



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

*celebrating & inspiring*

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<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>  
LIVE Video Streaming on [www.fpclly.org](http://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 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@fpclly.org](mailto:marcia@fpclly.org)) or Catherine Adams ([communications@fpclly.org](mailto:communications@fpclly.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@fpclly.org](mailto:peter@fpclly.org)) or Alex Collier ([alex@fpclly.org](mailto:alex@fpclly.org)).

# Service of the Lord's Day

September 24, 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

Prelude on "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

C. Christiansen

*Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist*

Choral Introit

The Eyes of the Lord are Upon You

D. Moore

*Chancel Choir*

## Welcome and Announcements

**\*Hymn #264: When in Our Music God Is Glorified**

Engelberg

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,  
it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How often, in making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound  
as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

So has the Church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,  
borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue, Alleluia!

Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise, let all rejoice who have a voice to raise,  
and may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

## 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.**

*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**

Marcia Thom-Kaley

**Choral Anthem**

**There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

M. Schweizer

*Chancel Choir*

*There's a Wideness in God's mercy Like the wideness of the sea; There's a kindness in his justice  
Which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows Are more felt than up in heaven;  
There is no place where earth's failings Have such kindly judgement given. For the love of God is broader  
Than the measure of man's mind; And the heart of the Eternal Is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make his love too narrow By false limits of our own; And we magnify his strictness With a zeal he will not own.  
There is plentiful redemption In the blood that has been shed; There is joy for all the members In the sorrows of the Head.  
There is grace enough for thousands Of new worlds as great as this; There is room for fresh creations  
In that upper home of bliss. If our love were but more simple, We should take him at his word;  
And our lives would be all gladness In the joy of Christ our Lord.*

**Old Testament Reading: 1 Samuel 7:3-14**

(pew Bible OT, p. 250)

**"What is your Ebenezer?"**

Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

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

**Minute for Rooted and Reaching**

Kathryn Pumphrey

**Offertory Anthem**

**Hymn of Heaven**

P. Wickham, B. Johnson, B. Johnson, C. Davenport

*Marcia Thom-Kaley, soloist*

*How I long to breathe the air of Heaven where pain is gone and mercy fills the streets  
To look upon the One who bled to save me and walk with Him for all eternity  
There will be a day when all will bow before Him. There will be a day when death will be no more  
Standing face to face with He who died and rose again. Holy, holy is the Lord  
And every prayer, we prayed in desperation. The songs of faith, we sang through doubt and fear  
In the end, we'll see that it was worth it when He returns to wipe away our tears (Oh)  
And on that day, we join the resurrection and stand beside the heroes of the faith  
With one voice, a thousand generations sing, "Worthy is the lamb who was slain"  
And on that day, we join the resurrection and stand beside the heroes of the faith  
With one voice, a thousand generations sing, "Worthy is the lamb who was slain. Forever He shall reign"  
So let it be today we shout the hymn of Heaven with angels and the saints, we raise a mighty roar  
Glory to our God who gave us life beyond the grave Holy, holy is the Lord.*

**\*Doxology**

Hymn #592

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

## WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

### \*Hymn #356: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton, opposite

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for Thy courts above.

### \*Choral Benediction

### Lord, Let Us Now Depart In Peace

G. Whelpton

*Chancel Choir*

### Postlude

### Fanfare

J. Lemmens

*Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist*

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*At the doors of the Sanctuary when you exit, an opportunity to give to the Two Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger relief in our community will be available. All are invited to give to this offering as you are able.*

*The Chancel flowers this Sunday have been given to the glory of God in loving memory of Anne North Howard by Dennis Howard, Margaret Hill, and Elizabeth Smith.*



**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.fpcl.org](http://www.fpcl.org).

### Sunday, September 24

- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School classes
- 12:00 pm College Cares
- 12:00 pm Session Meeting
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

### Monday, September 25

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

### Tuesday, September 26

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

### Wednesday, September 27

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am Immerse Bible Study, *Fearless*
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting
- 5:30 pm Potluck Fellowship Dinner
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, September 28

- 7:00 am Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study, *Fearless*
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 11:45 am Staff Lunch and Devotion at Westminster Canterbury
- 7:30 pm *First Pres Presents* Concert #2

### Friday, September 29

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

### Sunday, October 1—World Communion Sunday

- 9:30 am Worship (baptism)
- 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 & Be Fed Dinner #2

### Notes for Today's Worship

#### **Worship Leader:**

Diane Stroud

#### **Ushers and Greeters:**

Theresa & Charlie Burton,  
Rebekah & Michael Trexler, and  
Donna Whitehouse

#### **Worship Workshop Leaders:**

Emma and Sutton Tinsley

#### **Sound and Video Technicians:**

Will Absher & Catherine Adams

#### **Lemonade and Cookies Hosts:**

Chancel Choir

#### **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 [fpcl.org/ministries/care-nurture.html](http://fpcl.org/ministries/care-nurture.html).

The Foley-Baker team will be in the Sanctuary all week finalizing the installation and tuning each of the pipes!

### Connect with us!

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

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

**Website:** [www.fpcly.org](http://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](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, September 27 @ 5:30pm**

Come to the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and good food! Please bring a dish to share (entrée, side, or dessert) as you are able! Contact Alex Collier ([alex@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)), Director of Outreach, for details.

### **First Pres Presents Concert #2 – THIS 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. Scan the QR code to the right to get yours today!



### **Come & Be Fed Dinner #2 – NEXT Sunday, October 1 @ 5:00pm**



Thanks to all that participated on September 10<sup>th</sup>! If you couldn't make it, materials from that evening are available on the table in the Foyer. Today's sermon as well as the bulletin board outside of Peter's office are also reflections on the Ebenezer concept that was discussed on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The second conversation on October 1<sup>st</sup> is open to all—whether you were able to attend the first conversation or not! Join us for this time of fellowship and connecting with each other. All food and activities for children will be provided.

### **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! We will share stories of impact, share photos and artifacts of the projects, and enjoy a meal. There will be an activity for older children and nursery care for children 3 & under. Text or call Theresa Burton at (434) 660-7611 to RSVP!

### **Trunk or Treat – Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4-6pm**

We invite you to join us for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual night of candy, costumes, and community! Sign up to be a “Trunk Host” on the clipboard below the Outreach bulletin board or by contacting Alex. If you can’t host a “trunk” but still want to participate, there are a few volunteer roles needed to help make the event happen. We hope to see you out there for this fun event!

### **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. **4** spots remain to lend a hand as a host! Scan the QR code to the right to fill one of those remaining spots!

*You are loved! Have a great week!*

