



LIVING INTO OUR COVENANT



1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road  
(434) 384-6231 · [www.fpclly.org](http://www.fpclly.org) · e-mail: [info@fpclly.org](mailto:info@fpclly.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>



# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and peace to you!!! I wanted you to know how much of a joy it is to have you here 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. Therefore; 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 are holy. That's why we gather for fellowship, cookies, and lemonade 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**

First, our Hospitality and Welcome Desk is a great source of information and all visitors, repeat visitors, and members too, are encouraged to stop and interact with the host or hostess present today. Second, our building is a wonderful resource, however, 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 in the hallway 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 1 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@fpcl.org) or Catherine Adams (communications@fpcl.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@fpcl.org) or Alex Collier (alex@fpcl.org).

# Service of the Lord's Day: SPARK SUNDAY CONT'D

September 15, 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

### Congregational Fellowship

*Share the Love, Joy, and Peace of Christ with others!*

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### Prayer of the Day and Lord's Prayer

**All glorious God, we give you thanks: in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. You chose us, before the world was made, to be your holy people, without fault in your sight. You adopted us as your children in Christ. You have set us free by his blood; you have forgiven our sins. You have made known to us your secret purpose, to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ. You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance. All praise and glory be yours, O God, for the richness of your grace, for the splendor of your gifts, for the wonder of your love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to say together when praying... Our Father...**

### \*Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies.

*Refrain:*

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise, This our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light. (*Refrain*)

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony Linking sense to sound and sight. (*Refrain*)

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild. (*Refrain*)

For Thy Church, that evermore lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore Her pure sacrifice of love. (*Refrain*)

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

### New Testament Reading: Mark 14:1-9

### "Living into our Covenant"

Peter Thompson

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Minute for Mission: Covenant Giving

#### Call to Offering

*During the offering, all are invited to put any prayer requests you have in the basket as it passes. There are colored slips of paper available at each seat for all to participate. These prayers will then be offered during the "Prayers of the People" following the offertory anthem.*

#### Offertory Anthem

**So Will I**  
*Marcia Thom-Kaley, piano*

Houston, Hastings, Fatkin

#### Prayers of the People

### WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

#### \*Hymn: How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

How clear is our vocation, Lord, When once we heed Your call:  
To live according to Your word, And daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find Your yoke is hard to bear,  
If worldly pressures fray the mind And love itself cannot unwind  
Its tangled skein of care: Our inward life repair.

We mark Your saints, how they became In hindrances more sure,  
Whose joyful virtues put to shame The casual way we wear  
Your name, And by our faults obscure Your power to cleanse and cure.

In what You give us, Lord, to do, Together or alone,  
In old routines or ventures new, May we not cease to look to You--  
The cross You hung upon-- All You endeavored done

#### \*Benediction

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*We encourage all to share the love, joy, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ with one another.*



#### Session Leadership

**Diane Stroud**, Clerk of Session  
**Becky Giles**- '24, Education, Cong. Development  
**Elsie Howerton**- '24, Education/ Weekday School Board  
**Gary Williams**- '24, Outreach/ S&O/ Cong. Development  
**Peter Baldwin**- '25, Worship  
**Nathan Gowen**- '25, Finance  
**Denise McDonald**- '25, Outreach/ Cong. Development  
**Mary Ann Tate**- '25, Personnel  
**Marilyn Hartman**- '26, Outreach/ C&N  
**Sam Howe**- '26, Outreach/ Cong. Development  
**Martin Knight**- '26, Facilities  
**John Osinga**- '26, Worship  
**Kathryn Overstreet**- '26, Education/ Weekday School Board

#### Staff Leadership

**Catherine Adams**, Communications Coordinator  
**Alex Collier**, Director of Outreach  
**Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson**, Parish Associate  
**Susan Hall**, Financial Manager  
**Maria Karalekas**, Director of FPC Weekday School  
**Kim Ryan**, Nursery Care Provider  
**Jody Sprinkle**, Director of Facilities  
**Dr. Marcia Thom- Kaley**, Director of Education  
**Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson**, Senior Pastor



**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

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For a full calendar listing and more information, please visit our website [www.fpcls.org](http://www.fpcls.org).

