



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 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 21, 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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

J. S. Bach

Choral Introit

This is the Day!
Chancel Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

Leader: We desire to live in God's house and to seek God in his holy temple.

All: We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

All: Teach us your ways and make straight our paths in this hour and always.

***Hymn #260: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

Ein' Feste Burg

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

CELEBRATING BAPTISM

Sacrament of Baptism:

Shiloh Raine Skinner

Parents: Emily Alford and Cole Parker Skinner

Session Representative: Courtney Alford

Presentation of Purpose and Promise

Questions to the Parents, Congregation, and Children

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water

Act of Baptism

... I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You are now a child of the covenant, may God bless you, and keep you, and may you always be open to God's guidance.

Prayer and Welcome

Leader: Shiloh has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made her a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ.

All: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Shiloh into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support Shiloh, and her parents Emily and Cole, to share the good news of the gospel with them, and to help them know and follow Christ.

***Hymn #304: Jesus Loves Me!**

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." [Refrain]

All children ages 4 to 2nd Grade are welcome to attend Worship Workshop in Room 101

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 19:1-13

(pew Bible OT, p.326)

"Ears to Hear"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering
Offertory Anthem

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty
Chancel Choir
Text to Hymn #482

Lobe den Herren

***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 #399: We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

Dunlap's Creek

We walk by faith and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear
From Christ Who spoke as none e'er spoke;
But we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side,
Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice,
And cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near
And seek where You are found:

That, when our life of faith is done,
In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are,
With full and endless sight.

***Benediction and Choral Hallelujah**

Postlude

Toccata on "O God, Our Help"
Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

F. Swann

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.

SPECIAL INVITATION

"A Place of Welcome" Garden Dedication will take place next Sunday, April 28, 2024 @ 9 am just outside the main entrance of the church. This garden has been given to the glory of God by the L. Bradford Waters Family. All are invited and encouraged to come and celebrate this great gift.



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

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

Sunday, April 21

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

Monday, April 22

- 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 23

All Day- Front Parking Lot used for overflow for Garden Day

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 7:00 pm *First Pres Presents* Chancel Choir Concert
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

Wednesday, April 24

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am *Immerse* Bible Study
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon meeting
- 5:30 pm Fellowship Potluck Dinner

Thursday, April 25

- 7:00 am *Colin Caldwell* Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 11:45 am Staff Devotion and Lunch at Westminster Canterbury

Friday, April 26

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Saturday, April 27

- 9:00 am Church Workday

Sunday, April 28

- 9:30 am Worship (Two cents-a-meal)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Children and Youth Sunday School classes
- 11:00 am Town Hall Meeting
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

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 if you can help! You can also just plan to show up! The more the merrier.

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Camp Sommardahl

Ushers and Greeters:

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

Worship Workshop Leader:

Olivia Nelsen

Sound and Video Technicians:

Will Absher & Catherine Adams

Lemonade and Cookies Host:

Diane Stroud

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.

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- REGISTER TODAY B4 IT IS TOO LATE!

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 feel God's call for you to teach, please reach out to Marcia by 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. 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.

FPCLY Town Hall Meeting- April 28

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 Adult Sunday School. Children and youth Sunday school will be hosted. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the congregation a forum and opportunity to ask questions and to make comments and suggestions. Many topics are expected to be covered, including ongoing concerns received from congregants. Feedback from the March 3rd 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 22nd. Email Dave Tate: mountainviews1@verizon.net or Becky Giles 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!

The Finance Committee appreciates the interest of the congregation in the church's financial state and encourages your involvement and understanding. Below is the March Financial Summary. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Susan Hall, FPC Financial Manager (finance@fpcly.org) or Dave Tate, Chair, FPC Finance Committee (mountainviews1@verizon.net).

FPCLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
March 31, 2024			
2024 OPERATING BUDGET			
	Year To Date		Annual Budget
	Actual	Budgeted	
<u>INCOME</u>			
Covenant Giving	\$184,709	\$162,500	\$650,000
Other Income	\$24,823	\$35,736	\$142,944
Endowment Withdrawal	<u>\$43,750</u>	<u>\$43,750</u>	<u>\$175,000</u>
TOTAL =	\$253,282	\$241,986	\$967,944
<i>Income to date was <u>11,296 More</u> than budgeted</i>			
<u>EXPENSE</u>			
Outreach	\$5,057	\$18,000	\$72,000
Worship	\$1,758	\$2,888	\$11,550
Education	\$3,459	\$4,500	\$18,000
Personnel	\$158,899	\$159,880	\$639,519
Operations	\$20,708	\$20,963	\$83,851
Facilities	\$15,551	\$21,603	\$86,410
Utilities	<u>\$15,831</u>	<u>\$13,272</u>	<u>\$53,089</u>
TOTAL =	\$221,263	\$241,105	\$964,419
Budget Surplus			\$3,525
<i>Expense to date was <u>19,843 Less</u> than budgeted</i>			

2024 BALANCE SHEET	
Endowment =	\$1,903,804
All Other Funds * =	<u>\$1,764,881</u>
* Some are restricted	\$3,668,685
<i>No unusual or unexpected gifts or withdrawals</i>	

2024 COVENANT GIVING	
Phase 1 Actual =	\$558,440
Phase 2 Goal =	<u>\$91,560</u>
TOTAL GOAL =	\$650,000
Phase 1 Actual =	\$558,440
Phase 2 Actual =	<u>\$31,180</u>
REMAINING	\$60,380

The FPCLY Finance Committee