



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 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

September 3, 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

Air I

G. F. Handel

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn #507: I Come with Joy**

Dove of Peace

I come with joy, to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free,
in awe and wonder to recall, His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord, His presence always near,
is in such friendship better known, we see and praise Him here,
we see and praise Him here.

Together met, together bound we'll go our different ways,
And as His people in the world we'll live and speak His praise,
we'll live and speak His praise.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge that we are often more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove all the obstacles preventing us from being your faithful representatives to a broken world and awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; the old life has gone and a new life has begun.

All: **In Christ, our sins 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: The Apostles' Creed

Hymnal, p. 14

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: Mark 10:46-52

(pew Bible NT, p. 47)

"What is it that you want me to do for you?"

Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee

R. Belliston

Sydney Wenger, Soloist

*Jesus, the very thought of thee With sweetness fills the breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see, And in thy presence rest.
Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, Nor can the mem'ry find
A sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Savior of mankind!
O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!
Jesus, our only joy be thou, As thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be thou our glory now, And through eternity.*

*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 #341: Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

Perfect submission, all is at rest. I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love. [Refrain]

*Benediction

*May today there be peace within. May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in yourself and others.
May you use the gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content with yourself just the way God has created you.
Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance,
praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.*

Postlude

Trumpet Tune and Air

H. Purcell

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.

Sunday, September 3

9:30 am Worship (Communion)
10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies

Monday, September 4—Church Offices Closed

7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

Tuesday, September 5

9:00 am FPC Weekday School
11:30 am *Embracing Grief: Renewing Joy* class
7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

Wednesday, September 6

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

Thursday, September 7

7:00 am Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study, *Fearless*
9:00 am FPC Weekday School
6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 8

9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Saturday, September 9

9:00 am Presbyterian Cemetery Workday

Sunday, September 10

9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
11:00 am Sunday School classes
12:00 pm College Cares
4:00 pm Walk with God
5:00 pm Come and Be Fed Dinner #1

SAVE THE DATE – Rooted and Reaching Celebration Brunch – Sunday, October 15 @ 11:00am

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Dickie Stowers

Ushers and Greeters:

Michael Trexler, Sally Leslie, Debbie Johnson, Scott Kaley, and Kathryn Overstreet

Worship Workshop Leaders:

Martin Knight

Communion Preparers:

Jenny and John Osinga

Sound and Video Technicians:

Lloyd Agnew & Catherine Adams

Lemonade and Cookies Hosts:

Marilyn Hartman and Yn Do Jones

Pastor on Call:

Peter Thompson (336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members

September:

Dorothy Niles (434) 509-6767
Diana Smack (434) 384-7046

Thank you to Sally deNiord, Bonnies Miles, and Diane Stroud for serving in August.

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 fpclly.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

Presbyterian Cemetery Cleanup Day – Saturday, September 9 @ 9:00am

As the cemetery prepares to celebrate its 200th anniversary, your help is needed to clean up the grounds by removing sticks, cutting brush, trimming bushes, and completing other yard tasks. If you're looking for a September opportunity to serve or just love working in the yard, contact Noel Thomas at nsnowt@aol.com.

Spark Sunday is NEXT Sunday! Are you ready?

We have a great slate of programming activities for the fall. Weekday classes are now in full swing. The final piece is Sunday School, College Cares, and Walk with God. We cannot wait for Sunday opportunities to begin for adults, youth, and children on Spark Sunday.



Come & Be Fed Dinner Series – Sept. 10 (NEXT SUNDAY) & Oct. 1 @ 5:00pm

This two-part series is focused on using group discussion to explore the power of our individual stories, how they connect us as a faith community, and how this connection will move us forward as a church family. We invite everyone (adults, children, and youth) to come, share, listen, and connect with others. **RSVP for dinner #1 by TODAY** on the sign-up sheet in the foyer hallway or using the QR code to the right. Dinner and nursery care will be provided. If you're interested in joining Pastor Peter for fellowship and meal prep at 4:00pm, reach out to Peter (peter@fpcly.org) or Alex (alex@fpcly.org).

Red Cross Blood Drive – Thursday, September 14, 12:00pm – 6:00pm

FPCLY is hosting the next blood drive rotation in partnership with other Rivermont Area Churches. Blood of all types is in high demand; your donation will truly save a life. If you are interested and able to donate blood please visit redcrossblood.org. If you are interested in another September opportunity to serve the day of or by providing snacks or drinks for donors, please contact Tracy Baker at swee2ths@comcast.net or head to our Service and Outreach webpage (fpcly.org/ministries/service-outreach.)

Presbyterian Women Kick Off Luncheon – Sunday, September 17 @ 12:00pm



Gather for community and conversation in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the new program year with lunch around the table and inspirational insight from the Malawi mission field. Lisa Ackers and Catherine Adams from the June 2023 mission trip will enlighten and engage us with tales of their adventures! Please RSVP by September 13. A signup sheet is located on the table off the front hallway or hover your phone over the QR code to the left!

You're Invited to Host Lemonade and Cookies!

We LOVE the opportunity to stay after worship and visit with folks while enjoying lemonade and treats! It's a great way to connect and engage with others! 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 code to the right and sign up!

Church Offices will be closed Monday, September 4 for the holiday.