### Sunday, September 15

- 9:30 am Worship (in the Fellowship Hall)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School Classes
- 12:00 pm Stated Session Meeting
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm Meeting in the Middle Youth Gathering

### Monday, September 16

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 6:00 pm Scouts - Cub Pack 7
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

### Tuesday, September 17

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

### Wednesday, September 18

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am *Immerse* Bible Study
- 12:30 pm AI-Anon meeting
- 5:30 pm Fellowship Dinner - Potluck

### Thursday, September 19

- 7:00 am *Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study*
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 2:00 pm *GriefShare* Class

### Friday, September 20

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

### Sunday, September 22

- 9:30 am Worship (in the Fellowship Hall)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School Classes
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

### Notes for Today's Worship

#### **Ushers and Greeters:**

Cameron and Sam Howe, Laura Craddock, and Elsie Howerton

#### **Worship Workshop Leader:**

Nancy Ann Gowen

#### **Lemonade and Cookies Host:**

Church Staff

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#### **Pastor on Call:**

Rev. Peter Thompson  
(336) 269-7270

#### **Members Helping Members September:**

Sheila Modjeska (434) 384-2021  
Diana Smack (434) 384-7046

#### **Chancel Flower Guild**

#### **September:**

Cathy Capps, Laura Crumbley,  
Marilyn Bellaire, and Marilyn  
Hartman

#### **Prayer Cares and Concerns**

If you have a prayer request to share with the pastor or staff, please speak with them before or after worship, call the church office, 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](mailto:office@fpcly.org)

**Website:** [www.fpcly.org](http://www.fpcly.org)



@firstpresoflynchburg

FPC Lynchburg

### Partner with God by Giving to FPCLY

1. Place your gift in the offering basket today.
2. Mail checks to FPCLY, 1215 V.E.S. Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503.
3. Use a credit card online at [fpcly.org](http://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

### **Connect and Engage Expo – TODAY Sunday, September 15**

As part of the launch into the program year, we're hosting an in-house "expo" after worship today to share with you ways you can connect and engage at FPCLY with your time and talents. Church members from each of our Initiatives (Worship, Education, Outreach, and Resources) will be available for conversations about different opportunities within their arm (or leg) of our church body. We encourage you to pray about how you would like to share your time and talents throughout the year!

### **Meeting in the Middle Evening Youth Gathering – TONIGHT - September 15 @ 5:00pm**

Calling ALL middle school students! It's time to meet in the Fellowship Hall for food, faith, and fun as a special youth gathering. We will have ice breakers, play games, and get to know one another! Contact [marcia@fpcly.org](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org) if you have any questions.

### **Fellowship Potluck Dinner – THIS Wednesday, September 18 @ 5:30pm**

We will kick off our first Potluck dinner of the year! Come for an evening of food and fun with your church family as we gather at the table for a meal! You are encouraged to bring a dish (side item, dessert, or main dish) to share!

### **Care and Nurture Church Notecards for Sale – Sundays starting September 22 until sold out**

The Care and Nurture committee has created packets of 8 notecards – one set features seasonal pictures of First Presbyterian Church and the other set features a sketch of the building and a few stained-glass windows. The packets will be sold for \$10 each after worship starting September 22 and continuing while supplies last.

### **High School: FOR REAL! Dinner Event – Sunday, September 29 @ 5:00pm**

Calling ALL high school youth! It's time for an evening of fun, fellowship, and FOOD as a special evening gathering. Barrett Thompson and Marcia Thom-Kaley will be leading a great evening of conversation and activities at Marcia's house. Contact [marcia@fpcly.org](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org) with questions, for the address, or to RSVP.

