



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.

Today is Palm Sunday and it marks the start of Holy Week. The events framed by Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his resurrection are some of the most dramatic and theologically important of the entire scriptural narrative. These days feature not only the drama of the triumphal entry, trial, last supper, and crucifixion but also poignant prayers and prophetic teachings of our Lord. Our focus today will be on the entry of Christ into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" It is important to note the irony of this day. This is the day on which Jesus entered the city in triumph, but as a part of his journey to the cross; this is the week in which the crowd's cries of "Hosanna" would soon turn to "Crucify him!" It has become my firm belief that taking the time to recall and reflect on the powerful events throughout this week, including the Holy Week Walk, Maundy Thursday Seder Meal, and Good Friday Tenebrae, help to enhance and illuminate the life-changing, earthshaking, good news and hope of Easter. I pray you will join me in the journey this week.

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... Palm Sunday

March 24, 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

Postlude

Prelude on "Coronation"

J. Longhurst

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

Choral Introit

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

Ellacombe

Chancel Choir

Welcome and Announcements

New Testament Reading: John 12:12-19

The Message

***Hymn #88: All Glory, Laud, and Honor**

Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

(refrain) All glory, laud, and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and Blessed One.

The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went;
Our praise and prayers and anthems before Thee we present.

To Thee before Thy passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

Thou didst accept their praises, accept the prayers we bring,
Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King!

(refrain) All glory, laud, and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

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

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a pure heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. (Silent Prayer of Confession)

***Kyrie**



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! The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.
The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.
All: **In 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

Marcia Thom-Kaley

Children ages 4 to 2nd Grade are invited to join together in Room 101 for Worship Workshop.

Choral Anthem

Ride On, King Jesus

M. Hogan

Chancel Choir

*Ride on, King Jesus, ride on the conquering King, Ride on King Jesus, No man can a-hinder thee.
I was but young when I begun. But now my race is almost done.
King Jesus rides a milk white horse. The river of Jordan He did cross.
He's the King and the Lord. He's the first and the last. He's the Lord of Lords.
Jesus is the Prince of peace. No man can a -hinder thee. Ride on, Jesus!*

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

(pew Bible NT, p. 213)

"Run. Fight. Keep."

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

G. Martin

Chancel Choir

*When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God,
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down,
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

***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 540: God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Randolph

God be with you till we meet again; Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a Shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; Unseen wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; When life's perils thick confound you;
Put unfailing arms around you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you: God be with you till we meet again.

*Benediction and Choral Amen

Postlude

Festive Trumpet Tune

D. German

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.

Holy Week 2024



PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 24, 9:30am

Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week - a celebration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem as the long awaited King. Worship will include waving palm branches, shouting hosannas, music, and a message.

HOLY WEEK WALK: FOLLOWING JESUS

March 24, 4:00pm

Gain new perspective on the events of Jesus' last days as you walk through the scriptures of Holy Week on the campus of FPCLY. We will meet in the front circle. Nursery will be available for children 3yo and under.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - SEDER MEAL

March 28, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Experience and recall the events taking place in the Upper Room as Jesus shared His last meal with His disciples. A modern Mediterranean menu will be served family style to symbolize the elements in the traditional Passover Seder meal and fill your stomachs too. Kid-friendly options will be available.

Please sign up by March 25 using the sign up sheet at the church or by scanning the QR code to the left.



GOOD FRIDAY - TENEBRAE SERVICE

March 29, 6:00pm, Chapel

Worship and recall Jesus' ultimate sacrifice in this reflective Tenebrae service. A stripping of colors and light will take place throughout the service. Tenebrae means "darkness."



Celebrate Easter at First Pres!

MARCH 31



SUNRISE SERVICE

7:00am, Columbarium

Rejoice, Christ is Risen! Celebrate Christ's resurrection as the sun rises this Easter morning with music, prayer, and a joy-filled message. Communion will be served.

WORSHIP

9:30am

He is risen! Let us come together in celebration of the empty tomb with an Easter message, joyful music featuring brass and timpani, and communion. Please invite others to this hope-filled celebration!



FLOWER THE CROSS

all day, front circle

Together, let's bring the cross (in front of the church) to life by adorning it with freshly cut flowers. It makes a great spot for a family Easter photo!



We will NOT have Sunday School on Easter Sunday!



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, March 24

- 9:30 am Worship (Palm Sunday)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School classes
- 12:00 pm College Cares
- 4:00 pm Holy Week Walk

Monday, March 25

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

Tuesday, March 26

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

Wednesday, March 27

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon meeting

Thursday, March 28

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 11:45 am Staff Devotion and Lunch @ Westminster Canterbury
- 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Seder Meal
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 29

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 6:00 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Saturday, March 30

- 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt with Weekday School

Sunday, March 31

- 7:00 am Easter Sunrise Service (Columbarium)
- 9:30 am Easter Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Alex Collier

Ushers and Greeters:

Becky and Caskie Giles, Gwen Maddox, and Scott Kaley

Worship Workshop Leader:

Becky O'Brian

Sound and Video Technicians:

Lloyd Agnew & Catherine Adams

Lemonade and Cookies Host:

Gwen Maddox

Pastor on Call:

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

Members Helping Members March:

Judie Cleland (434) 444-2797
Betsy Jones (434) 941-7401

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

Easter Egg Hunt with the FPC Weekday School – Saturday, March 30 @ 10:00am, back parking lot

The FPC Weekday School invites **all** church families to a joint Easter Egg Hunt in the rear parking lot! Let us come together as an FPCLY community for fun, food, and...the Easter Bunny! This family event will include a massive egg hunt, games, activities, music, and more. No RSVP is needed. If you would like to donate plastic eggs or small, pre-packaged candies, there will be a donation bin at the church entrance through March 25th!

