



1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503
(434) 384-6231 · www.fpclly.org · e-mail: info@fpclly.org
<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Happy New Year and grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!!! It is so wonderful to be together as we worship God this morning. The beauty of God's goodness and glory surrounds us! God's mercy is new every morning! The joy of the Lord shines like the noonday sun! I pray today that you will feel and experience God's presence with you and that the rest of this day is filled with opportunities for you to live into God's light and love in all you do and with all you may be with.

Today is a baptism day. In celebrating baptism, we celebrate: Today as a day of hope. Hope in God's call to each of us as beloved children. Today as a day of unity. Unity in one God, one faith, one baptism. Today as a day of love. The Love of our parents sharing the love of God. Today as a day of community. A community that will worship and wonder together. A community that will embrace each other and encourage each other toward God. Today is a day when we say, "I will, with God's help." I will learn, eat, and pray with others. I will turn back to God when I've turned away. I will share my stories and our Christian stories in what I do and say. I will look for and name the Holy in everyone I meet. I will respect every living being. And I will do all this with God's help. We celebrate today as a day of Sacred Stories. Sacred Stories that connect us to our Jewish relatives, to the people in our Bible, to all the followers of Jesus yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Today as a day of water. Water that gives and sustains life. Water that binds us to Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Water that we can feel and taste, a sign of an inward grace. Water that washes over us. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, God is here. Today is a baptism day. A day forever after.

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 1 (downstairs below the library) 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).

Service of the Lord's Day

January 26, 2025

*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

Give Me Jesus

Welcome and Announcements

***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.

CELEBRATING BAPTISM

Sacrament of Baptism:

Ellison Strode Deacon

Parents: Matt and Simms Deacon

Session Representative: Martin Knight

Presentation of Purpose and Promise

Questions to the Parents, Congregation, and Children

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water

Act of Baptism

... I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You are now a child of the covenant, may God bless you, and keep you, and may you always be open to God's guidance.

Prayer and Welcome

Leader: Strode has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made him a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ.

All: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Strode into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support Strode, and his parents Matt and Simms, to share the good news of the gospel with them, and to help them know and follow Christ.

*Hymn #304: Jesus Loves Me!

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me." [Refrain]

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Nancy Ann Gowen

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: Luke 4:14-21

"From Promise to Practice"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn #388: O Jesus, I Have Promised (*verses 1 & 4 only*)

Angel's Story

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
Be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

***Affirmation of Faith: from A Brief Statement of Faith**

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

arr. Kevin Boesiger

*I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back, no turning back.*

*Tho' none go with me, I still will follow, Tho' none go with me I still will follow,
Tho' none go with me, I still will follow; No turning back, no turning back.*

*My cross I'll carry, till I see Jesus; My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus,
My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus; No turning back, No turning back.*

*The world behind me, the cross before me, The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me; No turning back, no turning back.*

***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 #371: Lift High the Cross**

Crucifer

Refrain: Lift high the cross; the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod, the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [Refrain]

Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on their brow the seal of Christ who died. [Refrain]

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, Your death has brought us life eternally. [Refrain]

So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]

***Benediction**

Postlude

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

*Fed by the Word that has been read, sung, and proclaimed,
Inspired by the presence of God who is with us in this place and with us wherever it is we are,
Let us all now depart from this time together, empowered and encouraged on the wings of the Holy Spirit
who gives us the courage, strength, and hope we need each and every day.*



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.fpcls.org.

Sunday, January 26

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages
- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Monday, January 27

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

Tuesday, January 28

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

Wednesday, January 29

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

Thursday, January 30

- 7:00 am *Colin Caldwell* Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 6:00 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 2

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages
- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)- Communion
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm Meeting in the Middle -MS Youth Group
- 5:00 pm For Real -HS Youth Group

Pastor on Call... January 26 to February 2

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson- 336.269.7270

Members Helping Members... January

Ginny McCraw- 434.528.1927 & Sally deNiord- 434.384.8153

Members Helping Members... February

Cathy Oakes 434.384-9403 & Betty Blue 434.384-6420

Prayer Joys and Concerns

Please share with a pastor, staff member, in person or share your request online at fpcls.org/ministries/care-nurture.html.

