



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DANVILLE

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS
SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

Friends,

Whether we're conscious of it or not, our lives are shaped by stories. Stories shape our identity - our sense of who we are, who we belong to, and who do not belong to us. We learn those stories in our families, in our schools, in our community institutions, the books we read, and - increasingly - in our online "communities." For better or for worse, stories are powerful, and have a powerful hold over us. Sometimes they are the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves - stories that sometimes have not led to an abundant life, but something else entirely. Stories form and malform us, and so often we take it for granted that the stories we inherit are true, because of the power we give to the ones who tell them.

Christian formation is rooted in the story of God narrated in the Bible, and in the multiplicity of interpretations of that story. Like all stories, the Bible can both form and malform us, depending on the way that story is told to us, especially when we're young. It took me a very long time to unlearn some of the stories I was told about the Bible as a child and teenager. That's one of the reasons I'm grateful that this congregation introduces our youngest disciples to the Bible through Godly Play. It facilitates an open, expansive way to approach the Story of God that values and fosters curiosity, rather than the dogmatism and certainty I encountered at that age. A new year of Godly Play begins this Sunday, for ages three through fifth grade. Some of you will return as storytellers and doorkeepers. I know Amy would love to welcome a few more of our older disciples in those roles!

Our youth continue to sit with those stories under the guidance of Molly Boyd, Scott Johnson and other adults who foster that same sense of curiosity as teenagers wrestle with questions of identity, and who swim in an ocean of other stories seeking to claim their attention, and their lives.

For adults, Jim Erwin is walking through the story of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke in the Library on Thursday mornings. Bill Garriott's book study begins this Sunday morning, reading *Vanishing Grace* by Philip Yancey (see below for more info). And my wife Rebecca and I begin *The Story of God, the Story of Us*, a 12-week overview of the grand sweep of scripture, offered twice a week at 6:00pm on Wednesdays, and 9:00am on Sundays. If you find the Bible intimidating, confusing, and/or would appreciate having a sense of how it all holds together, I hope you'll join us in the chapel!

The best is yet to come,

Sean

CONNECT

GUESS THE MEMBER - CHILDREN'S CHOIR EDITION

Were you once in the Cherub Choir? The Music Makers? The Joy Singers? Did you wear a robe or a giant bow? WE WANT PROOF! As we celebrate starting a children's choir during our Wednesday night programming, we want to see those pictures of our older members in their children's choir days. Bring in a picture in an envelope or with a sticky note that identifies you, and we will use it to make a guessing game in the fellowship hall! Bring pictures to Cara in the office or to Tara Strauch.



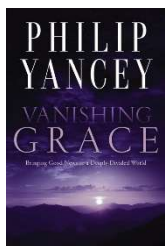
LEARN BIBLE STUDY



The Thursday morning Bible Study will reconvene tomorrow, August 27 at 10:30am. The Gospel of Luke will be the subject of this fall's study. All are welcome.

BOOK STUDY

The Book Study class will begin meeting this Sunday, September 13. It will start with *Vanishing Grace: Bringing Good News to a Deeply Divided World* by Philip Yancey, available at Amazon. All are welcome to come to the library and join in the conversation.



SERVE



Our next Soups on Us is this Saturday, September 12 beginning at 9:00am.
We also need help on Friday, September 11 at 9:00am with kitchen prep.
Thanks so much!

CENTS-ABILITY



This Sunday, September 13 we will be collecting the Cents-Ability offering during worship. A national program of the PC(USA), congregations invite every member of all ages to set aside a few cents at every meal. This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have received. The gifts we receive for Cents-Ability are divided evenly between our Soup's on Us ministry and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Cents-Ability is collected on the second Sunday of each month.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



With our church continuing to grow, we need some volunteers to work with our children. There are two volunteer opportunities available. Both of these opportunities require the volunteer to complete a simple background check.

We would like to reopen our church nursery on Sunday mornings. This means that we need two volunteers each Sunday, 9:45-11:15am. Youth are welcome to volunteer, but we need at least one adult each Sunday. There will be a sign-in sheet for parents to leave their phone numbers in case they are needed during worship. Also, there is a TV in the nursery now, so volunteers will be able to watch the service. If you would like to help, please click the link to the [Sign-Up Genius](#) and select a date. Our youngest disciples will thank you!

We also need one volunteer on Wednesday evenings to help Amy with the children's class from 6-7pm. After dinner on Wednesdays, the children go upstairs to the Godly Play room and have a Bible lesson and activity. Amy needs a helper for this class. If you would like to help, please click the link to the [Sign-Up Genius](#) and select a date. Thanks so much!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GODLY PLAY



The Godly Play program is in need of a few storytellers and doorpersons for the upcoming program year. If you like working with children, this is the job for you! If you are interested in volunteering, contact [Amy Wilson](#) for more information, or you can talk to any of our current or former storytellers (Jean Smith, Kari Young, Susan Shewmaker, Tara Strauch, Kathy Howells, or Frank Russell) or doorpersons (Eric Smith, Brad and Kristen Fulfer, Louis Seidel, Katie Banks, or Spencer Young). Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to help guide our children.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 9

7:00am DYC High School Wake Up Wednesdays
8:00am Grace Café Food Prep
9:00am Worship Staff Meeting
9:00am Adult Ed/GED
10:00am AA Meeting
10:30am Staff Meeting
1:30pm Grace Café Snack Bag Prep
5:15pm Wednesday Night Fellowship
6:00pm Adult and Youth Studies
6:00pm Children's Choir Rehearsal and Bible Lesson
6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 10

8:00am Grace Café Food Prep
9:00am Adult Ed/GED
10:30am Bible Study with Jim Erwin
5:00pm Centre Food Recovery Network
5:30pm Danville Dulcimers
6:00pm Sounding Joy Rehearsal

Friday, September 11

9:00am Soup's on Us Prep
9:00am Adult Ed/GED
10:00am AA Meeting
1:00pm Presbydan Mah Jongg

Saturday, September 12

9:00am Soups on Us

Sunday, September 13

9:00am Christian Formation for All Ages
10:00am Service for the Lord's Day
11:00am Fellowship
5:30pm DYC at First Christian Church

Monday, September 14

8:00am Grace Café Food Prep
9:00am Adult Ed/GED
10:00am AA Meeting
4:00pm Monday Prayer Group
6:30pm Facilities Committee Meeting
6:30pm Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, September 15

8:00am Grace Café Food Prep
9:00am Adult Ed/GED
10:00am Recovery Café
6:00pm Girl Scouts Troop 7 Brownie Scouts Meeting
6:00pm Recovery Meeting
7:00pm Stated Session Meeting