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<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>
Radio Broadcast: 105.9 FM WLNI @ 9:30 am (1 week delay)
Live Video Streaming: [youtube.com/FPCLynchburg](https://www.youtube.com/FPCLynchburg)



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and Peace to you all from our Lord Jesus Christ. It is so wonderful to be together as we worship God and begin this Advent Season. Advent means “coming.” But what is “coming”? The better question is who is “coming”? The answer to “who is coming” changes everything in life as we know it and provides for us, God’s children, the hope and assurance of things greater than anything we can possibly dream or imagine. Jesus is coming! Yes, Jesus has already been born in Bethlehem a couple thousand years ago, however, we, as the body of Christ, the church, are called to PREPARE, REMEMBER, PRAISE, ENCOUNTER, AND CELEBRATE Jesus’ coming each year as a way to reignite and reinvigorate the meaning Jesus’ coming has within our lives.

With Jesus comes life, light, and love! With Jesus comes grace, mercy, and forgiveness! With Jesus comes peace, hope, and joy! With Jesus comes healing, compassion, and miracles! With Jesus comes righteousness, strength, and courage! With Jesus comes transformation and salvation! For whom? For YOU! For ALL! For just this season of Advent and Christmas? NO! This season of Advent is just the beginning (the foundation if you will) of our PREPARING, REMEMBERING, PRAISING, ENCOUNTERING, AND CELEBRATING throughout the rest of the liturgical year and witnessing it manifest itself throughout our lives every day.

Here at First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg, we acknowledge the many blessings God has bestowed on us and trusted us with; we acknowledge the call and responsibility we have to share those blessings with one another; we acknowledge that we don’t always fulfill our call to be God’s church perfectly and thus need to ask God for forgiveness; we acknowledge our need for God’s grace, and the grace we can offer one another; we acknowledge the truth that we are all better together. Faith is a journey and one we believe God has called us and gifted us to walk together as God’s beloved children. Welcome to this journey!

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).

Interested in joining?

First Presbyterian has welcomed 20 new members over the last year, and we are ready to welcome more. 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).

**Third Sunday in Advent: PRAISING
“A Service of Lessons and Carols”**

December 15, 2024

**Those who are able, please stand.*

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

Prelude

All is Well
Chamber Orchestra

arr. Keith Christopher

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Wreath

David Dorris and Eleanor Betts

***Hymn 41: O Come, All Ye Faithful**

Adeste Fideles

***Prayer of the Day and Lord’s Prayer**

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

❖ **Disobedience: Genesis 3:8-19**

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Chancel Choir

arr. Dan Forrest

❖ **Promise: Genesis 22:15-18**

O Come, Emmanuel
Chancel Choir

arr. Elaine Hagenberg

❖ **Prophecy of Light: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

Before the Marvel of this Night
Chancel Choir

Carl Schalk

❖ **Prophecy of a Child: Isaiah 11:1-9**

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
Chancel Ringers

arr. Cathy Moglebust

❖ **Divine Appearance: Luke 1:26-35, 38**

***Congregational Carol 31: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Mendelssohn

❖ **Divine Birth: Luke 2:1-7**

Rejoice Greatly (from “Messiah”)
Grace Meade, soprano

G.F. Handel

❖ **Divine Announcement: Luke 2:8-16**

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy
Chancel Choir

arr. Mack Wilberg

❖ **Royal Visit: Matthew 2:1-11**

Following Yonder Star
Chancel Ringers

arr. Dan Edwards

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Call to Offering

*All loose plate offerings collected today will be designated to the FPC Vespers Fund.
This special fund serves to support the Music Ministry of FPCLY.*

Offertory

March of the Kings
Chancel Choir

arr. Roy Ringwald

*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

❖ Incarnation: John 1:1-14

*Congregational Carol 40: Joy to the World!

Antioch

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

*Benediction

Postlude

Sing We Now of Christmas
Joshua O'Dell, Director of Music and Organist

Service of Lessons and Carols Musical Ensemble

Joshua O'Dell, Director of Music and Organist

Chancel Choir

Soprano: Eleanor Betts, Amy Pugh, Diane Stroud, Denise McDonald, Emma Tinsley,
Janice Berkley, Lisa Ackers, Leslie Salmon, Sue Thornton, Terry Zatreparek,
Laura McVay, Bonnie Miles, Dawn Blankinship, Grace Meade

Alto: Marcia Thom-Kaley, Jean Hannon, Marilyn Hartman, Mary Ann Tate, Kara Byrne, YnDo Jones

Tenor: David Dorris, Russ Hovda, Braden Jarosz, Colin Watts

Bass: Bill Perkins, Bill Gayle, Bucky Neal, John Osinga, Dave Tate,
Greg Pugh, Michael Trexler, Brandon Mock

Chancel Ringers

Russ Hovda, Sharon Hovda, Diane Stroud, David Dorris, Helen Gilmore, Marilyn Hartman,
Sandra Wilson, Bill Perkins, YnDo Jones, Kakie Richards, Brandon Mock

Chamber Orchestra

Flutes: Heather Hurd & Meldey Lovelace

Soprano Saxophone: Brandon Mock

Violins: Anne Parsley & Colin Watts

Viola: Joseph Grof

Cello: Elise Roberts

String Bass: Russ Hovada

Organ: Brandon Mock

Piano: Michele Richardson

Percussion: Josh Davis



Vision: Connect, Engage, and Draw Near to God and Others
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, December 15- 3rd Sunday in Advent

10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
10:45 am Advent Worship- PRAISING (Sanctuary)
4:00 pm Walk with God

Monday, December 16

9:00 am FPC Weekday School
11:45 am WC Lunch with Peter (WC Café)
6:00 pm Scouts - Cub Pack 7
7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

Tuesday, December 17

9:00 am FPC Weekday School
5:30 pm Stated Session Meeting and Christmas Dinner (FH)
7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

Wednesday, December 18

9:00 am FPC Weekday School
10:00 am Immerse Bible Study
11:45 am WC Lunch with Peter (WC Café)
12:30 pm AI-Anon meeting

Thursday, December 19

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

Sunday, December 22- 4th Sunday in Advent

10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
10:45 am Advent Worship- ENCOUNTERING (Sanctuary)
4:00 pm Walk with God

EXPERIENCING THE MESSIAH

Advent and Christmas Worship Opportunities @ FPCLY

Next Sunday, December 22- ENCOUNTERING

Encounter elements of what Advent truly means through various stations including reflection on creative art, prayers of wholeness and healing, and putting together no sew blankets. Stations will flow out of a condensed worship experience.

Tuesday, December 24- CELEBRATING

4 pm- Awaiting the light of the world with a family-friendly worship with carols, communion, and candlelight! A special children's moment will be included and festive Christmas attire is encouraged. Nursery care will be provided!

11 pm- Celebrate the coming of the Lord with this special late night worship including carols, communion, and candlelight. Nursery care will not be available during this worship.

Notes for Today's Worship

Scripture Readers:

Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson
Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Alex Collier
Director of Outreach

Other Worship Leaders:

Chancel Choir and Chancel Ringers

Key Scriptures:

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19... Genesis 22:15-18

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7... Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

Luke 1:26-35, 38... Luke 2:1-16

Matthew 2:1-11... John 1:1-14

Ushers and Greeters:

Kathryn Overstreet, Caskie Giles
Jenny Osinga, Elsie Howerton

Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, & Cookies:

Middle School Youth

Worship Workshop Leader:

Laurie Sommardahl

Audio and Video Technicians:

Will Absher (Audio)

Pastor on Call

December 16- December 22:

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

Members Helping Members

December:

Elinor Ann Clark (434) 841-7778
Diane Stroud (434) 485-3712

Worship, Grow, Love, Serve

Prayers of Joy and Concern: 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, fill out a blue card near the prayer box just off the Foyer, or share your request online at fpcly.org/ministries/care-nurture.html.

Care & Nurture Notecards – On Sale TODAY!

These amazing cards make great gifts for the Holidays, or just for your use to send someone a thoughtful note! Representatives from C&N will be in the Narthex to help you get your own pack today. Proceeds help support the ongoing efforts of the Care and Nurture Committee to provide loving support to members of FPCLY throughout the year.

Alternative Giving – December 15th and 22nd

This year the Service & Outreach Committee is inviting you to think about giving to the ministries we support in a slightly different way. On the next 2 Sundays (12/15 and 12/22), members of S&O will be at the bulletin board off the Foyer presenting ways for you to give financially to our world ministry partners, as well as to learn about opportunities to pray for and volunteer with all of our community partners. Stop by to learn more!

Informational Gathering for 2025 Malawi Trip – Sunday, January 12th at 12pm

A trip to visit and work with our friends in Malawi is being planned for June of 2025. An informational meeting is being planned for Sunday, January 12th at 12pm in the Martin Gifford room. Lunch will be provided, and anyone that is interested in hearing more about our partnership OR that has even a remote interest in traveling with the group is encouraged to attend! Please RSVP to Alex by Sunday, January 5th.

Join us in the Season of Giving!

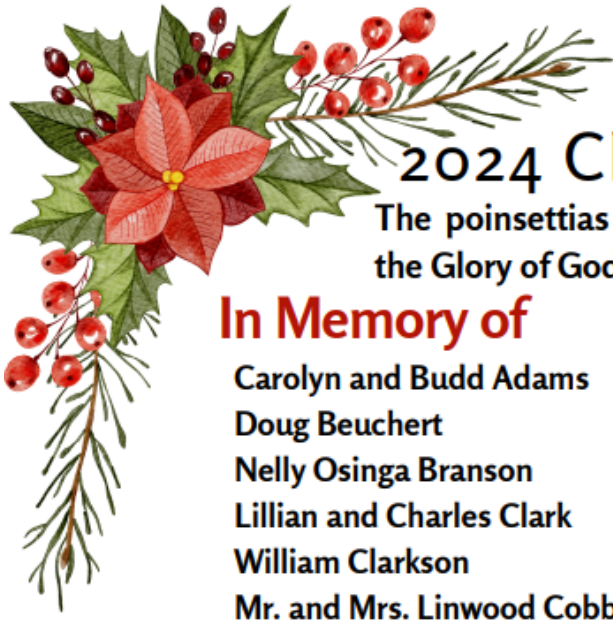
This is truly the *season of giving, as Christ was given to us as our Messiah*. God's hope, love, joy and peace are a gift we receive through Jesus. Now we have the opportunity to live abundantly and give back...just as he gave for us. God calls each of us to "love our neighbor as ourself." Making a financial commitment to our church is a direct way to serve others in our church and our community.

So far 148 congregants (55%) have made commitments totaling \$549,260 toward our goal of \$700,000. As the body of Christ, *every member is important and greatly valued. We count on everyone and we appreciate each and every commitment*. If you have already pledged, we thank you! For others, we have attached a commitment card and cards are also available at the church. Our church Session is meeting this month to plan our budget for 2025, and we would be *most grateful for your commitment by December 31st or earlier. Thank you!* Congregational Development Committee-- *David Tate, Becky Giles, David Cheatham, Susan Hall, Sam Howe, Denise McDonald, Nancy Strosnider, Peter Thompson, Michael Trexler, Donna Whitehouse, Gary Williams*

Year-End Reminders from the Financial Manager

As we near the end of the calendar year, we share a few reminders regarding contributions and expense reimbursements. Please contact Susan Hall (finance@fpcly.org or 434-384-6231) with any questions.

- **2024 Contributions.** All contributions *received in the office by close of business or postmarked by December 31* will be posted to contribution statements for the 2024 tax year.
 - **Electronic Contributions (credit card or draft from your checking account).** You can make contributions through our website portal (www.fpcly.org) or through your bank's bill pay system. Should you need assistance, contact Susan by **December 30** to ensure everything clears for this tax year.
 - **Stock Gift Transfers.** If you plan to transfer stock for your contribution, *please complete those right away*. It takes time for the gifts to be transferred to our accounts & clear.
- **Expense Reimbursements.** Please submit requests for reimbursement for any 2024 expenses by **December 30**. Any checks written after December 31 will be charged to the 2025 budget.



2024 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The poinsettias in the Sanctuary this morning have been given to the Glory of God in memory and honor of those listed below.