2023 – 2024 Confirmation Class

Last Sunday, eight young people shared their faith statements with the Session as they prepare to step into membership at First Presbyterian Church on Easter Sunday! They have worked hard since last July learning about faith, one another, and what it means to be a part of a church community; they have served during IMPACT events, participated in various church activities, enjoyed brunch with church members, and engaged in weekly conversations about faith at Sunday School. We are so proud!

First Pres Presents Chancel Choir Concert April 23 @ 7:00pm

We're excited to host our final First Pres Presents concert of the 2023-2024 season on a Tuesday night led by our very own Chancel Choir accompanied by local musicians including our Director of Music and Organist Cory Whittier. You may recognize the works of Dan Forrest, Mark Hayes, J.S. Bach, and Andrew Lloyd-Weber as the choir performs a variety of requiem movements. The concert is free and open to the public.

Vacation Bible School Registration is LIVE!

We are going on a VBS camp adventure with God at *Camp Firelight*! We are calling all children, youth, and adults to participate in a fun-filled week of Bible stories, crafts, games, and music from June 3 -7! Scan the QR code to the right to register. The registration deadline is April 30th.

If you would like to volunteer as an adult, be sure to email marcia@fpcly.org.



Youth Sunday is coming on May 12 – Mother's Day

We're excited for our children and youth to prepare and lead worship on May 12th. In the weeks ahead, they will be writing and preparing various components of worship based on our traditional order of worship with our newest members (confirmation class of 2023-24) leading the way. As a part of this service, age-appropriate bibles will be distributed to children entering Kindergarten, 3rd grade, 5th grade and 12th grade. If you are interested in working alongside these young people as they prepare, please contact marcia@fpcly.org!

An Encouraging Word: Now is a great time to connect and engage in the life and ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Fancy words can be used to describe what that means but, in the end, it means to be present and participate. Christ's Church here at First Presbyterian runs on 2 main things: the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus and YOUR willingness to share the grace YOU receive from Jesus with others you know and the neighbors you meet. The church needs YOU and God wants YOU to be connected and engaged! It is even fitting to say that YOU need the church! Step in! Step up! The gift you afford yourself for doing so will be well worth your attention and devotion!

Have a great week! You are loved!

This is the first of a monthly FPC Financial status report to be shared with the congregation. Future updates will appear as bulletin inserts on the third Sunday of each month following the regular monthly Finance Committee meeting. The Finance Committee appreciates the interest of the congregation shown during the March 3rd congregational meeting and encourages your involvement and understanding. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Susan Hall, FPC Financial Manager (finance@fpclly.org) or Dave Tate, Chair, FPC Finance Committee (mountainviews1@verizon.net).

FPCLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY
As of February 29, 2024

2024 OPERATING BUDGET			
	Year To Date		Annual Budget
	Actual	Budgeted	
<u>INCOME</u>			
Covenant Giving	\$128,509	\$108,333	\$650,000
Other Income	\$8,386	\$15,750	\$142,944
Endowment Withdrawal	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$175,000</u>
TOTAL =	\$136,896	\$124,083	\$967,944
<i>Income to date was \$12,813 GREATER than budgeted</i>			
<u>EXPENSE</u>			
Outreach	\$175	\$9,500	\$72,000
Worship	\$463	\$1,925	\$11,550
Education	\$2,015	\$3,000	\$18,000
Personnel	\$105,027	\$106,586	\$639,519
Operations	\$20,307	\$20,773	\$121,261
Facilities	\$6,418	\$8,167	\$49,000
Utilities	<u>\$10,611</u>	<u>\$8,848</u>	<u>\$53,089</u>
TOTAL =	\$145,017	\$158,799	\$964,419
<i>Expense to date was \$13,782 LESS than budgeted</i>			

2024 BALANCE SHEET	
Endowment =	\$1,887,642
*All Other Funds =	<u>\$1,737,439</u>
* includes restricted funds	\$3,625,081
<i>No unusual or unexpected gifts or withdrawals</i>	

2024 COVENANT GIVING	
Phase 1 Actual =	\$558,440
Phase 2 Goal =	<u>\$91,560</u>
TOTAL GOAL =	\$650,000
Phase 1 Actual =	\$558,440
Phase 2 Actual =	<u>\$2,000</u>
REMAINING	\$89,560