

Oh, Sleep, My Dear Little Baby (A La Ru)  
Hispanic folk song, arr. Michael Hawn (b. 1948)

Oh, sleep my dear little baby in your mother’s arms of love.  
I will protect you and hold you while angels sing from above.  
*Refrain: A la ru, A la mé, A la ru, A la mé, A la ru, A la mé,*  
A la ru, A la ru, A la mé.

Oh, do not fear the future and the sorrow it may bring.  
Rest in the arms of your mother and calmly sleep while I sing.  
*(Refrain repeats)*

About the Introit:

Here is a direct Spanish to English translation of the two original verses of this beautiful folk song – “Sleep, sweet child, in the arms of love, while the sorrow of my pain sleeps and rests. Do not fear King Herod, for he will do you no harm; in your mother’s arms, no one will offend you.” I would make some poetic adjustments, as follows – “Sleep, beautiful Baby, in the arms of love. While he sleeps, the pain of my sorrow rests. Do not fear the king, Herod, for he cannot do anything to you. In your mother’s arms, no one can do anything to hurt you.”

The refrain, “A la ru, A la mé,” has no meaning. It is meant to mimic the sound of a mother humming and singing syllables to lull her baby to sleep. I love the simple beauty of this song, traditionally sung with guitar accompaniment. I imagine the first verse as Mary’s lullaby, and the second verse as Joseph reassuring Mary and Jesus. The arranger, Reverend Dr. C. Michael Hawn, is Professor Emeritus of Church Music at Southern Methodist University and the current director of the Sacred Music program at Perkins School of Theology. He arranged this song for a two-part choir, but we have adapted it as a duet. It is sometimes called by other English titles, such as “O Sleep Now, Holy Baby” or “O Sleep Well, Beautiful Baby.”

Music during Communion - "Behold, Rise Up, Go Tell!" African American spirituals, arr. Mark Hayes  
and  
"There's a Song in the Air" Karl P. Harrington, arr. C. Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today	Please greet your neighbors and pass the Fellowship Pad
Monday January 5	Day Circle 12:30pm Evening Circle 7pm
Tuesday January 6	Handbells 5pm Ladies Dinner 6pm
Wednesday January 7	Wednesday Night Dinner 6pm
Thursday January 8	Thursday Bible Study 10:30am Choir 4:30pm
Saturday January 10	Sat. Lunch Ministry 11:30am

We will have baked spaghetti, a salad, a tasty dessert, and tea/coffee for our Wednesday night dinner. Team 2 is in charge. Please use the reservation form in the bulletin or call the office by noon Wednesday if you plan to attend.

The Presbyterian Women’s Day Circle will meet on January 5th at 12:30 p.m. In the Westminster Room. We will continue our Series on First Peter “Sojourners and Exiles” by Sinclair B. Ferguson. All are welcome. The Evening Circle will meet at the home of Kathleen Harris, January 5th at 7pm. All women are invited to attend for the bible study with Joyce Perez and fellowship with other members. For more information you may call Bernadine Hayes at 434-799-5662.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Video/Sound	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Nancy Clayton
Greeter	Barry Cutright
Side door/Offering	Joan Reynolds

List of Session members

Class of 2026: Ava Barrett, Barry Cutright, Gail Jones, Kim Wimer  
Class of 2027: Harriet Beale, Pat Pinckey, Joan Reynolds  
Class of 2028: Eddie Blount, Jr., Sam Meadema, Jackie Rockford, Alex Walthall  
Trustees: Bob Newnam, Ray Beale, Gary Wimer

BUDGET UPDATE

<u>November</u>	<u>1-31</u>	<u>FY 2025</u>
Contributions	\$24,218.23	\$385,178.72
Expenditures	\$24,272.72	\$382,959.03
Difference	(-\$54.49)	\$ 2,219.69

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.

se *A Warm Welcome*

We would love to have you join our church family. If you are moved to do so by the Lord, please talk to one of the elders or our pastor.

THE COLUMNS  
OF THE

First Presbyterian Church

Danville, Virginia

January 4, 2026

Epiphany



Welcome

This church opens wide its doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Celebrating 198 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

*\*Hymn lyrics projected on the screen can be found in the "Glory to God" hymnal in the pew.*