



1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503
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<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

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 in worship, our focus is on "Seeking Joy." Joy is something we all desire, right? But what is joy? One author reflects, "Many delight in wealth, status, material possessions, and other temporary things of this world, but they are never satisfied. They never truly get what they want, hence the reason they are always wanting more." 1 John 2:15-17 says, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." Are we ever deeply fulfilled or "happy" with the things this world has to offer? No! However, when we place our joy and hope in God, the scriptures assure us God will meet all of our needs. In other words, when we take delight in the Lord, we will find complete joy. Jesus said, "Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14).

Joy-filled opportunities abound here at First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg and we welcome you to walk with us. 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. May God continue to fill us and use us to bring glory to God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

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

February 16, 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

My Jesus, I Love Thee

arr. Timothy Shaw

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn #464: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

Hymn to Joy

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee!.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Lord, you have called us to worship you. We gladly gather! As we praise you, though, our own inadequacy reminds us of how we have broken our relationship with you. Because we have sinned against you, even our worship can fail to be what it could. We often treat it as a show. Sometimes, we simply go through the motions, failing to recognize that you want to engage us deeply. Renew us, we pray, according to your steadfast love. Remind us of your covenant faithfulness and have mercy on us in the name of Jesus Christ. *Please take a moment for Silent Prayer*

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! By grace we have been saved through faith, and this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

Hymn #579

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

***Affirmation of Faith: Psalm 46**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the Lord. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. "Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth!" The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

***Sharing the Love, Joy, and Peace of Christ**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

**Children's Moment
Choral Anthem**

Here I Am, Lord

Nancy Ann Gowen
arr. Craig Courtney

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save*

*(Chorus) Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart*

*I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?, Whom shall I send?*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them, They turn away*

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 1

"Seeking Joy"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Minute for Covenant Giving

**Call to Offering
Offertory Anthem**

The Lord's Prayer
Grace Meade, soprano

A. Malotte

***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 #145: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

Marion

Rejoice, ye pure in heart, rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go.
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe. [Refrain]

At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest,
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. [Refrain]

Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King. [Refrain]

*Benediction

Postlude

When We Are Living

arr. Joel Rainey

*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.*



2025... A Year to... ENGAGE IMPACT EXPECT

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.fpcl.org.

Sunday, February 16

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages
- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 pm Stated Session Meeting
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm Meeting in the Middle -MS Youth Group
- 5:00 pm For Real -HS Youth Group

Monday, February 17

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

Tuesday, February 18

IMPACT: PURSUING CHANGE, BEING CHANGED

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

Wednesday, February 19

IMPACT: PURSUING CHANGE, BEING CHANGED

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am Immerse Bible Study
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon meeting
- 5:30 pm IMPACT: Potluck and Service (FH)

Thursday, February 20

IMPACT: PURSUING CHANGE, BEING CHANGED

- 7:00 am Colin Caldwell Men’s Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 9:00 am Presbytery of the Peak Stated Meeting (Blacksburg)
- 6:00 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 21 and Saturday, February 22

IMPACT: PURSUING CHANGE, BEING CHANGED

Sunday, February 23

- 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

Pastor on Call... February 16 to February 23

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson- 336.269.7270

Members Helping Members... February

Cathy Oakes- 434.384-9403 & Betty Blue- 434.384-6420

Notes for Today

Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies:

Cathy Oakes & Ellie Hubbard

Ministers:

Congregation Gathered

Worship Leader/ Preaching:

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson

Senior Pastor/ Head of Staff

Key Scripture:

Psalm 1

Message Title:

Seeking Joy

Music Leaders/ Accompaniment:

Joshua O’Dell

Director of Music and Organist

Josh Davis

Percussion

Chancel Choir

Choral Anthem

Grace Meade

Offertory Anthem

Ushers and Greeters:

Caskie Giles, Becky Giles

Bo Gravely, Rick Milam

Worship Workshop Leaders:

Becky O’Brian, Sarah Short

Video and Sound Technicians:

Jody Sprinkle

Chancel Flowers Today:

Given to the Glory of God in memory of William Clarkson by Elizabeth Clarkson.

Arrangement-Arline Ore.

Connect with us!

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

Website: www.fpely.org



@firstpresoflynchburg



FPC Lynchburg

IMPACT Weekend – THIS WEEK! February 18-22

Last call for sign-ups! Check the Board in the Narthex or the on-line Sign-Up Genius for available spots! An email with more details about the opportunities will be sent to you on Monday.

