



**First
Presbyterian
Church**
of Waynesboro, Virginia

The Columns -Online.

November 17, 2021 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement.*

Stated Clerk issues Call to Prayer for the people of Ethiopia



Dear Friends in Christ,
I urge you to join me in prayer for our siblings in Ethiopia as they face a deepening conflict that threatens to trigger a human rights and humanitarian tragedy and send the country spiraling into civil war.

In the past year, growing tensions between the federal government of Ethiopia and opposition groups led by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) have erupted into open clashes between Ethiopia's army and rebel forces.

The spreading conflict has left thousands dead, displaced an estimated 2 million people, and pushed hundreds of thousands to the brink of famine. Recently, a joint United Nations and the Ethiopian human rights commission [report](#) found all of the combatants guilty of "appalling levels of brutality," including extrajudicial killings, sexual violence and attacks on refugees.

Earlier this year, after the government declared the TPLF a terrorist organization, Amnesty International [documented](#) the arbitrary arrest and detention of journalists and human rights activists in Tigray, Ethiopia's northernmost region. In the past week, as rebel forces have advanced on the capital, Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian federal government declared a national State of Emergency, invoking emergency powers to curtail internationally recognized human rights, threaten press freedom and limit the independence of the judiciary.

Human rights organizations [report](#) a rapid rise in hate speech and social media posts advocating ethnic violence, a particularly alarming development given that Ethiopia's 117 million people identify as members of more than 80 distinct ethnic groups. In this context, the government's calls for citizens in the capital and several other regions to take up arms to defend their communities have disturbing implications.

continued below

COVID average Incidence Rate per 100,000
from the Virginia Dept of Health.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Augusta County: | 21.4 |
| Harrisonburg | 10.3 |
| Rockingham | 15.1 |
| Staunton | 11.5 |
| Waynesboro | 24.0 |
| Average/100K | 16.46 |

Level of Community Transmission

High

Substantial

Moderate

Low

This Week in History.



Channel Tunnel opens
November 14, 1994



Union Armies under General Sherman burn Atlanta
November 15, 1964



Elizabeth I crowned
November 17, 1558



Abraham Lincoln gives Gettysburg Address
November 19, 1863

As followers of the Prince of Peace, let us pray fervently for the protection and well-being of all of Ethiopia's people. Let us pray particularly that:

- Leaders on all sides will renounce violence as a means of settling political disputes and will respect and uphold internationally recognized human rights
- Ethnic diversity will be celebrated as a source of strength and cultural richness, rather than being used as a justification for chauvinism and conflict
- Humanitarian assistance can reach people in need swiftly and without impediments
- Faith communities can be beacons of hope and advocates of peace, reconciliation and unity in the midst of division
- All of Ethiopia's people can enjoy justice, security and fullness of life.

Let us look to God, our help, our hope and our salvation.

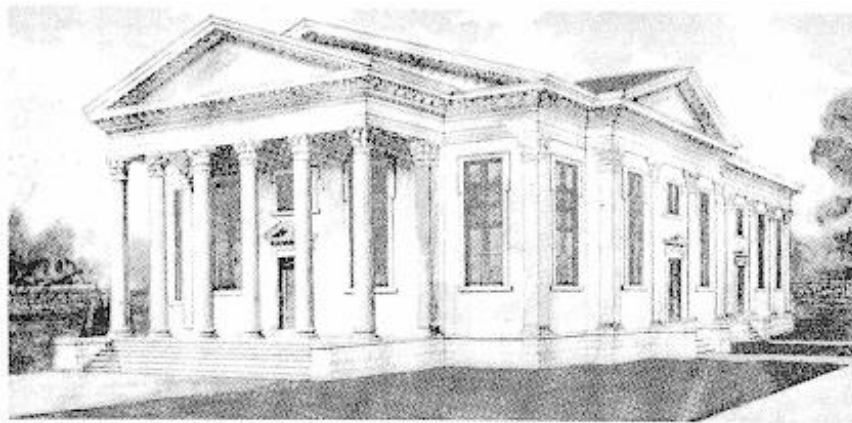
Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
[Stated Clerk of the General Assembly](#)
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



What's next for FPC?

This Sunday, November 21,
we will continue to celebrate
our common life

by talking about
our Mission and direction
in light of our financial situation.



If you care about FPC,
please plan to join us
after worship.

Music Notes for this week.



Elvey.

This week marks the final Sunday of the church year, when we celebrate Christ the King! Since it is also the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the music will celebrate both. The opening hymn is *Crown Him with Many Crowns*, the sparkling hymn known as *DIADEMATA*. The music for this well-known tune was written in 1868 by English composer George J. Elvey (1816-1893). When he was but nineteen years old, he became organist and master of the boys' choir at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, where he remained until his retirement in 1882.

The closing hymn is *Now Thank We All Our God*, with the original German text ("Nun danket alle Gott") by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649). Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) translated the text into the English version we sing today. The tune was composed by Johann Crüger (1598-1662) and has been adapted by composers ever since, from Johann Sebastian Bach to Felix Mendelssohn to Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933). His *March Triumphale*, based on the tune, will serve as this week's postlude.



Winkworth.

Our Worship Channels

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