Notes for Today

Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, & Cookies:

Helen Gilmer

Ministers:

Congregation Gathered

Baptized:

Ellison Strode Deacon

Born March 1, 2024

Worship Leader/ Preaching:

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson

Senior Pastor/ Head of Staff

Key Scripture:

Luke 4:14-21

Message Title:

from Promise to Practice

Music Accompaniment:

Joshua O'Dell

Director of Music and Organist

Josh Davis

Percussion

John Crawford

Cello

Colin Watts

Violin

Anthem:

Chancel Choir

Ushers and Greeters:

Donnie Ore, Bo Gravely, Rob Cleland,

Taylor Cleland, Barkley Cleland

Worship Workshop Leader:

Pat Adams

Sound Technicians:

Will Absher and Lloyd Agnew

Chancel Flowers Today:

Chancel Guild

Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231 Email: office@fpcly.org

Website: www.fpcly.org



@firstpresoflynchburg



FPC Lynchburg

SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School @ FPCLY

Mark your calendars and get ready to register fast! Vacation Bible School @ FPCLY will be hosted June 9 through 13 this year. Lots of fun and learning will be had by all, including the 50+ youth and adult volunteers we will need to make it happen. Interested in helping? Reach out to Marcia Thom-Kaley (marcia@fpcly.org).

WHEN EVERYONE LEADS...

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To all of you who participated in cooking and serving the Park View Café community meal this past Wednesday... and to all of you who helped make the world go round for Youth Group last Sunday night... and to the many of you who have hosted our Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies Fellowship time.

Presbyterian Women Update!

Our 2024-2025 Horizons Bible Study topic area, a study with an emphasis on creation care and climate, led to the selection of Dr. Joe Pond and his talk on "Plastics."

You're Invited to Host a Coffee and Goodies Fellowship Time on Sunday mornings!

The opportunity to gather around the table for coffee, lemonade, and cookies is a great way to connect and engage with others! But we cannot do it without your help. If you would like to lend a hand as a host, spots remain! Scan the QR code to the right for the online form.



IMPACT Weekend – February 19-22

Mark your calendars for the next opportunity to serve with fellow FPCLY Members in our community! More details to follow!

Scout Sunday is Coming... Sunday, February 9

Worship will include participation from Troop 7, Troop 49, and Cub pack 7.

Covenant Giving @ FPCLY

- Place your gift in the offering basket today
- Checks payable and mailed to First Presbyterian Church
1215 V.E.S. Road
Lynchburg, VA 24503
- Use a credit card online at fpcly.org
- Download and use the *Vanco Mobile Faith App* on your phone
- Set up an automatic bank draft or bill pay

FPCLY LEADERSHIP

Session

Diane Stroud, Clerk of Session
Denise McDonald- '25, Outreach
Nancy Strosnider- '25, Finance
Mary Ann Tate- '25, Personnel (Chair)
Marilyn Hartman- '26, Outreach/ C&N
Sam Howe- '26, Outreach
Martin Knight- '26, Facilities (Chair)
John Osinga- '26, Worship
Kathryn Overstreet- '26, Education/
Weekday School Board
David Cheatham- '27, Personnel
Caskie Giles- '27, Finance/ Facilities
Bucky Neal- '27, Worship

Corporation

David Tate, President
Tom Pettyjohn, Vice-President
William Paxton, Treasurer
Diane Stroud, Secretary
Johnny Alford, At-Large
Trustees, Session

Other

David Tate, Finance (Chair)
Cathy Oakes, C&N (Chair)
Gary Williams, S&O (Chair)
Bill Perkins, Malawi Mission Partnership
Marilyn Hartman, Presbyterian Women
Becky O'Brian, Chancel Guild
Arline Ore, Wedding Guild
Joan Roberson, Bereavement

Staff

Alex Collier, Director Outreach
Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, Parish Assoc.
Susan Hall, Financial Manager
Maria Karalekas, Director FPC WDS
Joshua O'Dell, Director Music/Organist
Kim Ryan, Nursery Care Provider
Jody Sprinkle, Director Facilities
Dr. Marcia Thom- Kaley, Director Educ.
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson, Senior Pastor

