



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@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

January 21, 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

Arioso in A

J. S. Bach

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

Choral Introit

Be Joyful in the Lord

D. Moore

Chancel Choir

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn #485: To God Be the Glory**

To God Be The Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
and give Him the glory, great things He hath done!

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. **[Refrain]**

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

Choral Anthem

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

M. Bevan

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.*

New Testament Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

(pew Bible NT, p.16)

"When Faith Shines"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Minute for Music

Offertory Anthem

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

K. Thomerson

Sydney Wenger, soloist

*I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]
I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]*

***Doxology**

Hymn #592

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

***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]

***Benediction and Choral Amen**

Postlude

Allegro Maestoso

G. F. Handel

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.

The Chancel Flowers are in celebration of the marriage of Georgia Tanner to Chandler Phillips on Saturday, January 20, 2024.



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.fpcls.org.

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

Monday, January 22

- 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, January 23

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

Wednesday, January 24

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

Thursday, January 25

- 7:00 am Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 11:45 am Staff Lunch and Devotion at Westminster Canterbury

Friday, January 26

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Saturday, January 27

- 4:00 pm *First Pres Presents* Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, January 28

- 9:00 am Nursery Care
- 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

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Bill Perkins

Ushers and Greeters:

Jane and Rich Stallings
Arline and Donnie Ore

Worship Workshop Leader:

Whitney O'Brian

Sound and Video Technicians:

Will Absher & Catherine Adams

Lemonade and Cookies Hosts:

Sally Leslie and Debbie Johnson

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

fpcls.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 (adults) or \$10 (students) by calling (434) 845-6604, online on the Lynchburg Symphony website, 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.

First Pres Presents Southern Virginia University Chamber Singers – February 3 @ 4:00pm

Our next *First Pres Presents Fine Arts Series* concert will feature the Southern Virginia University Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Kyle Neilsen. These college students will perform a program that includes James Whitbourn's *Luminosity* and other exciting and moving works. All are welcome!

Ash Wednesday Services – February 14 @ 12pm and 6pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day (excluding Sundays) Lent season. This is a day that we acknowledge our individual and collective humanity, our need for repentance, and our need to refocus our lives on God as we prepare for the hope and mercy of Easter. We will gather in the Chapel.

IMPACT Weekend ahead – February 23 - 25

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. It's going to be great!

Clark Spiritual Growth Initiative Workshop – Saturday, March 9 @ 9:00am

Save the date for a special documentary screening of *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age* followed by a panel discussion addressing the growing use of screens by children and youth. More details will be shared in the coming weeks! The *Clark Spiritual Growth Initiative* was established in 2018 by Elinor Ann and Joe Clark in loving gratitude for the ways First Presbyterian Church has encouraged their family for the last 50 years. The Initiative supports an annual program with the purpose of promoting unique congregational, spiritual, and family growth opportunities through insightful and meaningful educational experiences.

Inclement Weather Reminders

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 all activities. Updates for any cancellations will be shared on our website, in an email to you, social media posts, a voicemail on the church phone, and via the local news channels. Remember to stay safe and be careful with all winter weather events!