Middle School Adventure Night- February 21

All middle school age youth are invited to join together for a night of bowling, games, and a sleep over. Talk with Marcia or Becky TODAY if you want to participate!

PW Spring Luncheon – March 30

Join PW for lunch and a guest speaker on Sunday, March 30. Dr. Joe Pond will report on “Plastic People: They Are Us!” – a review of plastic pollution and how it affects us. \$10 fee for lunch and the program, and please RSVP on the sign-up sheet on the hallways table by March 24th.

First Pres Presents: “It Might as Well Be Spring: a Recital of Opera and Musical Theatre Favorites” on Sunday, March 30 @ 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley, Grace Meade, and Bennett Umhau will be featured.

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

The opportunity to gather around the table for goodies is a great way to connect with others! If you would like to lend a hand as a host one Sunday, scan the QR code to the right for the online form.



WHEN EVERYONE LEADS...

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To all of our committed and faithful Sunday School teachers: Julie Brammer, Gwen Maddox, Diane Stroud, Kinkadee Garland, Kara Byrne, Catherine Adams, Whitney O’Brian, Nancy Ann Gowen, Becky Giles, Barrett Thompson, April and Rod Shuck, Frank Whitehouse, Gary and Beth Williams and Worship Workshop leaders: Laurie Sommardahl, Pat Adams, Becky O’Brian, Whitney O’Brian, Sarah Short.

Ever wonder how you can be the one greeting others at the door on Sunday mornings? Ushering and Greeting spots are open each week to help welcome and support those coming to worship. Never done it before? No problem. There are plenty who can walk you through it. If you would like to join the team, scan the QR code to the right to sign up online.



FPCLY LEADERSHIP

Session

Diane Stroud- Clerk of Session,
Education (Chair)
Denise McDonald- Cov. Giving (Chair)
Nancy Strosnider-Finance
Mary Ann Tate- Personnel (Chair)
Marilyn Hartman- Outreach/ C&N
Sam Howe- Cong. Engagement (Chair)
Martin Knight- Facilities (Chair)/
Nominating
John Osinga-Worship (Chair)
Kathryn Overstreet- Education/
Weekday School Board Session Rep
David Cheatham- Personnel
Caskie Giles- Finance/ Facilities
Bucky Neal- 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
Becky Giles, Nominating (Chair)
Sue Thornton- Redmond & Diane Stroud,
First Pres Presents (Co-Chairs)

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

FPCLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 2025

2025 OPERATING BUDGET

	Year To Date		Annual Budget
	Actual	Budgeted	
<u>INCOME</u>			
Covenant Giving	\$105,780	\$100,000	\$625,410
Other Income	\$13,948	\$11,580	\$154,066
Endowment Withdrawal	\$0	\$0	\$94,275
TOTAL =	\$119,728	\$111,580	\$873,751
<i>Income to date was <u>8,148 More</u> than budgeted</i>			
<u>EXPENSE</u>			
Outreach	\$634	\$3,933	\$60,200
Worship	\$1,528	\$3,008	\$12,050
Education	\$1,069	\$1,417	\$22,000
Personnel	\$41,339	\$44,888	\$538,658
Operations	\$11,364	\$14,478	\$100,734
Facilities	\$8,124	\$8,262	\$99,148
Utilities	<u>\$4,727</u>	<u>\$4,341</u>	<u>\$52,089</u>
TOTAL =	\$68,783	\$80,327	\$884,879
Budget Deficit			-\$11,128
<i>Expense to date was <u>11,544 Less</u> than budgeted</i>			

2025 BALANCE SHEET

Endowment =	\$2,306,805
All Other Funds * =	<u>\$1,358,276</u>
* Some are restricted	\$3,665,081
<i>No unusual or unexpected gifts or withdrawals</i>	

2025 COVENANT GIVING

COVENANT GIVING GOAL	\$625,410
COMMITMENTS TO DATE	<u>\$578,160</u>
COMMITMENTS NEEDED	\$47,250
Thank you for answering God's call to give abundantly in response to God's abundant love for you.	

The FPCLY Finance Committee

January Memorial Gifts

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

In Memory of Wistar Nelligan by:

Peter and Jessica Ward

