



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
celebrating & inspiring

1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road
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<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

May 7, 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

Sweet Hour of Prayer
Chancel Ringers

L. Lamb

Welcome and Announcements

Bell Introit

A Simple Celebration
Chancel Ringers

K. McChesney

Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day

***Hymn #517: We Come as Guests Invited**

Wie Lieblich Ist Der Maien

We come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine,
His friends on earth united to share the bread and wine;
the bread of life is broken; the wine is freely poured
for us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.

We eat and drink, receiving from Christ the grace we need,
and in our hearts believing on Him by faith we feed;
with wonder and thanksgiving for love that knows no end,
we find in Jesus living our ever-present friend.

One bread is ours for sharing, one single fruitful vine,
our fellowship declaring renewed in bread and wine:
renewed, sustained, and given by token, sign, and word,
the pledge and seal of heaven, the love of Christ our Lord.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All: **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; God's understanding is beyond measure. By God through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

*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: Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

Choral Anthem

Day of Arising

C. Schalk

Chancel Choir

*Day of arising, Christ on the roadway, unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him, as fades the first day, and bread is broken, Christ is made known.
When we are walking, doubtful and dreading, blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,
Yet Christ walks with us ever awaiting our invitation: Stay, do not part.
Lo, I am with you, Jesus has spoken. This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign:
When the church gathers, when bread is broken, there Christ is with us in bread and wine.
Christ, our companion, hope for the journey, bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning that all creation with you may rise.*

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

(pew Bible NT, p. 233)

"A Special Invitation"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Minute for Rooted and Reaching

Sutton Tinsley

Call to Offering

Offertory

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Arr. L. Petersen

Marcia Thom-Kaley, soloist

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above
Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers
Our fears, our hopes, our aims, are one, our comforts and our cares
We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear
When here our pathways part, we suffer bitter pain
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, we hope to meet again.
From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin, we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity*

***Doxology**

Hymn #592

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

***Benediction**

***Hymn #435: We All Are One in Mission**

Es Flog Ein Kleins Waldvoegelein

We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service to witness in God's name;
Our ministries are different, our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace
So every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

Congregational Meeting: Elect 2023 Nominating Committee

Postlude

Toccata on "Lobe den Herren
Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

C. Phillips

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, May 7

- 8:30 am Coffee & Conversation
- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School Classes
- 12:00 pm Bibles and Barbecue
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Monday, May 8

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

Tuesday, May 9

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 3:30 pm William E. "Bill" McBratney, Jr. Memorial Service
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

Wednesday, May 10

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

Thursday, May 11

- 7:00 am Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Friday, May 12

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Sunday, May 14 – Youth Sunday & Mother's Day

- 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:

Peter Baldwin

Ushers and Greeters:

Donnie Ore, Gary Williams, and others in the church community

Worship Workshop Leader:

Whitney O'Brian

Communion Preparers:

Diane Stroud and Bill Perkins

Video & Sound Technicians:

Ken Slusher and Peter Thompson

Lemonade and Cookies Host:

FPC Staff



Pastor on Call:

Peter Thompson (336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members

May:

Jenny Osinga 434-426-1675
Marilyn Hartman 434-665-7043

Thanks to Brenda Sanzone and Persis Tinsley for serving in April!

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

Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231

Email: office@fpcly.org

Website: www.fpcly.org



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.
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

Called Congregational Meeting – TODAY immediately following Worship

Session has called a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing the Nominating Committee to serve in 2023. The Nominating Committee is a committee of the congregation and is to be made up of representatives of the congregation. The responsibilities of the Nominating Committee are to help discern and recruit leaders to serve the ministries of the church including but not limited to Ruling Elders.

Bibles and BBQ Church Picnic – Sunday, May 7 @ 12:00pm –TODAY!

We're looking forward to Silver Pig BBQ, being together, and celebrating the gift of Bibles to our children. The cost is \$10 per family (collected at the lunch) for the main meal; drinks, sides and desserts are covered.

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

We cannot wait for you to hear faith lessons from the next generation as our youth "take over" worship on Mother's Day. The young children will inspire us with songs and the older children will lead us in prayer, scripture, and a message. 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!

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 by May 15 on the sheet on the table off the main foyer or by calling the church.*

Check out ways YOU can partner with our Malawi Mission Team! The team of 10 will depart the US on June 20 and return in two groups – one on June 29 and the other on July 8!

- Pray for the team as they continue to make plans and preparations.
- Donate the following items for our partners (soccer balls, ball pumps and needles, construction paper, used laptop computers [limit of 20 total], used SMART cell phones, and ball point pens).
- Mark your calendar for June 25th for a virtual ZOOM call with the team while they are in Malawi. More details to come in the weeks ahead.

A Note from the Education Initiative: Sunday School Classes will conclude on Sunday, May 21!

Vacation Bible School: Food Truck Party – June 5 – 9 – Registration is closed!

We are looking forward to the *Food Truck Party* rolling into town for VBS in less than a month. We have 112 children, 16 youth helpers, and 50 volunteers signed up for a great week of faith and fun! Please be in prayer for this special week of education and outreach!



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

