

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
Eddie Blount	Sound
Nancy Clayton	Liturgist
Jackie Rochford	Security, side door and offering
David Swann	Greeter
The Weller Family	Advent Participants
Team 2	Wednesday Night Dinner

List of Session members by Class

Class of 2024: Kathy Dolianitis, Brenna Takata*, Barbara Wilkins*, David Swann

Class of 2025: David Clark, Sam Meadema*, Eddie Blount*, Jackie Rochford*

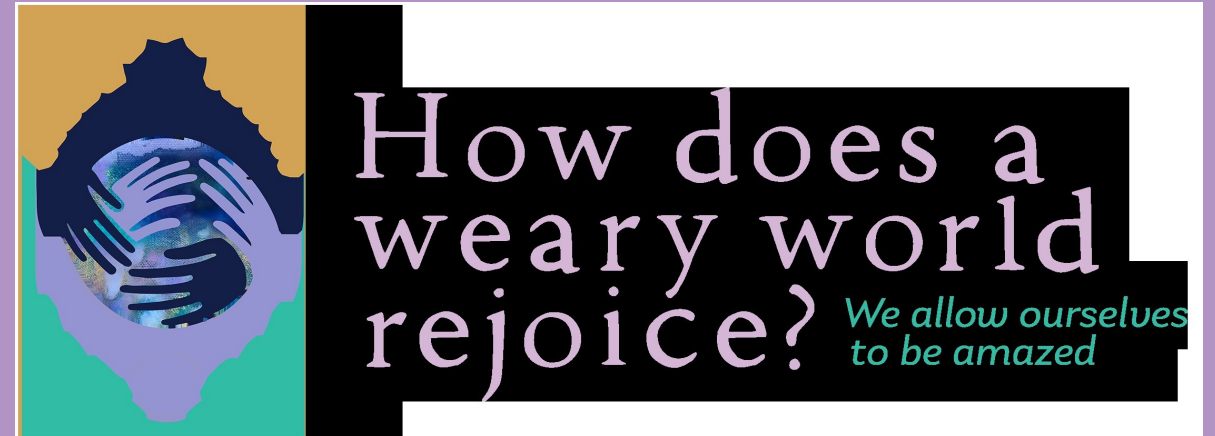
Class of 2026: Randy Brooks, Barry Cutright, Gail Jones, Kim Meadows

*Denotes Steering Committee Members

First Presbyterian Church

December 17, 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 worshippers 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 *“Come, O Savior of the World”* arr. G. Medlock

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God can part the sea.
God can bring water from a rock, and provide bread in the desert.
Our God can walk on water.
He can heal the sick, and turn water into wine.
Our God sets the stars in the sky.
God hears our voice when we cry, and is closer than our own breath.
There is nothing our God cannot do.
Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

INVOCATION: Heavenly Father, This third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus’ birth brings us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn’t dependent on what is going on in our lives, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn’t depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from you. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

CHORAL INTROIT *“Light An Advent Candle”*

CANDLELIGHTING LITURGY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- December 17** **Caroling** time to be announced due to rain forecast. Please meet at the announced time on Sutherlin side of the church. We will go caroling and visit our shut-in members, We would also like to give them each a bag full of messages, Christmas cards and/or small gift items (ornaments, hard candy, etc.) from their church family.
- Their labeled bags will be at the Sutherlin entrance on the table. Please drop off a card or something to show them a little love. Many thanks.
- December 19** **Handbell Choir** at 5:00 p.m.
- December 20** **Wednesday Night Dinner and Youth** at 6:00 p.m.
- Advent Vesper Service** to follow at 6:45 in Sanctuary
- December 21** **Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m. The title is “ How Does a Weary World Rejoice?”.
- Choir Rehearsal** at 4:30p.m.
- December 23** **Men’s Breakfast** at 8:00 a.m.
- December 24** **Sunday Services** at 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m..

Menu for Dinner 12/20: Chicken Enchiladas, Spanish Rice, Salad, Tres Leche Cake

The flowers that enhance our worship service are given

In loving memory of the deceased members of the Wiseman family

By Frank and Paige Wiseman

"We Look for the Star"

by Hal H. Hopson

Refrain: We look for a star in the eastern sky;
we listen for the song of the angels high;
Who will believe the promise? Who will behold the star?
Who will greet the Christchild? Who will sing His song?

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
Refrain repeats

Born Thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Missionary for December

Open Arms Foundation was conceived in 1991 by missionaries William and Wanda Perrow in response to the abandonment, violence, abuse and neglect of the children living on the streets of Medellin, Colombia. The children were primarily the victims of poverty, prostitution, alcohol, and drugs. Many of them sniffed industrial glue to take away their hunger pangs and numb them from the atrocities which defined their reality. Often considered irreparable and incorrigible, they were known as "throw-aways," destroyed by the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse they had endured. God reminded Bill that just as Christ had rescued him from the damaging effects of drug addiction, He could transform the lives of these children too. With the enlistment of other volunteers and missionaries, the Perrows took to the streets of Colombia, looking past the filth, tattered clothes, and indifference of society to reach out to these forgotten faces. With Open Arms they are committed to feeding, clothing, sheltering and restoring these children through the love and transforming

HYMN

"What Child Is This"

GTG#145

CALL TO CONFESSION

If you spend any time with a child, you will quickly notice that children see the world differently. For a child, a ladybug is a miracle. A pine tree is a wonder. Curiosity is a love language, and water is not only for survival, but for joy. As adults, we forget this language of awe and wonder, and when we do, we distance ourselves from God. In confession, we have the opportunity to close that distance. So let us return to God with hearts wide open. Let us return to God in prayer. Join me in the prayer of confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, Somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe. We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts. We praise those who have answers, and assume that wonder is an answerless game. Forgive us for closing that door to you. Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children. Teach us the ways of awe and wonder, so that like Zechariah, when we find ourselves speechless, our first words will be words of praise. With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Family of faith,
Just as we marvel at mountains and newborns, at sunrises and sunsets, God marvels at us. There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could prevent God from loving you.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

We are forgiven.

We are loved.

We belong to God. 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.*

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, we know this season is about preparing a way for the Christ to come into the world and into our hearts. As we move through our lives, we are bombard- ed with invitations to invest our dollars in things that will bring joy to us and those we love, yet we know we must cut through that noise to hear where you want us to invest. We are focused on gifting one another, and we need to hear that you would have us give to those who are the forgotten, the unloved, and those whose need is great. May the giving we do now help us hear your gospel more clearly and see your love for the poor and meek more completely. In your love, we give; in your love, we are sent; and in your love, we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY

"The Rocking Carol" arr. Kevin McChesney

DOXOLOGY

**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**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM

“We Look for the Star” by Hal Hopson

HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:57-66 & Psalm 126

SERMON

“A Weary World Rejoices: Amazement”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who knows our names, who counts the hairs on our heads, and carries the dreams in our hearts. We believe that God’s finger- prints are all over creation, and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways.
We believe that awe and wonder, goosebumps and laughter, telling stories and paying attention, are all ways that we can say thank you to our creating, sustaining, and loving God.
Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world with eyes wide open, with porous hearts, and grateful spirits.
We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude, trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into God’s loving arms.
We believe.
We stand in awe.
Thanks be to God!

HYMN

“To God Be The Glory” GTG#634

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

POSTLUDE

“Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying” Bach/Nicolai

BENEDICTION