reading: Order of St. Benedict

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 119)

Leader: The decrees of the Lord are wonderful,
People: The unfolding of God’s word gives light and understanding.
Leader Turn to us, O God, and be gracious to us.
People: Make your face shine upon your servants.
Leader: We come together to worship the living God.

***HYMN#275** **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

INVOCATION
Loving God, Your extravagant love has called us together. Long before we even knew You, You already knew us, and had chosen us to be part of Your own family— sisters and brothers with our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. What amazing love You have shown toward us! And so we come before You with praise and thanksgiving, offering You the worship of our hearts and lives, and opening ourselves to the prompting and leading of Your Holy Spirit. Receive our worship—our praise and prayers and offerings— through the intercession of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. May the time we spend here in Your presence bring honor and glory to Your Name. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
God of grace, we want to understand what the kingdom of heaven is like, but our minds are clouded by cares and concerns of the world. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes in mysterious ways. We fail to be whole-hearted in our faith and discipleship. We fail to put our trust in the treasures of your kingdom instead of the treasures of the world. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, give us eyes to see and ears to hear your good news for the world even here and now. Transform our lives and our world by your grace.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Friends, hear these words, and listen to this good news; the empires of this world will rise and fall, but the mercy of the Lord will never end.
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
Out of gratitude for all that God has provided for us and with hope that as we invest ourselves and the gifts we have received, we will see the kingdom of heaven grow and flourish in this world, we bring our tithes and offerings for God’s work among us in this time and place.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
We give you thanks, O God, for the many blessings that you have bestowed upon us. As from even the smallest of seeds, your kingdom grows, bless our tithes, gifts and offerings, and bless us that we might be ever more faithful in your work of reconciliation, love and joy. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY **"Where He Leads Me"** John S. Norris,
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.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

ANTHEM **"When We Must Bear Persistent Pain"** Ruth Duck/Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835; harmonized by David N. Johnson, 1968

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
(15/22) Genesis 29:15-28
(800/841) Romans 8:26-39
(691/728) Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

SERMON **“The Patient Work of God”** **Jackson Weller**

***HYMN#840** **When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)**

***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 **"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"** William Moore,
arr. C. Berry

***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: