



“The Vine and Branches” by Royal Art Galleries



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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, I hope you will join me in welcoming Erik Koroneos as our worship leader and guest preacher. Erik is no stranger to FPCLY, as he is a long-standing member, along with his wife Treena. Erik is an ordained ruling elder and commissioned pastor within the Presbytery of the Peaks, both of which have opened doors of worship leadership and preaching at several churches throughout the Presbytery. Erik shares a special affinity with our John 15 text today for two main reasons. One, it was the work of his exegesis exam to complete the commissioned pastor program and two, and more importantly, John 15 has become a core text for Erik in his own spiritual journey and life. Each time I have heard Erik speak about Jesus' teaching of the vine and the branches and the charge Jesus gives to "abide with me," there is a light that shines bright within him and the good news of God overflows.

Many opportunities abound here at First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg to engage, impact, and expect. Engage in the life and ministries of God's church and mission. Impact our neighbors by sharing the love and light of Christ. Expect God's faithfulness and goodness to unfold before our very eyes. We welcome and encourage all to walk together in being who God has created us to be in this time and place. God has blessed us and bestowed on us many gifts and we acknowledge the call and responsibility we have to share those blessings and gifts with one another. We try but we don't always get things right; therefore, we give thanks for God's gifts of grace and forgiveness and acknowledge the importance of offering grace to one another. 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 23, 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

In the Sweet By and By

arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn #343: Called as Partners in Christ's Service**

Beecher

*Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.*

*Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.*

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.*

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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: John 15:1-17

"Missed Opportunities"

Erik Koroneos

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

***Hymn #403: What a Friend We Have in Jesus** *(verses 1 and 3 only)*

Converse

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care!
Precious Savior, still our refuge- take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.

***Affirmation of Faith: Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love with follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Minute for Covenant Giving

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Carl Mueller

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And uphold me, uphold me with Thy free Spirit, Thy free Spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways, And sinners will be converted unto Thee.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.*

***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 #418: God, Bless Your Church with Strength!**

Ich Halte Treulich Still

God bless Your church with strength! Wherever we may be,
up build Your servants as we work in common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith to venture and to soar
through open skies to sing the praise
of Christ whom we adore.

God bless Your church with life! May all our branches thrive,
un blemished, wholesome, bearing fruit, abundantly alive.
From you, one holy vine, in freedom may we grow;
sustain us in our mission, Lord,
your love and peace to show.

God bless Your church with hope! Despite chaotic days,
may we in chaos shine to light a pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim, and kindness ours to share;
in humbleness oh may we walk,
assured our God is there!

***Benediction**

Postlude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

arr. Berry

*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.*



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN**

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.fpclly.org.

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)... *2 Cents a Meal*
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Monday, February 24

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

Tuesday, February 25

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

Wednesday, February 26

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

Thursday, February 27

- 7:00 am *Colin Caldwell* Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 11:45 am WC Lunch and Devo (Fauber Room @ WC)
- 6:00 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 2

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages
- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
- 11:45 am Called Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
- 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... February 23 to March 2

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson- 336.269.7270

Members Helping Members... February

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

Members Helping Members... March

Betsy Jones- 434.384-7633 & Judie Cleland 434.444-2797

Notes for Today

Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies:

Sally Leslie & Debbie Johnson

Ministers:

Congregation Gathered

Worship Leader/ Preaching:

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson

Senior Pastor/ Head of Staff

Erik Koroneos

Member of FPCLY, Commissioned Pastor

Key Scripture:

John 15:1-17

Message Title:

Missed Opportunities

Music Leaders/ Accompaniment:

Joshua O'Dell

Director of Music and Organist

Chancel Choir

Choral Anthem

Ushers and Greeters:

Nancy Strosnider and Team

Worship Workshop Leaders:

Whitney O'Brian, Sarah Short

Video and Sound Technicians:

Jody Sprinkle

Chancel Flowers Today:

Chancel Guild

Connect with us!

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

Website: www.fpcly.org



@firstpresoflynchburg



FPC Lynchburg

Called Congregational Meeting – Next Sunday, March 2

The Session has called a congregational meeting next Sunday, March 2 immediately following worship for the purpose of electing the 2025 Nominating Committee. Nominees to serve include Becky Giles (Chair), Martin Knight- '26, Donna Whitehouse, Laurie Sommardahl, and one more will make a total of five.

Ash Wednesday Service- March 5 @ Noon and 6 pm

All are encouraged to gather in the Chapel this Wednesday for a service of repentance as we begin the season of Lent! This is a day we acknowledge our individual and collective humanity, our need for repentance, and our need to refocus our lives on God.

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.

Sweet Hour of Prayer... Women of the church (and friends), join Kara Byrne in the chapel for a time of peaceful prayer for family, friends, faith, and future. We will meet each Sunday during Lent, from 5:15-6:15, beginning Sunday, March 9.

WHEN EVERYONE LEADS...

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To Alex Collier, the Service and Outreach committee, and all who participated in the IMPACT Weekend over the last several days. Daily Bread, Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry, Park View, Miriam’s House Coldest Night Walk, and Westminster Canterbury thank you as well.

YOUTH GROUP: Planning ahead for March

Middle School and High School Youth will meet on Sunday night from 5 pm to 7 pm in the Fellowship on Sunday, March 2, 16, and 30. In addition, a fieldtrip to a sheep farm will happen on Sunday, March 23 immediately after worship (bring a bag lunch) and all youth are encouraged to attend the FPP “It Might as Well Be Spring” Concert Recital featuring Marcia.

FPCLY LEADERSHIP

Session

Diane Stroud- Clerk of Session,
Education (Chair)
Denise McDonald- Finance Dev. (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

