



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

celebrating & inspiring



1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road
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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Happy Easter!!! It is a joy to have you here this morning and I pray you know just how loved and important you are. You are love by God unconditionally and you are a very important part of God's mission for the church in the world. Whether you are here today for the first time, a repeat visitor, or a long-time member...whether you are familiar with reformed traditions or find some of it a bit curious...whether you have grown up in the church or are finding your way back...whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged... whatever reason brought you to worship today, I pray you know you matter and are welcome here.

As God's children and Jesus' disciples here at First Presbyterian, we believe it is important to take seriously God's commandment and Jesus' teachings to love God, love one another, and love our neighbors. We don't all look alike, act alike, or think alike. We don't all read the Bible the same way. We bring different questions and carry different burdens. Still, every Sunday we are called by God to worship together as one unified community. Our worship style leans more traditional and seeks to remain true to our Reformed heritage. At the same time, we seek to bring our faith into conversation with the world around us and the events of our lives. We do our best to sing with joy and pray with honesty. Hospitality is paramount, and relationships with one another is holy. That's why we gather for fellowship, cookies, and lemonade in the Narthex after worship. We hope you will join us in sharing the love, joy, and peace of Christ with one another during this time.

If you're looking for a perfect church, although there are many wonderful things happening in the life and ministries of First Presbyterian, perfect is not in the cards. We're real people. We do the very best we can, but we don't always get it right. We understand how much we all need grace in our lives. And we believe that God's love, which never gives up and never let's go, is for everyone. We truly believe this a place for all God's children to be a part of celebrating God's grace and inspiring the next generation for Christ.

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith,
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

Building Hospitality

Our building is a wonderful resource. It can also feel like a labyrinth when you are learning your way around. A few key locations may be helpful to you: Accessible Restrooms can be located down the main hallway from the Foyer. The Elevator is also located down the main hallway from the Foyer. The Nursery is located on the ground floor just outside the elevator. In addition to locations, there are two supports available to worship participants should they be needed: Hearing-assist devices and Large Print Hymnals can be found in the Narthex. Ushers are available and willing to assist you in finding your way or answering other questions. Wayfinding signs are also posted at all intersections throughout the building.

Welcoming Children

Just as Jesus welcomes the little children to come, so we welcome children of all ages in worship. We believe we are better when all members of God's family are included! In order to make the worship service as welcoming for our littlest ones as possible, we provide worship carts with a variety of resources to make a worship bag. After the children's moment, 4 years to 2nd grade aged children are invited to participate in worship workshop in room 101 or stay for the remainder of worship. It is always a joy to have your children and all the wiggles, giggles, questions, noises, and insights they bring. If you have any questions about how to enhance your child's worship experience, or if you're looking to get involved with our children's ministries, please contact Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley (marcia@fpcly.org) or Catherine Adams (communications@fpcly.org).

Interested in joining?

If you'd like to be here in a more official capacity, you are invited to join First Presbyterian as a member. Everyone who is part of our community is treated the same. Joining isn't about special treatment, but rather about a commitment you make to following Jesus alongside others trying to do the same. New member gatherings take place throughout the year based on interest. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson (peter@fpcly.org) or Alex Collier (alex@fpcly.org).

Service of the Lord's Day

April 7, 2024

*From the beginning of the early church, God's people have met to worship on the first day of the week, the day Christ Jesus rose from the dead. We **gather** to praise the Triune God, confess our sin, and seek God's grace. We **hear** the good news of the gospel and are invited to **respond** to that good news in prayer, mission, offering, and celebrating the Lord's Supper. We are **sent** forth to glorify God through the service of daily living.*

**Those who are able, please stand.*

All are invited to join together in saying liturgy printed in bold.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Cantilene Religieuse

T. Dubois

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

Choral Introit

Christ is Alive!

Truro

Chancel Choir

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn #111: Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing**

Gelobt Sei Gott

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we come with humble hearts awed and thankful for Jesus' gift of new life over death and sin. Forgive us for failing to live as resurrection people, finding joy in each day. Forgive us for pursuing proofs as skeptics rather than trusting you at your word. Forgive us when we wash our hands of responsibility, cast our lot with the powerful oppressors, and seek to buy our forgiveness with silver. Forgive us when fear, complacency and selfishness keep us from witnessing of your grace. Lead us to fullness of life that you intend for all your children. In the name of Jesus, we pray, AMEN.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; the old life has gone and a new life has begun.

All: **In Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Gloria Patri**

Hymn #579

*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.*

***Affirmation of Faith: Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39**

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Catherine Adams

New Testament Reading: John 20:19 - 31

(pew Bible NT, p.115)

"Having Faith"

Nancy Dawson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**Call to Offering
Offertory Anthem**

Awake, My Heart
Chancel Choir

J. Marshall

*Awake, my heart, and render, To God thy sure defender,
Thy Maker, thy preserver, A song of love and fervor.
Confirm my deeds and guide me: My day, with thee beside me,
Beginning, middle, ending, Will all be upward tending.
My heart shall be thy dwelling, With joy and gladness swelling;
Thy word my nurture given, To bring me on toward heaven.*

***Thine Is the Glory**

Hymn # 122

Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son; Endless is the victory Thou o're death has won.

