



Beyond *the Columns*

First
Presbyterian
Church

May 2025


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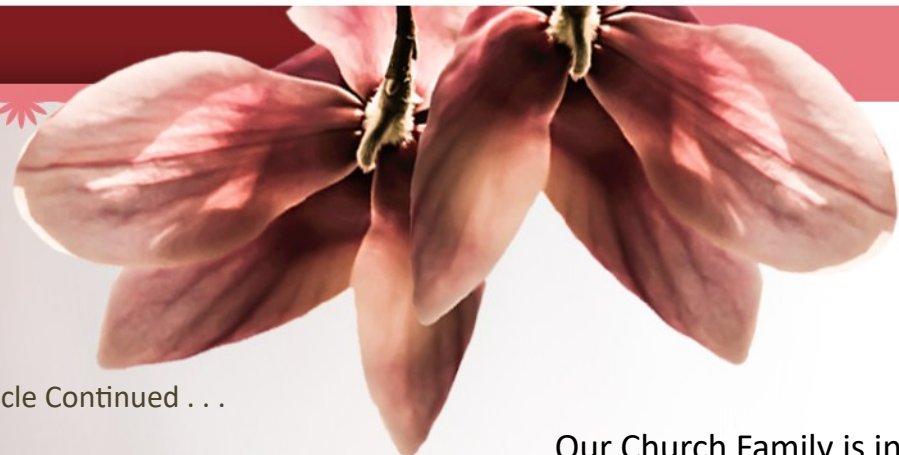
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Random thoughts from Jackson

There is just something about the merry month of May that brings joy to so many, the weather warms up, the April showers have brought May flowers, the days are getting longer and warmer; this May is no different. Thomas Dekker's poem "The Merry Month of May" (written around 1599) reminds us that we humans have been smitten with this month and season for some time. It reminds us of the beauty and joy of May, the poem speaks of the vibrant greenness and beauty of the natural world with lines like "so green, so green, so green!" This year's merry month of May is entirely in the season of Easter (Eastertide began on Easter Sunday, April 20th, and ends on the Day of Pentecost, June 8th). Eastertide is a time to celebrate the new life and victory over death offered through Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection, as well as to reflect on the mysteries of the faith. In this merry month of May we see the life of the natural world springing forth, but we should also celebrate the life springing forth in the spiritual world through Eastertide, celebrating the victory that Jesus has over the grave. HE LIVES!!!

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Article Continued . . .

Because He lives I am redeemed,
because He lives I am sanctified,
because He lives I am forgiven,
because He lives I have life, because
He lives I have grace, because He lives
I have union with God, and because He
lives I have hope. The Gaither song
“Because He Lives” reminds us that He
lived and died to buy my pardon and
that Because He lives, I can face to-
morrow, Because He lives, all fear is
gone; Because I know He holds the
future, and life is worth the living, just
because He lives! This merry month of
May when we see everything in the
natural world greening up and spring-
ing back to life it should remind us that
this is Eastertide and that we have life
through the victory of Jesus in the
grave. Celebrate this May because He
lives and because He lives we have
hope for tomorrow!

~Jackson

Our Church Family is invited to join us in celebrating...



GRAD PARTY

Join us in celebrating Maggie
graduating from Tunstall High School

On Saturday, May 17th 2pm-4pm (floating)
Danville Golf Club
2725 West Main St., Danville, VA 24541

RSVP to Sara at: 434.429.5740




Missions: Frontier Fellowship

This mission update is taken from a late February 2025 zoom event hosted by the Executive Director of Frontier Fellowship, Ethan Collins. The focus was the Islamic world in keeping with the next day's beginning of the observance of Ramadan during the month of March. Muslims in North Africa, Saudi Arabia, Central Asia, Indonesia and the horn of Africa represent 53.91% of the frontier population, while Hindus represent 43.34%. We heard from a former Muslim, Emmanuel, from Nigeria. Frontier Fellowship has a presence in the Sahel region and in the coastal area of this country where there are 364 unreached Muslim people groups, 132 with no gospel access. 225 languages are represented in the Sahel region. Emmanuel spoke of his background going to Saudi Arabia to study Islamic law and memorizing the Koran as the only culture he knew. He was praying when, "suddenly the world he knew disappeared." In a dream or a vision he saw a person coming from afar in white. He thought it was a demon and thought of running, asking Allah to protect him. Instead he heard, "Let my peace be with you. Don't be afraid. I am not a demon." He thought he heard the figure praying aloud. Emmanuel had this encounter six more times over a two year period. He began to study the Book of John recognizing Jesus as the One in his visions. He returned to Nigeria where "they almost killed him" and later settled for a time in South Africa. For Muslims who come to Christ Emmanuel estimated that about five of every 1000 are seeing visions. Engagement with a Christian accounts for more of these conversions. In Islam there is no such thing as a testimony. The "relationship with Allah" is impersonal. John 1 shows relationship with God is personal. Ramadan is a time of fasting, expectation and meditation about Allah in trembling and fear so that he might have mercy, and you might be saved from hellfire. In sharing your faith during Ramadan, Emmanuel's advice is to treat a Muslim friend or acquaintance as you would anyone else. They are more curious about your faith than you think, fascinated, in fact. They may ask, "How can you say God is a man?" If they don't ask, don't say anything. Pray for the Islamic world.

