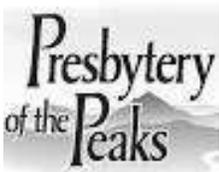




FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
celebrating & inspiring



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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Happy New Year to all of you!!! It is a joy to be with you this morning and I pray you know just how loved and important you are. You are love by God unconditionally and you are a very important part of God's mission for the church in the world. Whether you are here today 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 curious...whether you have grown up in the church or are finding your way back...whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged... whatever reason brought you to worship today, I pray you know you matter and are welcome here.

As God's children and Jesus' disciples here at First Presbyterian, 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 leans more traditional and seeks to remain 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 paramount, and relationships with one another 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@fpcl.org) or Catherine Adams (communications@fpcl.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@fpcl.org) or Alex Collier (alex@fpcl.org).

Service of the Lord's Day

January 14, 2024

*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

Faithfulness

W. M. Runyan/Arr. L. Larson

Marcia Thom-Kaley, piano

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn #420: God of Grace and God of Glory**

CWM Rhondda

God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy pow'r;
crown Thine ancient Church's story, bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail Thy ways.
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to Thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places; Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces, pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
That we fail not them or Thee, That we fail not them or Thee!

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of Thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
serving Thee whom we adore, serving Thee whom we adore.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

God of grace, we confess that we have elevated the things of this world above you. We have made idols of possessions and people and used your name for causes that are not consistent with you and your purposes. We have permitted our schedules to come first and have not taken the time to worship you enough. We have not always honored those who guided us in life. We have participated in systems that take life instead of give it. We have been unfaithful in our covenant relationships. We have yearned for, and sometimes taken, that which is not ours, and we have misrepresented others' intentions. Forgive us, O God,

for the many ways we fall short of your glory. In your grace, may we learn to live together according to your ways through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

Catherine Adams

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: Matthew 8:23-27

(pew Bible NT, p.8)

"When Fear Shakes, May Faith Shine"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Minute for Outreach

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

The Work of Christmas

D. Forrest

Marcia Thom-Kaley, soloist

*When the song of angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home
When the shepherds are back with their flock
The work of Christmas begins
To find the lost, to heal the broken
To feed the hungry, free the prisoners
To rebuild nations, to bring peace among brothers
To make music in the heart*

*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 #399: We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

Dunlap's Creek

We walk by faith and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear
From Christ Who spoke as none e'er spoke;
But we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side,
Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice,
And cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near
And seek where You are found:

That, when our life of faith is done,
In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are,
With full and endless sight.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Victory in Jesus

E. M. Bartlett

Marcia Thom-Kaley, piano

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.

The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Sally D. Wood, mother of W. Bass Wood.

The Rosebud on the Font is in celebration of the birth of Shiloh Raine Skinner born Wednesday, November 29, 2023, to Emily Alford Skinner and Cole Parker Skinner. Grandparents are Johnnie and Courtney Alford.



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, January 14

- 9:00 am Nursery Care
- 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

Monday, January 15

- 2:00 pm Canterbury Crew
- 6:00 pm Scouts – Cub Pack 7
- 7:00 pm Scouts – Troop 7

Tuesday, January 16

- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

Wednesday, January 17

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

Thursday, January 18

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

Friday, January 19

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Sunday, January 21

- 9:00 am Nursery Care
- 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

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Kirk Todd

Ushers and Greeters:

Barkley, Rob, & Taylor Cleland
and Bob Thomas

Worship Workshop Leaders:

Olivia Nelsen and April Shuck

Sound and Video Technicians:

Lloyd Agnew & Catherine Adams

Lemonade and Cookies Host:

Diane Stroud

Pastor on Call:

Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson
(336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members

January:

Ginny McCraw (434) 528-1927
Sally deNiord (434) 384-8153

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 checks 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

First Pres Presents Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra with organist Cory Whittier – January 27 @ 4:00pm

In our initial *First Pres Presents Fine Arts Series* concert of the 2024 calendar year, the *Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra* will perform a variety of works by Johann Bach and Georg Handel in this *Baroque and Organ Spectacular*. FPCLY Director of Music, Cory Whittier, and baritone vocalist, Randall Scarlata, will accompany this talented group of local musicians. Tickets can be purchased for \$30 by calling the Lynchburg Symphony Office at (434) 845-6604 or at the door on the afternoon of the concert.

Potluck Fellowship Dinner – Wednesday, January 31 @ 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! Contact Alex Collier (alex@fpcly.org), Director of Outreach, for details.

IMPACT Weekend ahead including the Coldest Night of the Year Walk on February 24

The Outreach Initiative is planning our first winter IMPACT Weekend in partnership with the Coldest Night of the Year Walk for Miriam's House on February 24. More details will be coming in the weeks ahead as the team finalizes opportunities for us to serve together as a church community this winter.

Inclement Weather Reminders

Tis' the season for winter weather in our community. If a weather event occurs on a weekday, we will follow the delay and cancellation protocols for Lynchburg City Schools. If an event occurs on a Sunday, we will make a timely decision for activities. We will provide updates for any delays or cancellations on a variety of platforms including a notice on our website (fpcly.org), an email to your inbox (if you are on our weekly email list), a social media post, a voicemail on the church phone (call 384-6231 to listen), and via the local news channels. Remember to stay safe and be careful with all winter weather events!