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

***Hymn #106: Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks**

Alleluia No. 1

***Benediction and Choral Amen**

Postlude

Trumpet Voluntary
Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

J. Clarke

We encourage all to share the love, joy, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ with one another. All are also encouraged to join in the Narthex for lemonade and cookies before participating in one of the many spiritual growth opportunities available for all ages.

The Chancel Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Jenny and John Osinga on the occasion of their 35th wedding anniversary on April 1.



Vision: Draw Near to God

Mission: Celebrate God's Grace and Inspire the Next Generation for Christ
Worship Joyfully. Grow Spiritually. Love Boldly. Serve Faithfully.

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

For a full calendar listing and more information, please visit our website www.fpcl.org.

Sunday, April 7

- 9:30 am Worship (Communion Sunday)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School classes
- 12:00 pm College Cares
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Monday, April 8

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 9:45 am Presbyterian Women Horizon Bible Study
- 2:00 pm Canterbury Crew
- 6:00 pm Scouts – Cub Pack 7
- 7:00 pm Scouts – Troop 7

Tuesday, April 9

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

Wednesday, April 10

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am *Immerse* Bible Study
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon meeting

Thursday, April 11

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 12

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Sunday, April 14

- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School classes
- 12:00 pm College Cares
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Jenny Osinga

Ushers and Greeters:

Peter, Gracie, Abbie, & Virginia Baldwin and Kathryn Overstreet

Worship Workshop Leader:

Marcia Thom-Kaley

Communion Preparers:

Ferrell and Randy Nexsen

Sound and Video Technicians:

Lloyd Agnew & Catherine Adams

Lemonade and Cookies Host:

Sharon Hovda

Pastor on Call:

Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson
(336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members

April:

Persis Tinsley (434) 258-1029
Brenda Sanzone (434) 426-8025

Thank you Judie Cleland and Betsy Jones for serving in March!

Prayer Cares and Concerns:

If you have a prayer request to share with the pastor or staff, you can write it on the blue prayer card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate (or the prayer box off the front hallway) or share your request online at fpcl.org/ministries/care-nurture.html.

Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231

Email: office@fpcly.org

Website: www.fpcly.org



@firstpresoflynchburg

FPC Lynchburg

Partner with God by Giving to FPCLY

1. Place your gift in the offering plate today.
2. Mail checks to FPCLY, 1215 V.E.S. Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503.
3. Use a credit card online at fpcly.org.
4. Download and use the *Vanco Mobile Faith* App on your phone.
5. Set up an automatic bank draft or bill pay.

Worship, Grow, Love, Serve

First Pres Presents Chancel Choir Concert April 23 @ 7:00pm

We're excited to host our final *First Pres Presents* concert of the 2023-2024 season on a Tuesday night led by our very own Chancel Choir accompanied by local musicians including our Director of Music and Organist Cory Whittier. You may recognize the works of Dan Forrest, Mark Hayes, J.S. Bach, and Andrew Lloyd-Weber as the choir performs a variety of requiem movements. The concert is free and open to the public.

April Potluck Dinner – Wednesday, April 24 @ 5:30pm

Come for an evening of community and food as we gather for a good old fashioned potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall! You're encouraged to bring an entrée, side item, or dessert to share!

Vacation Bible School Registration is LIVE!

We are going on a VBS camp adventure with God at *Camp Firelight*! We are calling all children, youth, and adults to participate in a fun-filled week of Bible stories, crafts, games, and music from June 3 -7! Scan the QR code to the right to register. The registration deadline is April 30th.

If you would like to volunteer as an adult, be sure to email marcia@fpcly.org.



G. Rudolph Leonard Scholarship Grant Applications are available.

This grant is available to active members of any Presbyterian Church that is located within a nine-mile radius of Lynchburg, VA, and whose parents and/or guardians reside in Lynchburg City or surrounding counties. Applicants may be preparing for undergraduate or graduate study at a four-year accredited college, university, or theological institution. The scholarships will be awarded on merit and financial need taking into consideration each applicant's academic record and test scores, community, school, & church activities, and other extracurricular activities. Contact finance@fpcly.org for the guidelines and application. Application is due by 3pm on May 3, 2024.

Youth Sunday is coming on May 12 – Mother's Day

We're excited for our children and youth to prepare and lead worship on May 12th. In the weeks ahead, they will be writing and preparing various components of worship based on our traditional order of worship with our newest members (confirmation class of 2023-24) leading the way. As a part of this service, age-appropriate bibles will be distributed to children entering Kindergarten, 3rd grade, 5th grade and 12th grade. If you are interested in working alongside these young people as they prepare, please contact marcia@fpcly.org!

SAVE THE DATE: Church Workday – Saturday, April 27

It's time to do a little spring cleaning around the outside of the church building and on the church property so our Facilities Committee is organizing a church workday. The committee is fine tuning the specific projects, which will be shared soon. Don't miss this great opportunity to connect and engage with one another while cleaning up the grounds. Please contact Martin Knight (martinknight1981@gmail.com) if you can help!

Have a great week! You are loved!