~ submitted by Linda Copeland





Youth

Youth Group will meet

May 7th, 21st, and 28th

No Youth Group on May 14th

Low Country Boil.

Youth Lunch Ministry May 24th

Men's Breakfast



Men's breakfast & bible study will meet May 31st at 8:00am. Note: this is a week later than normal– we will **NOT** meet in June, July and August!



1 Pat Argyrakis

5 Nancy S. Clayton

7 Gary Wimer

8 Jackie Rochford

9 Cabell Barrow

10 Kathy Dolianitis

11 Martha Cutright

12 Leigh Blount

Kimberly Clifton

15 Kathryn Beale

18 Jim Turner

20 Brannon Blount

Lyla Parris

31 Victoria Shelton

Anniversaries

May 6 Hampton & Barbara Wilkins

May 8 Roy & Pat Pinckney

Let us know if we've missed your special day!



The Presbyterian Women Evening Circle will meet Monday May 5th at the home of Bernadine Hayes at 7:00pm. Joyce Perez will lead the Bible study.

The Presbyterian Women Day Circle will meet Monday May 5th at 12:30pm at the church in the Westminster room.

All interested women are invited to attend either one of these meetings.

Low Country Boil

Wednesday May 14th 6pm

Call the office or use bulletin insert to sign up.

Cost will be \$8

There will be no tickets

Cut off on sign up will be May 12th



*I am the vine; you are the branches.
Whoever abides in me and I in him, he
it is that bears much fruit, for apart
from me you can do nothing.*

— John 15:5



Session Highlights from the April Meeting

Membership committee requested that we reimagine the social media presence of our church to promote our church and the activities happening for more outreach to our community.

Alex Walthall spoke to Session on how to revitalize our social media online.

- Wider reach

- Real time updates

- Community building

- Inspirational content (share testimonies and sermons)

- Event promotion

- Visual appeal (photos and videos of church atmosphere)

- Engagement with youth

- More exposure of our church and its events through facebook, instagram and post on Danville community page

- Cost effective outreach

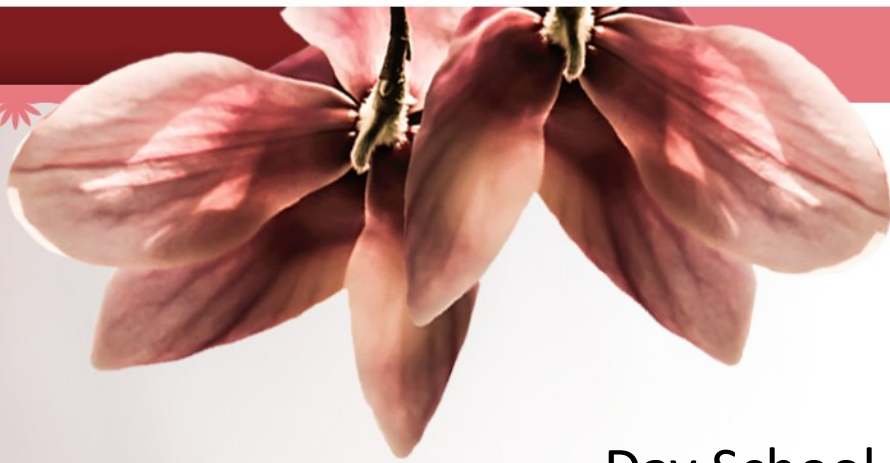
- Feedback

Community Outreach - Clothes give away on May 3, 2025

Hymnals are here and will be available for Holy Week and Easter

A committee for the 200th anniversary of the church has been formed and will meet before the next Session meeting.

From an earlier request from Christian Education, Jackie Rochford, Linda Copeland and Kim Wimer looked into the possibility of hanging a bulletin board in the main hall. Missions will be in charge for most of it to display a picture of the world and where our missionaries are located. This would also be an outreach to our congregation to display what is going on within our church.



Day School Round Up

Wow! What an April we have had! A visit from some of our favorites at the police department, an egg hunt, an Easter party, and Spring Break!

- We got a lot of good information from our police officers. We got our very own badges, and we got to sit in a real police car and hear the sirens. We also thanked them for all that they do to keep us safe.
- Thank goodness we had a break in the rain, and we were able to keep our egg hunt outside. It was so much fun looking here, there, and everywhere for those eggs! Bonus- there was candy inside! We took it indoors for our party though. Our parents really hooked us up with lots of good snacks and treats. We also gave thanks for our risen Lord and Savior.

