



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

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 Ordination and Installation

January 7, 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

Largo

G. F. Handel

Choral Introit

Praise the Lord, For He is Good

H. Davies

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn #523: God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian**

Bethany

God the Spirit, guide and guardian, Windsped flame and hovering dove,
Breath of life and voice of prophets, Sign of blessing, power of love:
Give to those who lead Your people Fresh anointing of Your grace;
Send them forth as bold apostles To Your church in every place.

Christ our Savior, Sovereign, Shepherd, Word made flesh, Love crucified,
Teacher, Healer, suffering Servant, Friend of sinners, foe of pride:
In Your tending may all *pastors Learn and live a Shepherd's care;
Grant them courage and compassion Shown through word and deed and prayer.

Great Creator, Life-bestower, Truth beyond all thought's recall,
Fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, Giving and forgiving all:
As You know our strength and weakness, So may those the church exalts
Oversee her life steadfastly, Yet not overlook her faults.

Triune God, mysterious Being, Undivided and diverse,
Deeper than our minds can fathom, Greater than our creeds rehearse:
Help us in our varied callings Your full image to proclaim,
That our ministries uniting May give glory to Your name.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Mighty and merciful God, you have called us to be your people and claimed us for the service of Jesus Christ. We confess that we have not lived up to our calling. We have been timid and frightened disciples, forgetful of your powerful presence and the strength of your Spirit among us. Forgive our foolish and sinful ways. As you have chosen us and claimed us in our baptism, strengthen us anew to choose Christ's way in this world, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

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 Jesus 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

Traditional, 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: 1 Peter 4:7-11

(pew Bible NT, p.235)

"When Everyone Leads"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning of Ruling Elders

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Here I am, Lord

Chancel Choir

D. Schute/O. Young

I, the Lord of sea and sky I have heard my people cry

All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save

I, who made the stars of night I will make their darkness bright

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night

I will go, Lord, if you lead me I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain I have borne my people's pain

I have wept for love of them They turn away

I will break their hearts of stone Give them hearts for love alone

Who will speak my word to them Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame I will tend the poor and lame

I will set a feast for them My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide 'Til their hearts be satisfied

I will give my life to them Whom shall I send?

***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 #343: Called as Partners in Christ's Service**

Beecher

*Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.*

*Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase, messengers of faith, thus giving hope and
confidence and peace.*

***Benediction and Choral Amen**

Postlude

Venite!

J. Leavitt

*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.*



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 7

- 9:00 am Nursery Care
- 9:30 am Worship (*Communion & Ordination/Installation Sunday*)
- 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 8

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 9:45 am Presbyterian Women Horizon Circle
- 2:00 pm Canterbury Crew
- 6:00 pm Scouts – Cub Pack 7
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Scouts – Troop 7
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 9

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

Wednesday, January 10

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

Thursday, January 11

- 7:00 am Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Friday, January 12

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

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

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Sally Leslie

Ushers and Greeters:

Arline and Donnie Ore
Noel and Bob Thomas

Worship Workshop Leaders:

Olivia Nelsen and April Shuck

Communion Preparers:

Becky Giles and Dorothy Niles

Sound and Video Technicians:

Lloyd Agnew & Catherine Adams

Pastor on Call:

Rev. Peter Thompson
(336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members

January:

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

Thank you Elinor Ann Clark and Gail Kowalski for serving in December!

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

BIBLE STUDIES ARE BACK AND ALL ARE WELCOME!

Immerse Bible Study - Wednesdays @ 10am and Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study - Thursdays @ 7am!

Join Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson and others for discussion centered around God's nearness and faithfulness to us. *Is God really here on earth? Is God really as close to us as He promises? How do we know?* Let's talk about these things together in an honest and truthful way guided by the Holy Spirit, God's Word, & excerpts from *Next Door Savior: Near Enough to Touch. Strong Enough to Trust* by Max Lucado.

IMPACT in 2024 – As we enter the New Year, the Outreach Initiative is planning ways we can serve each other and our community in 2024. Stay tuned for FPC-wide IMPACT opportunities, check the table below the Outreach Bulletin Board, or contact Alex for ways you can connect with Service & Outreach or Care & Nurture Committees. Opportunities exist here at FPC as well as with our community partners throughout Lynchburg.

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.

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!

You Make it Happen in 2024!

You and our entire church community make it possible to fulfill our mission of celebrating God's grace and inspiring the next generation for Christ. ***We thank*** all those who have sent in their covenant commitment cards for 2024 as we strive to top \$600,000 in annual financial support. As of 12/31/2023, ***we have received 154 cards totaling \$501, 704 from 63% of our church members and friends.*** All pledges are helping us to live out our ministries of Worship, Education, and Outreach. If you haven't yet sent in your 2024 commitment card (extras can be found in the pews or in the church office), we invite you to join us this month to assist our staff and Session in their planning for the rest of this year. Pledges of support can be both financial and personal commitments to participate, pray, and serve our church and community. ***Thank you!***

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

SUNDAY EDUCATION CLASSES

Adults

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.

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.