



Presbytery  
of the Peaks

**First Presbyterian Church**  
1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road  
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<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>



# 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 the Fourth 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. In total, 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 began 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. Whether you started on February 14 or not, you are still invited 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 just outside the Fellowship Hall doors. The Elevator can be accessed from this level on the hallway near the Weekday School Offices. The Nursery is also located on this level on the hallways near the Weekday School Offices. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org)) or Catherine Adams ([communications@fpcly.org](mailto: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](mailto:peter@fpcly.org)) or Alex Collier ([alex@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)).

# Service of the Lord's Day... Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

*All are invited to join together in saying liturgy printed in bold.*

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

### Fellowship

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

Leader: God calls us to worship,

**All: and we come, some with laughter and songs of joy,  
some from a sense of obligation or habit.**

Leader: God calls us to worship,

**All: and we come, some with hearts heavy with grief,  
some with distraction or exhaustion.**

Leader: God calls us to worship,

**All: and we come, some with eagerness and enthusiasm,  
some with stress, loneliness, or depression.**

Leader: As God's dearly loved children, we bring all our joy and pain, hurt and hope

**All: into this place of Spirit-given grace, love, and hope**

### Prayer of the Day

#### \*Hymn #376: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest;  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### Children's Moment

Catherine Adams

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

### Choral Anthem

#### A New Commandment

M. Archer

*Chancel Choir*

*Love one another as I have loved you.*

*A new commandment I give you now that you love one another as I have loved you.*

*By this will all people know you are my friends if you love one another as I loved you.*

*Love one another as I have loved you.*

*The love I give you the world will receive if you love one another as I loved you.*

### New Testament Readings:

**John 3:14-21**

The Message

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

The Message

### "An Immeasurable Richness"

*Who is Jesus to you and what does Jesus' love mean to you?*

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

## WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

### \*Hymn #387: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Bradbury

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, early let us turn to Thee;  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor, early let us do Thy will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill:  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

### \*Benediction

*Offering of our Tithes and Offerings*  
*Visitor Information (Friendship Pads near the exit of the FH)*  
*Passing the Love, Joy, and Peace of Christ*  
*Lemonade and Cookies*

### \*Postlude

\*\*\*\*\*

The Rosebud today is in celebration of the birth of Skylar Reau Brown,  
born on February 23 to Amber and Andrew Brown. Grandparents are Jenny and John Osinga.  
"Very Strong! Very Loud! Very Perfect!"



**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](http://www.fpcls.org).

### Sunday, March 10

- 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, March 11

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 9:45 am Presbyterian Women Horizon Bible Study
- 2:00 pm Canterbury Crew
- 6:00 pm Scouts – Cub Pack 7
- 7:00 pm Scouts – Troop 7

### Tuesday, March 12

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

### Wednesday, March 13

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

### Thursday, March 14

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, March 15

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

### Saturday, March 16

- 2:00 pm Memorial Service - Bonnie Stewart

### Sunday, March 17

- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School classes
- 12:00 pm Stated Session Meeting
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

### Notes for Today's Worship

**Worship Leader:**  
Laurie Sommardahl

**Ushers and Greeters:**  
Becky and Bill Semones  
Becky and Caskie Giles

**Worship Workshop Leader:**  
Gwen Maddox

**Lemonade and Cookies Hosts:**  
Sally and Bob Leslie

**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 a blue prayer card located on the table near the Fellowship Hall doors and place it in the offering basket. Or share your request online at [fpcls.org/ministries/care-nurture.html](http://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

### **Bible 101 Sunday School Class Kicks Off a New Series TODAY @ 11:00am**

Due to illness last week, we delayed the start of this new series to today. This series will include a comparative study of the Gospels with specific attention to the Passion of Christ. This series will be co-taught by Michael Trexler and Frank Whitehouse using "The Rose Guide to the Gospels – Side-by-Side Charts and Overviews."

### **Coldest Night of the Year was a huge success!**

Over 400 individuals from Lynchburg came together to walk in support of our unsheltered neighbors raising almost \$69,000 for Miriam's House to continue its efforts to end homelessness through supporting and empowering families. The First Presbyterian Church community stepped in by adding 36 walkers (an FPCLY record) and raising \$3,390. Thank you for the prayers, participation and support for our community!

### **Clark Spiritual Growth Initiative Screenagers Workshop Celebration!**

What a great morning we had yesterday as approximately 100 people gathered over a common challenge involving children and families! The documentary shared valuable information for families on the physical and mental health implications of screen usage AND valuable insight on how to manage the tension screen usage creates and insight on positive solutions. A special thanks is shared with the Presbyterian Women for providing snacks and treats and the Education Initiative team for their leadership in getting this great event organized.

### **Vacation Bible School Registration Opens on March 15!**

We are calling all children, youth, and adults to participate in a fun-filled week of Bible stories, crafts, recreation, and music from June 3 -7! We are going on a VBS camp adventure with God at *Camp Firelight!* Registration will launch THIS Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> on the First Presbyterian website. The registration deadline will be April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to volunteer as an adult, be sure to email marcia@fpcly.org.

### **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! The event will include the egg hunt, games, activities, music, and more. If you would like to donate plastic eggs or small, pre-packaged candies, we will have a donation bin at the church entrance through March 25<sup>th</sup>!

### **First Pres Presents Chancel Choir Concert Date changed to April 23**

Our final *First Pres Presents* concert of the 2023-2024 series has been moved to Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00pm. Please update your calendar and get ready for this special concert! More details to come!

### **Words of Appreciation from Congregational Development Team**

"Thanks to all who participated in the Congregational Meeting last Sunday, March 3rd. There was a lot of financial information to absorb, but your response, questions and discussions afterwards make this a truly participative process. Regular, monthly updates on FPCLY's financial status are planned as bulletin inserts starting Sunday, March 17th. Copies of the presentation and reference material are available, so please contact the church office if you would like to have copies."

Have a great week! You are loved!



# 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!**