



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

*celebrating & inspiring*



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LIVE Radio Broadcast on WLNI 105.9 FM at 9:30 a.m.



# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Happy Eastertide!!! 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org)) or Catherine Adams ([communications@fpcly.org](mailto: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](mailto:peter@fpcly.org)) or Alex Collier ([alex@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)).

# Service of the Lord's Day

April 14, 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**

**Prelude**

T. Dubois

*Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist*

**Choral Introit**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Alleluia No. 1

*Chancel Choir*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Hymn #108: Christ Is Alive!**

Truro

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching ev'ry place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
But daily, in the midst of life,  
Our Savior in the God-head reigns.

In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

**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 your grace. Lead us to fullness of life that you intend for all your children: life renewed in Christ our Lord and Savior.**

**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.**

## \*Thine Is the Glory

Hymn # 122

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

## \*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

Marcia Thom-Kaley

### Choral Anthem

#### With a Voice of Singing

M. Shaw

*Chancel Choir*

*With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.  
The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia. O be joyful in God, all ye lands,  
O sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.*

### New Testament Reading: Colossians 3:1-17

(pew Bible NT, p.201)

### "New Life in Christ"

Peter Thompson

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

### Call to Offering

#### Offertory Anthem

#### Because You Live, O Christ

Vruechten

*Sydney Wenger, soloist*

*Because you live, O Christ, The garden of the world has come to flower;  
The darkness of the tomb Is flooded with your resurrection power.  
The stone has rolled away And death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter Day, For Jesus Christ has risen, has risen, has risen, has risen!  
Because you live, O Christ, The spirit bird of hope is freed for flying,  
Our cages of despair No longer keep us closed and life-denying.  
Because you live, O Christ, The rainbow of Your peace will span creation,  
The colors of Your love Will draw all humankind to adoration.*

### \*Doxology

Hymn #592

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

### \*Prayer of Dedication

**WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE**

**\*Hymn #119: The Strife is O'er**

Victory

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done, the victory of life is won;  
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions has dispersed:  
let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped, Christ rises glorious from the dead:  
all glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

Lord, by Your wounds on Calvary from death's dread sting Your servants free,  
that we may live eternally. Alleluia!

**\*Benediction and Choral Hallelujah**

**Postlude**

**Psalm 19**

B. Marcello

*Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist*

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*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.*



**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.fpcls.org](http://www.fpcls.org).

### 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

### Monday, April 15

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 2:00 pm Canterbury Crew
- 6:00 pm Scouts – Cub Pack 7
- 7:00 pm Scouts – Troop 7

### Tuesday, April 16

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

### Wednesday, April 17

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

### Thursday, April 18

- 7:00 am *Colin Caldwell* Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, April 19

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

### Sunday, April 21

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

### Notes for Today's Worship

#### **Worship Leader:**

Frank Whitehouse

#### **Ushers and Greeters:**

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

#### **Worship Workshop Leaders:**

Kelly and Martin Knight

#### **Sound and Video Technicians:**

Will Absher & Ken Slusher

#### **Lemonade and Cookies Hosts:**

Sally Leslie and Debbie Johnson

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#### **Pastor on Call:**

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

#### **Members Helping Members**

##### **April:**

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

#### **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 [fpcls.org/ministries/care-nurture.html](http://fpcls.org/ministries/care-nurture.html).

### **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. Please contact Martin Knight

[martinknight1981@gmail.com](mailto:martinknight1981@gmail.com) if you can help

### Connect with us!

**Phone:** (434) 384-6231

**Email:** [office@fpclly.org](mailto:office@fpclly.org)

**Website:** [www.fpclly.org](http://www.fpclly.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 [fpclly.org](http://fpclly.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 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to volunteer as an adult, be sure to email [marcia@fpclly.org](mailto:marcia@fpclly.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. 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@fpclly.org](mailto:finance@fpclly.org) for the guidelines and application. Application is due by 3pm on May 3, 2024.

### **FPCLY Town Hall Meeting- April 28 following Worship**

FPC will conduct a Town Hall meeting for all congregants in Fellowship Hall directly after the Sunday Worship service. The meeting will start with fellowship lemonade and cookies in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45 and will last no later than 12:00. The Town Hall meeting will replace Sunday School for that Sunday. Provisions for youth and children will be offered during this time. The purpose of the meeting is to update the congregation on the status of many of the ongoing concerns and opportunities at FPC but, most importantly, provide the congregation the forum and opportunity to ask questions and to make comments and suggestions. Feedback from the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Congregational Meeting indicated that more time is needed for a more thorough discussion and questions and answers. There will be an open Q&A time for congregants to ask questions during the meeting. However, should you have specific questions, comments or concerns, you are encouraged to email them to the Congregational Development Committee by April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Email Dave Tate:

[mountainviews1@verizon.net](mailto:mountainviews1@verizon.net) or Becky Giles [bgiles@lumos.net](mailto:bgiles@lumos.net). This will ensure that the right people with the right answers will be prepared for the meeting. We look forward to this time of discussion and understanding with everyone's involvement and God's help.

Have a great week! You are loved!