



**FIRST**  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
*celebrating & inspiring*

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# 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 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 23, 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**

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus**  
*Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist*

R. Elliott

**Choral Introit**

**Sing and Rejoice**  
*Chancel Choir*

W. H. Bradbury

**Welcome and Announcements**

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

Alleluia No. 1

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His Name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
He is the King of creation. Refrain.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen. Refrain.

We have been crucified with Christ.  
Now we shall live for ever. Refrain.

Come, let us praise the living God,  
Joyfully sing to our Savior. Refrain.

**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

#### O Sons and Daughters of the King

P. Sjolund

*Chancel Choir*

*O sons and daughters of the King, whom heavenly hosts in glory sing, today the grave has lost its sting: Alleluia!  
On this most holy day of days, to God your hearts and voices raise in songs of joy and shouts of praise: Alleluia! And we the  
holy church unite, as evermore is just and right, in glory to the King of Light.*

### Prayer for Illumination

**New Testament Reading:** 1 Peter 1:17-23

(pew Bible NT, p. 232-233)

**"Signed. Sealed. Delivered. Now What?"**

Peter Thompson

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

### Minute for Mission

Alex Collier

### Call to Offering

#### Offertory

#### There is a Balm in Gilead

Traditional

*Braden Jarosz, soloist*

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

*Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.*

*If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."*

## \*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 #388: O Jesus, I Have Promised**

Angel's Story

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
Be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near:  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
But, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be.  
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

**\*Benediction and Choral Alleluia**

**Postlude**

**Prelude in Classic Style**

G. Young

*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.*

**Sunday, April 23**

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

**Monday, April 24**

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

**Tuesday, April 25**

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

**Wednesday, April 26**

- 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
- 5:30 pm Potluck Fellowship Dinner

**Thursday, April 27**

- 7:00 am Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 11:45 am Staff Lunch & Devotion at Westminster Canterbury
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, April 28**

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

**Sunday, April 30**

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

**Notes for Today's Worship**

**Worship Leader:**

Camp Sommardahl

**Ushers and Greeters:**

Becky and Bobby O'Brian, Judy Stowers, Denise McDonald, and Elsie Howerton

**Worship Workshop Leaders:**

Nancy Ann and Nathan Gowen

**Sound and Video Technicians:**

Lloyd Agnew & Ken Slusher

**Lemonade and Cookies Host:**

Becky O'Brian

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**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](http://fpcly.org/ministries/care-nurture.html).

## Connect with us!

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

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

**Website:** [www.fpcly.org](http://www.fpcly.org)



@firstpresoflynchburg

FPC Lynchburg

## Partner with God by Giving to FPCLY

1. Place your gift in the offering plate today.
2. Mail a check to FPCLY, 1215 V.E.S. Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503
3. Use a credit card online at [fpcly.org](http://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

## **Potluck Fellowship Dinner – THIS 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@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)), Director of Outreach, for details.

## **Bibles and BBQ Church Picnic – Sunday, May 7 @ 12:00pm – RSVP by April 30**



We're having a good ol' Silver Pig BBQ and celebrating the gift of Bibles to our children! At this meal, we will have a short Bible presentation for our children who, due to the pandemic, haven't received their age-appropriate Bible from our Bible Sponsorship Program. The cost is \$10 per family (collected at the lunch) for the main meal; drinks, sides and desserts are covered.

*RSVP by April 30 on the sheet on the table off the foyer or by scanning the QR code.*

## **Youth Sunday – May 14 (Mother's Day) @ 9:30am worship**

We cannot wait for you to hear faith lessons and music from the next generation as our children and youth "take over" worship on Mother's Day. We hope you will plan to be here for this special worship experience!

## **Sister Stories Luncheon – Sunday, May 21 @ 12:00pm – RSVP by May 15**

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church, will share 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 by May 15 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**



Register a child participant (Kindergarten through completed 4<sup>th</sup> grade) or youth helper (completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade and above) using the QR code to the left. [Registration Closes on Sunday, April 30!](#)

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL ADULT VOLUNTEERS!** If you can serve one day or the whole week, contact Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley ([marcia@fpcly.org](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org)).



## **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@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.