



First Presbyterian Church
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

Grace and peace to 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 loved by God unconditionally and you are a very important part of God's mission for the church in the world. Whatever reason brought you to worship today, I pray you know you matter and are welcome here.

Following along in what is known as the liturgical calendar, today is the first Sunday in the season of Lent, an Old English word meaning springtime. The season of Lent is a time for growth in faith- through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a season of 40 days- remembering the flood in Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mt. Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah, and Jesus' testing in the wilderness. Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and concludes with the Great Easter Vigil, March 30. Not included in the 40 days are Sundays, as the Lord's Day is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. Throughout Lent, we are called to a pilgrimage of prayer, in which we learn to be God's people once more. Therefore, I invite you in the name of Christ, to observe a holy lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by meditating on God's word. In our observance and service, God brings us back to God's heart, opens our eyes to God's presence in the world and frees our hands to lead others to the wonders of God's grace.

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. 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... First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 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

More Love to Thee, O Christ

A. Giamanco

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

Choral Introit

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Chancel Choir

Welcome and Announcements

***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.

***Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession**

Lord, you are a God who keeps promises. In our prayers and songs, we say that we want to be Christians, those who believe in and follow Jesus' example, but then we forget our promises. Our actions do not match up with our words. We say mean things to other people, we hurt their feelings, we think of ourselves first, and worst of all, we ignore you. Lord, forgive us and hear our prayer for Jesus' sake. (*Silent Prayer of Confession*)

***Kyrie: Hymn #572**

Kyrie



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord have mer-cy up-on us.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Hear the good news! God's love is no matter what. Nothing, nothing at all, can separate us from the love of God given to us through the gift of Jesus the Christ.

All: **By God, through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Affirmation of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A's 32 &34**

I am called a Christian because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity. We call him "our Lord" because- not with gold or silver, but with his precious blood- he has set us free from sin and from the tyranny of the devil, and has bought us, body and soul, to be his very own.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Catherine Adams

Choral Anthem

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

C. Courtney

Chancel Choir

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
Amazing grace! Amazing grace! So vast and yet so free!
The Son of God, the righteous One, was crucified for me.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: **Luke 6:31-36**

(pew Bible NT, p.64)

"When We Have Mutual Respect"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

The Glory of These Forty Days

S. DeCesare

Sydney Wenger, Marcia Thom-Kaley, soloists

*The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise,
for Christ, by whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.
Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law.
And to Elijah, fasting, came the steed and chariots of flame.
So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lion's might.
And John, the Savior's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.
Then grant, O God, that we may, too, return in fast and prayer to you.
Our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.*

***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 and Choral Amen**

Postlude

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

L. Smith

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 Rosebuds on the Baptismal Font this morning are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the birth of Virginia Grace-Leigh DeRise on February 1, 2024 to Rob and Brittany DeRise and the birth of Sunny Paige Gowen on February 6, 2024 to Nathan and Nancy Ann Gowen.



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, February 18

- 9:30 am Worship
- 11:00 am Sunday School classes
- 12:00 pm College Cares
- 12:00 pm Stated Session Meeting
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Monday, February 19

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

Tuesday, February 20

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

Wednesday, February 21

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

Thursday, February 22

- 7:00 am Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 11:45 am Staff Devotion and Lunch at Westminster Canterbury
- 5:30 pm Pizza & Service (IMPACT weekend event)
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 23

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- IMPACT weekend opportunities

Saturday, February 24

- IMPACT weekend opportunities

Sunday, February 25

- 9:30 am Worship (IMPACT)
- 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:
Camp Sommardahl

Ushers and Greeters:
Terry Adams, John Osinga,
Rick Milam, and Bo Gravely

Worship Workshop Leaders:
Barrett Thompson

Sound and Video Technicians:
Lloyd Agnew & Catherine Adams

Pastor on Call:
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson
(336) 269-7270

**Members Helping Members
February:**
Cathy Oakes (434) 384-9403
Betty Blue (434) 384-6420

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

Special Worship Notes for Today

If you have worshiped here before, you may notice a few changes throughout worship this morning: our music will be supported by the piano (not our organ) and Pastor Peter Thompson, the Chancel Choir & worship support team members will be located on the floor level with the communion table. These changes are protective measures due to the ongoing investigative work on the front steps and middle platform of the Chancel: this area is being assessed for concerns due to water and termite damage. The organ has been temporarily covered to prevent any damage due to tile removal and construction as we investigate.

Lenten Education Resources will be available after worship today

Head to the table in the Narthex and pick up an educational resource for your journey through Lent. For adults, we have a devotional book called *The Hope of Easter – 40 Days of Reading and Reflection* and for children a 40-day kid-friendly activity devotional called *Every Day of Lent and Easter – A book of Activities for Children*.

February Potluck Dinner – Wednesday, February 28 @ 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 – THIS Week - Thursday, February 22nd – Sunday, February 25th

Last call for IMPACT Sign-Ups! If you have been thinking about signing up for an opportunity or two, please consider doing so by Monday evening (2/19) so we can ensure getting all of the needed information to you before the weekend. Full descriptions of each opportunity are beside the sign-up boards in the Narthex.

Vacation Bible School is coming! Save the date for June 3 – 7, 2024!

Calling all children, youth, and adults! Clear your calendars for morning time June 3 - 7 as we are going on a VBS camp adventure with God at *Camp Firelight*! We're excited for children (3 years old through 5th grade) to grow and learn as participants and youth (rising 6th graders and above) and adults to grow and learn as volunteers! Registration will be available on the website starting March 15th.

Two Opportunities to Offer your Time and Share your Talents at FPCLY!

- **Serve as a host for post-worship “Lemonade and Cookies.”** It's so great to be able to connect and build relationships with others in the church community right after worship. We cannot do it without the wonderful hosts who prepare and set out the delicious treats. If you would like to try your hand at hosting, use the QR code to the right or call the church office to sign up!
- **Inspire young minds as a Worship Workshop leader on Sunday mornings!** Worship Workshop is an inspiring educational time for 4-year-olds through 2nd graders during the worship hour. They learn about worship, Bible characters and stories, and enjoy time together. We are looking to build up our teaching team for 2024! If you would like to be a part of the teaching team, contact Marcia Thom-Kaley by email (marcia@fpcly.org) or call the church office.



You are loved! Have a great week!



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
celebrating & inspiring

Clark Spiritual Growth Initiative
presents

SCREEN
AGERS

GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE



Workshop featuring viewing of **Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age** documentary with a professional panel discussion

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

9:00AM - 12:30PM

1215 VES ROAD

LYNCHBURG, VA 24503

Questions? Contact Marcia@fpclly.org or call (434) 384-6231.

Scan the QR code or call
(434) 384-6231 to register!



FREE Admission. Space is limited. Light refreshments will be provided.

The Clark Spiritual Growth Initiative, established in 2018 by Elinor Ann and Joe Clark, supports an annual program with the purpose of promoting unique spiritual and family growth opportunities through insightful and meaningful educational experiences. It's with gratitude to the Clark family that we can offer this powerful screening and discussion to support and encourage the families of the Lynchburg community with God's love and grace.