Thank you & join us with your Covenant commitment in 2024!

Thank you so much for being a part of the First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg church community. We are very glad you are here and in our church family. As we have shared in a fall brochure, church e-newsletters and bulletins, we have started a program of **Covenant Giving**. ***We are encouraging all congregants to make a commitment to God and one another through the offering of time, sharing of talents, and making a financial contribution*** toward our mission of celebrating God's grace and inspiring the next generation for Christ.

Everyone in this church community counts! Our programs and ministry activities won't be complete without you! **So far we have received \$514,904 in financial pledges from 159 families, representing 65% of this community.** We are seeking to go far beyond these numbers, and your pledge will help our church leaders to plan for the year ahead. **If you have already made your Covenant commitment for 2024, whether time, talent, or treasure, we thank you! If you have not yet shared your commitment, please join us in living out our mission, and send in your commitment card by January 18th** indicating your Covenant commitment.

Becky Giles, David Tate, Sutton Tinsley, and Denise McDonald

SUNDAY EDUCATION CLASSES

JANUARY 7 - MAY 19
11:00AM - 11:45AM

Children

NURSERY (9:00AM - 12:00PM)

Infants thru 3-year-olds - Room #8 - Ground Floor
FPCLY is happy to offer families nursery care for young children. Highly qualified staff are available to care for this age group on Sunday mornings and during select special events.

ELEMENTARY CHILDREN

4s & 5s - Room #207 2nd & 3rd - Room #210
K & 1st - Room #205 4th & 5th - Room #212

Children will engage in and explore the life of Jesus, Bible characters and Bible stories through music, play, art, and story telling!

Middle School

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

6th - 8th Graders
Youth Room (Room #2) - Ground Floor

Middle schoolers will explore their own faith and learn more about God through Bible study, service opportunities, outreach experiences and community building activities.

High School & College

CONFIRMATION CLASS

9th- 10th Graders - Library (Room #100)
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson will lead this class designed to teach students how important they are to First Presbyterian Church and how they can continue to grow in their faith and leadership. The class will conclude with an invitation to join FPCLY in March 2024.

Adults

ARTWORKS, YOU ARE A MASTERPIECE

Adults - Room #126
Discover and/or stretch your inner creativity with this class led by FPCLY church members pairing art lessons with Biblical truths centered on our identity in Christ and His unconditional love for us.

BIBLE 101

Adults - Officers' Room (Room #117)
Dig deeper into your understanding of God's word and how it connects to and inspires our everyday life in this conversation-based class. Various special topics will be discussed throughout the winter and spring in 4-6 week sessions.

LIFE WORTH LIVING

Adults - Martin Gifford Room (Room #119)
This life-giving study will look to Scripture that reveals the elements of a life worth living. The class will offer reflection on the 2023 *Offterdinger-Williamson Preaching Series* in concert with the book *Life Worth Living: a Guide to What Matters Most* based on the most in-demand course at Yale College.

WALK WITH GOD (4:00PM - 5:00PM)

Adults - Front Parking Lot
Experience God in a new way and connect with others while walking through the Peakland Place neighborhood. The group gathers for a prayer and devotion before taking a stroll down the street!

TRANSITIONS CLASS

11th - 12th Graders, College, & 20-somethings
Bride's Room (Room #114) - 1st Floor
Inquiry and dialogue will be encouraged in this class regarding current events and issues faced by an ever-changing landscape. Led by Barrett Thompson, this class will include outside gatherings and a bit of fun!

WEEKDAY EDUCATION CLASSES

STARTING THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY 2024

Wise Warriors

CANTERBURY CREW

Class starts on 1/8

MONDAYS, 2PM

Westminster Canterbury Chapel

Canterbury Crew is a chapel worship open to anyone of any faith or denomination. Come join in the singing and learning as we explore a time of scripture reading, sharing, and praying together. This group is led by Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley.

Men

COLIN CALDWELL MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Class starts on 1/4

THURSDAYS, 7AM

Library (Room #100) - 1st Floor

The Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson will lead this Bible study for men centered around God's presence with us in our daily lives. We will be reminded that there is no place that He won't go and no person He won't touch. We will have coffee made or bring your own!

All Adults

IMMERSE BIBLE STUDY

Class starts on 1/3

WEDNESDAYS, 10AM

Library (Room #100) - 1st Floor

In this winter & spring Bible study for women and men we will focus on exploring God's presence here with us being reminded that there is no person God won't touch and no place that God won't go with His love. The Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson will lead the discussion.

Women

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HORIZON STUDY CIRCLE

Class starts on 1/8

2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

SEPTEMBER - MAY, 10AM

Library (Room #100) - 1st Floor

Presbyterian Women (PW) is a ministry of the PCUSA offering an opportunity for women to gather to encourage and lift one another up in the faith. The women meet for study, community, and outreach. This year's study is called "Sacred Encounters - The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts."

College & Young Adults

COLLEGE CARES

Starts on 1/7

SUNDAYS, 12PM BRUNCH

College Cares seeks to provide loving support and Christ-centered encouragement to young adults as they make the transition between high school & college and/or college & adulthood. This group provides a time of sharing, questioning and creative problem-solving, mixed with food and fun! The group is led by Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley in partnership with church families.



If you have questions regarding any educational offerings, please contact Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley, FPCLY Director of Educational Ministries, at marcia@fpcly.org.