



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
celebrating & inspiring

1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road
(434) 384-6231 · www.fpclly.org · e-mail: info@fpclly.org
<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>
LIVE Video Streaming on www.fpclly.org at 9:30 a.m.
LIVE Radio Broadcast on WLNI 105.9 FM at 9:30 a.m.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Whether you are at First Presbyterian 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 different...

Whether you grew up Presbyterian or Baptist or Episcopalian or Lutheran or Methodist or Jewish or Agnostic...

Whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged...

Whatever reason brought you to worship today, you are welcome here. As God's children and Jesus' disciples, 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 is traditional and 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 important, and friendship 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 lets 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 16, 2023

*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

When Morning Gilds the Skies
Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

D. Wood

Choral Introit

This is the Day
Chancel Choir

D. Moore

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

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We often overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are often deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we often despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to transform our lives and make us new.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we 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: based on 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Colossians 1:15-20

This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit. Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Catherine Adams

Choral Anthem

Onward, Ye Saints

R. Wetzler

Chancel Choir

*Onward, ye saints, in triumph and praise, New hymns of joy to God let us raise!
Christ bears our banner, armored in might, Leading us ever to God's throne of light.*

*Our journey o'er, in heaven we'll rest Sinless and pure, in holiness blest.
Before God's face we'll worship and sing Songs of thanksgiving to our Lord and King!*

*Praise to the Father, praise to the Son, Praise to the Spirit, Three, yet One:
Thou art our King; we laud and adore! Blessing and honor be Thine ever more!*

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

(pew Bible NT, p. 232)

"Changing the Headline of Your Life"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Minute for Education

Bob Thomas

Call to Offering

Offertory

Variations on "Thine is the Glory"

L. van Beethoven

Russ Hovda, tuba; Cory Whittier; piano

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

Gelobt Sei Gott

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

The Lord of life is ris'n today;
Bring flowers of song, bedeck the way;
Let every tongue rejoice and say
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Praise we in songs of victory
that Love, that Life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

***Benediction and Choral Alleluia**

Postlude

Festive Trumpet Tune

D. German

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

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.

Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Jackie Campbell who went to be with her Lord and Savior on March 2, 2023.

Sunday, April 16

8:30 am Coffee & Conversation
9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
11:00 am Sunday School Classes
12:00 pm Session Meeting
3:30 pm Scouts - Cub Pack 7
4:00 pm Walk with God

Monday, April 17

9:00 am FPC Weekday School
10:00 am Presbyterian Women Circle Gathering
2:00 pm Canterbury Crew
6:00 pm College Cares
7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

Tuesday, April 18

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

Wednesday, April 19

9:00 am FPC Weekday School
10:00 am Immerse Bible Study
11:30 am Embracing Grief: Renewing Joy (FPCLY)
12:30 pm Al-Anon

Thursday, April 20

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 21

9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Sunday, April 23

8:30 am Coffee & Conversation
9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
11:00 am Sunday School Classes
3:30 pm Scouts - Cub Pack 7
4:00 pm Walk with God

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Sally Leslie

Ushers and Greeters:

Dickie Stowers, Gwen Maddox,
Denise McDonald,
and Elsie Howerton

Worship Workshop Leaders:

Jenny and John Osinga

Sound and Video Technicians:

Will Absher & Ken Slusher

Lemonade and Cookies Host:

Mary Ann Tate

Pastor on Call:

Peter Thompson (336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members

April:

Brenda Sanzone (434) 426-8025
Persis Tinsley (434) 384-1547 or
(434) 258-1029

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 fpcly.org/ministries/care-nurture.html.

Worship, Grow, Love, Serve

Potluck Fellowship Dinner – Wednesday, April 26 @ 5:30pm

Come to the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and good food! Please bring a desired dish (entrée, side, or dessert) to share, as you are able! Contact Alex Collier (alex@fpcl.org), Director of Outreach, for details.

Bibles and BBQ Church Lunch – Sunday, May 7 @ 12:00pm

We're having a good ol' BBQ lunch and you're invited! We can't think of a better way to celebrate giving Bibles to our children than gathering in the back parking lot for food and fellowship. At this meal, we will have a short Bible presentation for our children who haven't received their age-appropriate Bible from our Bible Sponsorship Program due to the pandemic. The cost is \$10 per family (collected at the lunch) to help cover the main meal; drinks, sides and desserts are covered. *Sign up on the sheet on the table off the foyer or by scanning the QR code to the left.*



Sister Stories Luncheon – Sunday, May 21 @ 12:00pm

Let us break bread, learn about one another, and hear from guest speaker Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church, as she shares about her journey on multiple professional paths before finding a special home serving as a pastor. All are invited to this catered luncheon in the Fellowship Hall! Cost is \$10 to be collected at the door. *Sign up on the sheet on the table off the main foyer or by calling the church.*

Vacation Bible School: Food Truck Party – June 5 – 9 from 8:30am – 12pm

A *Food Truck Party* is rolling into town for VBS where children will be reminded that everything we have comes from God and it is He who meets our daily needs! Head to fpcl.org or scan the QR code to the left using your phone *to register a child participant* (3 years old through completed 4th grade) *or youth helper* (completed 5th grade and above). Any adults interested in volunteering for or supporting VBS in any way may contact Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley (marcia@fpcl.org). The more the merrier!



IMPACT Week Ahead! SAVE THE DATES – July 31 – August 5

We are excited for our second annual week of transformational IMPACT with service opportunities throughout Lynchburg and our own church community. If you want to join the 2023 experience and/or receive advanced information about the calendar and signing up, complete the form by scanning the QR code to the right and/or contact Alex Collier (alex@fpcl.org), Director of Outreach!



A Note from Personnel: The Personnel Committee and Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson are excited to announce that this year, May 22 through July 16, Peter will be taking a Sabbatical for the purpose of rest, renewal, and restoration. Sabbatical Leave is paid time off outlined in the Terms of Call for full time pastors every 7th year in ministry. Peter will be sending a letter to the congregation in the coming weeks, but for now wishes to express his gratitude for this gift and opportunity of preparing for this holy time.