

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

Lyricist: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863) | Composer: Steve Jones

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner and more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in His blood.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple we should take Him at His word,
And our lives would be all sunshine in the sweetness of our Lord.
There is kindness, love, and mercy in the sweetness of our Lord.

About the Choir's Hymns Today:

Reverend Frederick W. Faber came from a Huguenot and Calvinist family background. He grew up in the Church of England, attended Balliol College at Oxford, and was ordained in the Church of England. He later joined the Roman Catholic Church. Faber believed that Catholics should sing hymns like those written by John Newton (Amazing Grace), Charles Wesley (A Charge to Keep I Have), and William Cowper (There is a Fountain Filled with Blood). Taking inspiration from these great hymnwriters, he wrote at least 150 hymn texts. “Faith of Our Fathers” was long considered his most popular work, but “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” has arguably eclipsed it. I grew up singing this hymn to the tune, WELLESLEY by Lizzie S. Tourjée (1858-1913), but you might know it with the tune IN BABILONE (Dutch melody). The tune of today’s anthem was newly published in 1998. I have been unable to determine which Steve Jones composed this tune as several come up when searching.

Barbara Boertje (b. 1959) wrote and composed today’s introit, “How Very Good and Pleasant.” She self-published it in 1997, just after “Go into All the World” (1995) and “I Will Give You Rest” (1996). Today’s introit is Boertje’s most popular Psalm setting, included in at least four hymnals. Her more recent publication “We Celebrate the Unity of the Spirit” (2009) has been translated into both Spanish and German for inclusion in a multilingual hymnal. Ms. Boertje is the Minister of Music at First Reformed Church in Grandville, Michigan where she has served since 1989. She has composed and arranged choral, handbell, piano, and instrumental music throughout her career. Barbara is an alumna of Central College in Pella, Iowa (BA, Keyboard Performance) and Westminster Choir College (MM, Church Music). Prior to her music ministry career, she was a missionary to Japan for eighteen months. Her composition instructor and mentor is Mark Hayes. See #398 in the hymnal for the lyrics.

The postlude text can be found at #765 in our hymnal. A direct translation of the Spanish verse follows: God of hope, grant us joy and peace! To the world in crisis, speak Your truth. God of justice, send us Your light – light and hope in the darkness. We pray for peace; we sing of Your love. We work for peace, faithful to You, Lord.

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 August 17	CE Committee 4:30pm
Tuesday August 18	Morning Bible Study 10:30am
Tuesday August 18	Ladies Dinner 5pm
Wednesday August 19	Youth 6pm
Thursday August 20	Choir 4:30pm
Saturday August 22	Sat. Lunch Ministry
Saturday August 22	Presbytery Day of Service

Our Tuesday Morning Bible Study will begin at 10:30am in the Westminster room. We will continue our study of Mark.

Save the Date for our annual Church Picnic. It will be held at Angler’s Park on Sunday October 11th from 4 – 8 pm. More info to follow.

If you are interested in Presbytery Day of Service & Learning, August 22. Please visit their website <https://www.peakspresbytery.org>.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley Robey
Video/Sound	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Brenna Takata
Greeter	Kim Wimer
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., Sam Meadema, Jackie Rockford, Alex Walthall

Trustees: Bob Newnam, Ray Beale, Gary Wimer

2026 Budget Update

	July 2026	FY 2026
Revenue	\$21,063.75	\$238,732.69
Expenditures	\$50,637.29	\$264,865.34
Difference	(- \$29,573.54)	(- \$26,132.65)

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.



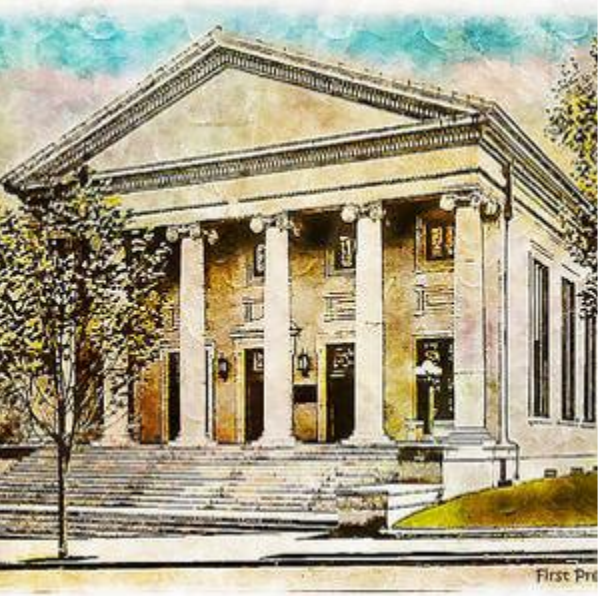
THE COLUMNS OF THE

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

August 16, 2026

12th 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

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