

Our Mission

To Know Christ and To Make Him Known

WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome to today's worship service. We are delighted that you are here. If you are visiting, we invite you to join by profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, by reaffirmation of faith, or by transfer. Please speak to the pastor after the service.

SERVING TODAY

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Broschart	Minister of Word and Sacrament
Ashley Stanley-Robey	Music Director
Patricia Taylor	Organist
David Clark	Sound
Randy Brooks	Liturgist
Jackie Rochford	Security, side door and offering
Brenna Takata	Greeter
Sam Meadema and Kim Meadows	Communion
Team 3 in charge	Wednesday Night Dinner 10/4

First Presbyterian Church

October 1, 2023

11 a.m.



937 Main Street

Danville VA 24541

434-792-7822

www.fpcdanville.com

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to Noon

A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

As you enter the sanctuary please end your conversations and respect those worshipers who seek quiet time for prayer and meditation. Please silence all electronic devices. If you need a hearing assistance device, please request one from the usher. Remaining seated is as worshipful a posture as standing. Please worship in a way that is comfortable for you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “*Arise, My Soul, Arise*” arr. Terry Osman

CALL TO WORSHIP

"The light radiates through the darkness and no amount of darkness can extinguish it." As light-seekers we come, O God, and we rejoice in Your light;

May our adoration open a window, that Your light may flood through.

As hope-seekers we come, O God, and we celebrate Your gift of hope;

Capture us as we worship, and make us prisoners of hope.

As Christ-followers we come, O God, and we open ourselves to Christ's life;

Change us as we encounter Your glory, that we may carry Your light into the world.

INVOCATION

O Redeemer God, as we gather in worship on this World Communion Sunday, we ask that you send your Holy Spirit to fall afresh on us. We pray for your Spirit to awaken new hope in us. Grant us the vision to see the coming of your kingdom. Help us to celebrate the glimpses of grace that you have given to each of us. Knit our hearts together in worship and communion so that we know we do not struggle alone in working for your peace and justice. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 1

Crop Walk meet at 2:45 at Ballou Park if you are walking with the FPC team.

October 2

Day Circle at 12:30 p.m. in Westminster.

Evening Circle at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Karan Johnson,
320 Hawthorne Drive

Property Committee at 7 p.m.

October 3

Handbell Choir at 5:00 p.m.

Ladies Dinner out at 6:00. Place TBA

October 4

Wednesday Night Dinner and Youth Activities
from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Team 3 in charge.

Menu

Barbeque, Coleslaw, Mac and Cheese, Dessert

October 5

Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Choir rehearsal at 4:30 p.m.

Helpers Needed

The Saturday Lunch Ministry is in need of volunteers to lead the Bible Study for our Saturday guests. Materials will be provided for your use. To help with this area of ministry call the church office at 434-792-7822 and leave a message on Option 1.

The flowers today are given

in memory of our mothers: Minnie Lee Hayes and Goldie Keesee

by Jay and Bernadine Hayes

“Come to the Celebration”

Sue Ellen Page (1949-2016) | Eric D. Johnson

Come to the celebration, let us lift off the rooftops,

Let us make all the stained glass sing.

Come to the celebration, let us rejoice in gladness,

Let all our voices sound and ring.

Refrain: What is the celebration? The gift of grace evermore;

What is the celebration? Worship to God whom we adore.

Join in the celebration, come fill your cup with sweetness,

Come taste the bread of life again.

Join in the celebration, come stand among your brothers,

And let all brothers stand as men.

(Refrain repeats)

Take home the celebration, take it to work and leisure,

Take it to man with peace and love.

Take home the celebration, carry it to the nations,

Tell them it comes from God with love.

(Refrain repeats twice)

About the Anthem:

This piece was written by a very prominent music minister and children’s choir director, Sue Ellen Page. Sue Ellen was the daughter of two church musicians, and shewas a two-time alumna of Westminster Choir College. Sadly, she passed away in 2016after a long journey with brain cancer. Sue Ellen composed several large choral worksand published a book for teachers of choral music during her last several years asDirector of Choirs for Children and Youth at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, where she worked from 1982 until her death. Page’s philosophy onworship was simple: Each person’s spirit is bigger than the music and instrumentstraditionally used in the church. I share Sue Ellen’s belief that every person reflectsGod’s Image and God’s love; people and music from every culture glorify God inChristian worship. Before Sue Ellen attended Westminster (and later joined the faculty),she was born in Keokuk, Illinois, her parents brought her with them to college atWestminster (when she was four years old), and then the family went to lead the music ministry at First Methodist Church of Montgomery Alabama. She credited her parents with teaching her to love all God’s children and to love music. One of her four children, Amanda Page Smith, is now the church musi-

HYMN

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

GTG#403

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, father of grace: You have called us to one table, but we have pursued our own course. You have promised us the abundance of all creation, but in our greed, and in our envy, the world goes without. You have promised us the bread of life itself, but in our pride, and in our arrogance, the world goes hungry. You have promised us the waters of peace and justice, but in our violence, and in our discord, the world goes thirsty. And now we are famished, too, Lord. Have mercy on us. Forgive us, again. Transform us, at this table, and for this table, and send us from this table as servants of your righteousness, by the power of your Son, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even when our cups run dry, God’s grace overflows. Even when our plates are empty, God’s generosity overflows. And even when our hearts feel barren, God’s love overflows. Friends, you have been called and claimed by the God of all things, and by the abundance of God’s grace, and by the power of God’s love, your sins have been forgiven. Go in peace. Amen.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us, the children of God, stand and greet each other with cupped hands filled with God’s blessings and 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.

We are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 25:6-8

SERMON *“Happy Church: A Foretaste of Heaven”*

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family. And we believe that that this unity of the people of God must be manifest and active, in that we love one another; that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another, that we share one baptism together, that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together, that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope, which is the height and the breadth and the depth and the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN *"We Come As Guests Invited"* **GTG#504**

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (SCREEN)

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

POSTLUDE *"Rondeau"* Charpentier

BENEDICTION