### **2025 Covenant Giving**

You are invited to join us in our ministry of "Covenant Giving" which kicks off the stewardship season. *What is Covenant Giving?* Covenant Giving is responding to God's abundant love for us by giving back to Him in all aspects of His blessings in our lives. This is our annual time of renewal of our covenant with God by committing to share: our time, talents and skills; in worship with our presence, participation and prayer, and our financial resources with the church. We encourage you to pick up a Covenant Giving packet today or next Sunday or a team captain will deliver one to you. Please prayerfully consider your commitment to a pledge for 2025 and give with abundance in the year ahead as we seek to continue our church ministries and balance our annual budget. We would be grateful for your commitment by Oct. 15, 2024. Thank you and God bless you,

*FPC Congregational Development Committee* (David Tate, Becky Giles, David Cheatham, Sam Howe, Denise McDonald, Nancy Strosnider, Michael Trexler, Donna Whitehouse, and Gary Williams)

You are loved! Have a great week!



# ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

*Weekdays*

*Sundays @ 11:00am*

## **BIBLE 101: THE LETTERS OF PAUL**

Officers' Room (Room #117) - 1st Floor

What caused the early Christian church to prosper? What issues divided it? What can we learn about those things as we experience them in our time and church? Join us as we answer these questions by studying the letters written by Paul to the early churches.

## **I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL MY KIDS!**

Bride's Room (Room #114) - 1st Floor

Parenthood is a rewarding journey, filled with joy, struggle, and love, but it often feels overwhelming. In those moments, the support of friends, family, and God can make all the difference. We'll enjoy social time with others walking the same trials—we mean, trails—as the class explores a variety of interesting and relevant topics that will point parents toward a place of confidence, hope, and joy. Parents will also learn practical and creative ways to pray for their kids.

## **IF WE ARE THE "BODY," THEN...**

Martin-Gifford Room (Room #119) - 1st Floor

We are all a cast of characters, human and imperfect, yet God has found a place for us - in and as the Body of Christ. God knows that we are all in need of community: Eugene Peterson shares, "*Scripture knows nothing of a solitary Christian. People of faith are always members of a community.*" The Apostle Paul urges us to encourage each other and build each other up while sharing the spiritual gifts with which God has graced us.

*Sundays @ 4:00pm*

## **WALK WITH GOD**

Front Parking Lot

Experience God in a new way and embrace what it means to journey through life with a community of believers by your side. Share a brief time of devotion and study prior to taking a two-ish mile stroll down Peakland Place. The spiritual insight is uplifting, the communion of friends is enriching, and the exercise is fulfilling.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HORIZON STUDY CIRCLE**

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 community, study, and outreach. This year's study is called "*Let Justice Roll Down, God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation.*"

## **IMMERSE BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesdays, 10am, starting 9/11

Martin-Gifford (Room #119) - 1st Floor

In this fall bible study for **women and men** called *Searching*, we will focus on exploring who we are as children of God, how we can listen for God's voice to remind us of that, and how we can walk in the light of Christ in hope and confidence. The Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson will lead the discussion.

## **COLIN CALDWELL MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Thursdays, 7am, starting 9/12

Library (Room #100) - 1st Floor

The Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson will lead this Bible study for **men** called *Searching*. Men are invited to journey together as we discuss who we are as God's sons and how we can confidently walk in that light. We will have coffee made or you can bring your own!

## **EMBRACING GRIEF: RENEWING JOY**

Thursdays, 2pm

Library (Room #100) - 1st Floor

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson will lead another *GriefShare* class for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one (whether it's been in the last couple of weeks or been in the last couple of years.) This class offers the opportunity to embrace grief with the support and encouragement of others who are walking on a similar path.

# CHILDREN, YOUTH, & COLLEGE EDUCATION CLASSES

## SUNDAYS

September 8 - November 17  
11:00AM - 11:45AM

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### Children

#### **NURSERY (9:00AM - 12:00PM)**

Infants thru 2-year-olds - Room #8 - Ground Floor  
FPCLY is happy to offer families nursery care for young children. Our staff are CPR trained and have successfully passed background checks.

