



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: SPARK SUNDAY

September 10, 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

Enigma Variations, "Nimrod"

E. Elgar

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

Bell Introit

Jesus Loves Me

Junior Ringers

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn #379: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

Solid Rock

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

His oath, His covenant, his blood, support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found:
dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we want to be faithful followers of Christ in our hearts; please forgive our disobedience. We want to be faithful followers of Christ in our actions; please forgive our bad choices. We want to be faithful followers of Christ in our words; please forgive the mean things we say. We want to be faithful followers of Christ throughout our lives; help us, God, to be more loving to you and all your children everywhere.

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: Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39**

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Queen of the Kitchen and Mr. Chef

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

Commissioning of Teachers for Spiritual Growth Opportunities Elsie Howerton & Marcia Thom-Kaley
The Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Draw us in the Spirit's Tether

H. W. Friedell

Chancel Choir

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether, For when humbly in Thy name,
Two or three are met together Thou are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now Thy garment's hem.*

*As the brethren used to gather In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit Thou our friendship up.*

*All our meals and all our living Make as sacraments of Thee,
That by caring, helping, giving We may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve Thee faithfully.*

***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 #369: I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**

I'm Gonna Live

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

***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.*

***Choral Benediction**

Lord, Let Us Now Depart In Peace
Chancel Choir

G. Whelpton

Postlude

Toccata
Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

G. Mushel

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.

Chancel flowers today are given to the glory of God in honor of Presbyterian Women by the PW Coordinating Team.



Vision: Draw Near to God

Mission: Celebrate God's Grace and Inspire the Next Generation for Christ

Worship Joyfully. Grow Spiritually. Love Boldly. Serve Faithfully.

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

For a full calendar listing and more information, please visit our website
www.fpclly.org.

Sunday, September 10—Spark Sunday

- 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

Monday, September 11

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 2:00 pm Canterbury Crew
- 5:30 pm Scouts - Troop 7
- 6:00 pm Scouts – Cub Pack 7

Tuesday, September 12

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

Wednesday, September 13

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

Thursday, September 14

- 7:00 am Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study, *Fearless*
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 12:00 pm Blood Drive
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 15

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Sunday, September 17

- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School classes
- 12:00 pm College Cares
- 12:00 pm Presbyterian Women Kick Off Luncheon
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Gary Williams

Ushers and Greeters:

Sally & Bob Leslie,
Becky & Caskie Giles, and
Kathryn Overstreet

Worship Workshop Leader:

Nancy Ann Gowen

Sound and Video Technicians:

Will Absher & Catherine Adams

Lemonade and Cookies Hosts:

Middle School Youth

Pastor on Call:

Peter Thompson (336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members

September:

Dorothy Niles (434) 509-6767

Diana Smack (434) 384-7046

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



@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

Come & Be Fed Dinner Series – Sept. 10 (TONIGHT) & 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.

Dinner and nursery care will be provided.

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

Blood of all types is in high demand; your donation will truly save a life. Many slots are still available to donate. If you are interested and able, please visit redcrossblood.org. We still need a few volunteers to assist with registration and walking donors to the snacks. Or if you'd prefer, there is opportunity to donate a few food/drink items to help donors "recharge." 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 – NEXT 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!

First Pres Presents Concert #2 – Thursday, September 28 @ 7:30pm

We are excited to partner with *Forte Chamber Music* for this unique concert featuring *Three Notch'd Road: The Virginia Baroque Ensemble*. This group of musicians specializes in playing instruments and a repertoire of pieces from the Baroque era of music (think 1600s – 1750s). This IS a ticketed event: \$35 for adults and free for students. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at <http://www.lynchburgtickets.com/threenotchd>.

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

Let's come together and celebrate all that God has done through the Rooted and Reaching campaign over a catered brunch! An official invitation is coming in the mail this week!

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! But, 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!



You are loved! Have a great week!