Well, we had a great Spring Break, but now it's time to head back to school and get busy! We will let you know how it goes! Until then...



Music Department

Musical Congratulations and Blessings

Congratulations to our Handbell Choir on a lovely spring recital last week. Everyone worked hard for several months to learn challenging pieces. They will be playing during worship on May 18th before taking a well-deserved summer break. Special thanks to the members of our Chancel Choir for their dedicated rehearsal and commitment throughout Lent and Easter. I deeply appreciate everyone who lends their voice, time, and talent to help lead us in worship.

Last month, both of our music department interns had their senior recitals. Tyrel Smith's percussion recital program included the following solos – *Portraits in Rhythm #13* by Anthony J. Cirone (snare drum), *Suite for Cello No. 1 in G Major* by J. S. Bach (marimba), *Sonata for Timpani* by John Beck, *Paradiddle Johnnie* by Charles Wilcoxson (snare drum), and *Inspirations Diabolique "Introduction"* by Rickey Tagawa (multi-percussion). Tyrel also performed a duet *Etude in Bossa* by Ney Rosauero (vibraphone with conga accompaniment), as well as a quartet on found percussion featuring trash cans and pots (*Flotsam and Jetsam* by John Herndon). Tyrel will be completing his student teaching requirements next year and then graduating in 2026.

Kayla Stork had her senior flute recital on April 22nd in Blount Chapel. She performed two unaccompanied flute solos – *Danse de la Chevre* (Dance of the Goat) by Arthur Honegger and *The Pied Piper of Harlem* by renowned Virginia composer Adolphus C. Hailstork. Kayla also played two accompanied solos with Dr. Anne Lewis on piano – *Sonata II in E Flat Major* (BWV 1031) by J. S. Bach and *Regrets and Resolutions* by Gary Shocker. Two unique flute duets rounded out the program, with Dr. Janet Phillips playing the second part – *Five Pieces for Mechanical Clock* (Mvt. III) by L.V. Beethoven and *Danza del villano* (La Princesa de la Media Luna) (Princess of the Half Moon) by Pablo Tribio Gil. Kayla will be graduating from Averett University this May with her bachelor's degree!

We are so proud of Tyrel and Kayla, and we celebrate their huge accomplishments with them. They have been exceptional students and colleagues, and we could not ask for more attentive or dedicated musicians. We look forward to continuing to work with them in ensembles and seeing them both become music directors and teachers soon.

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Upcoming Concerts and Events

Friday, May 2nd , 7pm – Averett University Symphonic Band Concert, Pritchett Auditorium

Saturday, May 3rd , 3pm – Danville Symphony Orchestra Concert, Bonner Middle School

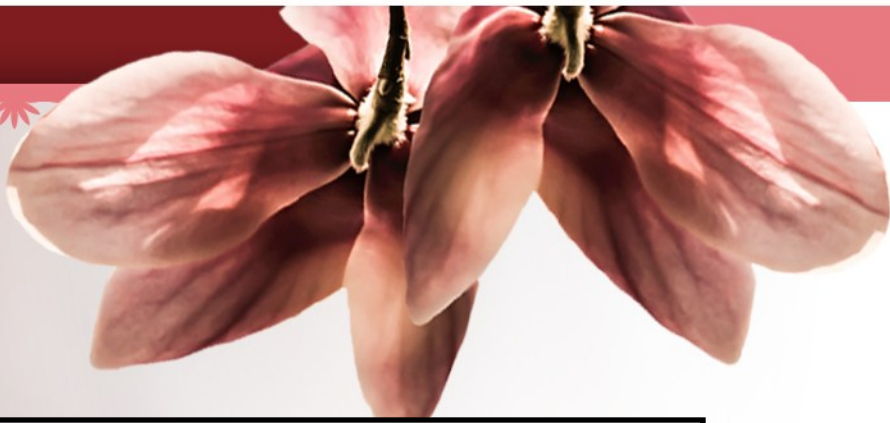
Sunday, May 4th , 3pm – Martinsville Handbell Ensemble Spring Concert, First United Methodist Church, 146 E. Main Street, Martinsville, VA 24112

Friday, May 9th , 6pm – Camilla Williams High School Solo and Ensemble Festival at the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History

Peace of Christ,

Ashley





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DANVILLE

Founded in 1826, we were the first organized congregation in Danville. Our sanctuary and offices are located at 937 Main St, next door to the Sutherlin Mansion and Museum and a few blocks of west downtown.

You can reach us at (434) 792-7822 or admin@fpcdanville.com

Office hours are Monday– Thursday 9 am—1 pm

If you are interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary, please contact Brannon Blount at 434-334-9935 or brannon_blount@yahoo.com for the dates available.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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