#### **ELEMENTARY CHILDREN**

3s, 4s & 5s - Room #207    2nd & 3rd - Room #210  
K & 1st - Room #205        4th & 5th - Room #212

We are excited for our children to explore the Bible and what it shares with us about God - who He is and how much He loves us! Then like a fire builds in the forest, we hope to empower them to be Christ's light in the world around them!

### Middle School

#### **MEETING IN THE MIDDLE**

6th - 8th Graders  
Youth Room - Room #2 - Ground Floor

Middle schoolers will have fun as they explore their own faith and God's promises through Bible study, service, and community building activities. They will also be reminded of God's deep love and grace for all His children, especially those on the journey through middle school!

led by Becky Giles

### High School

#### **HIGH SCHOOL - FOR REAL!**

9th - 12th Graders  
Room 126 - 1st Floor

High School students will explore God's truth and love together through Jana Riess' book *Flunking Sainthood - A Year of Breaking the Sabbath, Forgetting to Pray, and Still Loving My Neighbor*. Through this memoir and shared discussions, the youth will embrace the lessons failure can teach us and the simple truths given by our loving God.

led by Barrett Thompson

### College & 20-somethings

#### **COLLEGE CARES**

College age students & 20-somethings  
Fellowship Hall & Kitchen - Ground Floor

College students and 20-somethings will journey together through young adulthood with God's grace & love, full bellies, and community. Meeting in the kitchen, the group will share in both God's word and delicious food at table.

led by Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson and  
Marcia Thom-Kaley.



*If you have questions regarding any educational offering, please contact Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley, FPCLY Director of Educational Ministries, at [marcia@fpcl.org](mailto:marcia@fpcl.org).*



<b>FPCLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY</b>			
<b>AUGUST 31, 2024</b>			
<b>2024 OPERATING BUDGET</b>			
	Year To Date		Annual Budget
	Actual	Budgeted	
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Covenant Giving	\$431,582	\$433,333	\$650,000
Other Income	\$72,228	\$80,432	\$142,944
Endowment Withdrawal	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$87,500</u>	<u>\$175,000</u>
TOTAL =	\$603,810	\$601,265	\$967,944
<i>Income to date was <b>2,545.00 More</b> than budgeted</i>			
<b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>			
Outreach	\$29,936	\$45,500	\$72,000
Worship	\$8,571	\$7,700	\$11,550
Education	\$12,215	\$13,333	\$18,000
Personnel	\$395,311	\$426,346	\$639,519
Operations	\$52,325	\$55,926	\$83,851
Facilities	\$42,303	\$57,607	\$86,410
Utilities	<u>\$33,805</u>	<u>\$35,393</u>	<u>\$53,089</u>
TOTAL =	\$574,465	\$641,804	\$964,419
Budget Surplus			\$3,525
<i>Expense to date was <b>67,339 Less</b> than budgeted</i>			

<b>2024 BALANCE SHEET</b>	
Endowment =	\$1,920,255
All Other Funds * =	<u>\$1,728,335</u>
* Some are restricted	<b>\$3,648,590</b>
<i>No unusual or unexpected gifts or withdrawals</i>	

<b>2025 COVENANT GIVING</b>	
COVENANT GIVING GOAL	\$700,000
COMMITMENTS TO DATE	<u>\$0</u>
COMMITMENTS NEEDED	<b>\$700,000</b>
Thank you for answering God's call to give abundantly in response to God's abundant love for you.	

~ The FPCLY Finance Committee

### August Memorial Gifts

We gratefully acknowledge all memorial gifts to First Presbyterian Church and are honored to recognize them in our bulletin.

*In Memory of Betty Jo Hanner by:*

Lea Olsson

*In Memory of Joe Clark by:*

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Williams

*In Memory of Louis Tanner by:*

Sue Thornton, Mr. & Mrs. David Hartman

*In Memory of Deedy Cleland by:*

Mr. & Mrs. Paul McWane, Mr. & Mrs. David Hartman

*In Honor of Elinor Ann Clark by:*

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Williams