In Memory of

Carolyn and Budd Adams
Doug Beuchert
Nelly Osinga Branson
Lillian and Charles Clark
William Clarkson
Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Cobb
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Groome
Anna and Neil Hammerstrom
Karla Hudson Inge
Ray and Joan Jennings
Margaret and Vic Kehrer
Billy Mathis
Nita and P.F. McCall
Sara and Pete McCraw
Francis and Travis McDonald, Sr.
Our parents
Harriet Ramsey
Dippy and Scott Reams
Ann and Jack Robertson
Peggy Slusher
Doris and David Tate

In Honor of

Will, Blair, Georgia and Josie Absher
Courtney and Johnny Alford
Bettie and John Alford
Family and Friends
Our Children and Grandchildren

Given by

Denise and Travis McDonald
Lou Mekanik
Jenny and John Osinga
Mary Ann and David Tate
Elizabeth Clarkson
Vicki and John Cobb
Vicki and John Cobb
Lou Mekanik
Annette and Ken Slusher
Deborah Goode
Marilyn and David Hartman
Annette and Ken Slusher
Vicky and John Robertson
Ginny McCraw
Denise and Travis McDonald
Marilyn and David Hartman
The Ramsey Family
Gwen and Phil Maddox
Vicky and John Robertson
Annette and Ken Slusher
Mary Ann and David Tate

Given by

Billie and John Absher
Billie and John Absher
Billie and John Absher
Sue Thornton Redmond
Richard and Kathryn Pumphrey



| FPCLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| NOVEMBER 30, 2024 | | | |
| 2024 OPERATING BUDGET | | | |
| | Year To Date | | Annual Budget |
| | Actual | Budgeted | |
| <u>INCOME</u> | | | |
| Covenant Giving | \$562,690 | \$595,833 | \$650,000 |
| Other Income | \$86,321 | \$123,500 | \$142,944 |
| Endowment Withdrawal | <u>\$131,250</u> | <u>\$131,250</u> | <u>\$175,000</u> |
| TOTAL = | \$780,261 | \$850,584 | \$967,944 |
| <i>Income to date was <u>70,323 Less</u> than budgeted</i> | | | |
| <u>EXPENSE</u> | | | |
| Outreach | \$55,579 | \$63,500 | \$72,000 |
| Worship | \$11,312 | \$10,588 | \$11,550 |
| Education | \$16,000 | \$16,833 | \$18,000 |
| Personnel | \$526,673 | \$586,673 | \$639,519 |
| Operations | \$67,285 | \$76,672 | \$83,851 |
| Facilities | \$62,882 | \$79,209 | \$86,410 |
| Utilities | <u>\$43,700</u> | <u>\$48,665</u> | <u>\$53,089</u> |
| TOTAL = | \$783,431 | \$882,140 | \$964,419 |
| Budget Surplus | | | \$3,525 |
| <i>Expense to date was <u>98,709 Less</u> than budgeted</i> | | | |
| 2024 BALANCE SHEET | | | |
| Endowment = | | \$2,256,936 | |
| All Other Funds * = | | <u>\$1,375,228</u> | |
| * Some are restricted | | \$3,632,164 | |
| <i>No unusual or unexpected gifts or withdrawals</i> | | | |
| 2025 COVENANT GIVING | | | |
| COVENANT GIVING GOAL | | \$700,000 | |
| COMMITMENTS TO DATE | | <u>\$538,880</u> | |
| COMMITMENTS NEEDED | | \$161,120 | |
| Thank you for answering God's call to give abundantly in response to God's abundant love for you. | | | |
| ~ The FPCLY Finance Committee | | | |

November Memorial Gifts

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

In Memory Leta Reinhardt by:

Meggins Tuchman & Steve Reinhardt

In Memory of Margaret & Brad Waters and Lenore & Bradford Waters by:

Anne Waters Dowd and Kim Waters Keriakos

In Honor of Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson by:

Dr. Larry Redmond

In Honor of Mary Ann & David Tate by:

Drs. Charles & Roberta Miller

In Honor of Sue Thornton & Larry Redmond by:

Dr. & Mrs. Bill Albers

In Honor of Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley by:

Meggins Tuchman & Steve Reinhardt

In Honor of Judy & Bill Gayle by:

Gen Harris