



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

May 21, 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

Elegy

G. Thalben-Ball

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

Choral Introit

O Worship the Lord

D. Moore

Chancel Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 68:1-4

***Hymn #482: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty**

Lobe Den Herren

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

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!**

***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: 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
Choral Anthem**

Marcia Thom-Kaley
M. Shaw

With a Voice of Singing
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.*

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: John 17:1-11

(pew Bible NT, p. 111)

"Just Keep Swimming"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

**Call to Offering
Offertory**

For the Beauty of the Earth
Chancel Choir

C. Kocher

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies.
Refrain :Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light. (Refrain)*

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight. (Refrain)*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild. (Refrain)*

*For Thy Church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love. (Refrain)*

***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 #554: Let All Things Now Living**

Ash Grove

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, Pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Til shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces. The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit, obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine,
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,
With glad adoration a song let us raise,
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

***Benediction and Choral Alleluia**

Postlude

Toccata

G. Mushel

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, May 21

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

Monday, May 22

- 8:00 am FPC Weekday School Summer Camp
- 2:00 pm Canterbury Crew
- 6:00 pm College Cares
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

Tuesday, May 23

- 8:00 am FPC Weekday School Summer Camp
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

Wednesday, May 24

- 8:00 am FPC Weekday School Summer Camp
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon
- 5:30 pm Potluck Fellowship Dinner

Thursday, May 25

- 8:00 am FPC Weekday School Summer Camp
- 11:45 am Staff Lunch & Devotion at Westminster Canterbury

Friday, May 26

- 8:00 am FPC Weekday School Summer Camp

Sunday, May 28 – Pentecost & Memorial Day

- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 3:30 pm Scouts - Cub Pack 7
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Notes for Today’s Worship

Worship Leaders:

Elsie Howerton

Ushers and Greeters:

Gary Williams, Donnie Ore,
Rob Cleland, Taylor Cleland, and
Berkley Cleland

Worship Workshop Leaders:

Becky O’Brian

Sound and Video Technicians:

Lloyd Agnew and Ken Slusher

Lemonade and Cookies Host:

Becky O’Brian

Pastor on Call:

Nancy Dawson (804) 899-9545

Members Helping Members

May:

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

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.

A Note from Personnel:

The Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson will begin his Sabbatical of rest, renewal, and restoration TOMORROW Monday, May 22. His Sabbatical will continue through July 16. During this time, we invite everyone to welcome Rev. Jen Brothers (May 28 – June 11), Rev. Vernie Bolden (June 18 – July 9), and Erik Koroneos (July 16), who will be leading us in worship.

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 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

A Note from the Education Initiative: TODAY is the last Sunday for Sunday School classes until the fall!

Sister Stories Luncheon – TODAY 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. Cost is \$10 to be collected at the door.

Potluck Fellowship Dinner – Wednesday, May 24 @ 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! Bring a friend or neighbor to enjoy the community and conversation around the table. Contact Alex Collier (alex@fpcly.org), Director of Outreach, for details.

Lemonade and Cookies will continue throughout the summer!

We're excited to keep the post worship fellowship and celebration going throughout the summer months. We cannot do it without the hospitable hands of this community. *If you would like to lend a hand as a host one Sunday, hover your phone over the QR to the right and sign up to serve one Sunday!* If you're interested, but not sure how it works, let us know and we will connect you to a veteran Lemonade and Cookie host! There is still one Sunday left in June and two Sundays in August in which to choose.



Vacation Bible School: Food Truck Party – June 5 – 9

We are looking forward to the *Food Truck Party* rolling into town for VBS in just a couple of weeks. We have 112 children, 17 youth helpers, and 60 volunteers signed up for a great week of faith and fun! Please be in prayer for this special week of education and outreach!



Welcome Rev. Jen Brothers

Rev. Jen Brothers will be filling in for a few weeks for Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson while he is away on sabbatical. Jen graduated from seminary in 2020, fulfilling a long-held desire to earn a Master's of Divinity. Jen served as an interim pastor during the pandemic and managed a restaurant. Jen is also the co-founder of House of Bread which enables women who were incarcerated to learn job and relationship skills through bread baking and selling to help assist the women to enter back into community with acceptance. (www.houseofbreadroanoke.org). She has also created curriculum on adaptive leadership theory and facilitates groups to learn the techniques helping individuals to reach their goals in self-improvement and eventually, hopefully, self-actualization. To add to her many accomplishments, Jen is also a Licensed Professional Counselor. Jen joined the Presbytery of the Peaks in 2022 as a Church Leadership Ministry Specialist. First Presbyterian Church is grateful and honored to have Rev. Jen Brothers lead us in worship on May 28, June 4, and June 11.