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# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Happy Birthday to the church on this Pentecost Sunday! As you are reading this, I am finding myself experiencing my first week of an 8-week sabbatical leave (ends July 16). This sabbatical comes in this, my 7<sup>th</sup> year of ministry with First Presbyterian Church, and I am truly grateful for this opportunity to rest, restore, and be renewed. Last Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, I offered a message entitled “Just Keep Swimming” reflecting on John 17:1-11, which is a prayer Jesus offers for the disciples. My prayer for First Presbyterian Church in this “Ordinary Time” season of growth is to keep on keeping on in fulfilling the mission to celebrate God’s grace and inspire the next generation for Christ. The “dog days” of summer can seem long and arduous at times and it is in these times we need to lean into God and one another in trust and support. I pray each of you will continue to encourage and equip one another to be faithful disciples according to Christ’s way: participating and engaging in the life and ministries of the church, praying and discerning God’s will, digging into your pockets to partner with God and God’s church, and proclaim the good news of God’s love and invite others to experience the Spirit and truth you gain through church.

If you are here today for the first time, welcome, and I hope to meet you in the future upon my return. I trust you will find your experience here a joyful and hospitable one. If you have come today in search of comfort, I pray you will find comfort in God’s love and grace, and if you need anything further please speak with Parish Associate Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson or one of the visiting pastors. If you have come today wanting to be challenged, I pray you will experience the power of the Spirit and the truth of God’s teachings.

Please know that whatever reason brought you to worship today, you are welcome here. 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 believe we are called by God to worship together as one unified community. In worship, 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. 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 lets go, is for everyone.

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith,  
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson (*Senior Pastor and Head of Staff*)

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org)) or Catherine Adams ([communications@fpcly.org](mailto:communications@fpcly.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@fpcly.org](mailto:peter@fpcly.org)) or Alex Collier ([alex@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)).

# Service of the Lord's Day... Day of Pentecost

May 28, 2023

*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, and offering, 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

**Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist**

D. Buxtehude

*(We Now Implore the Holy Ghost)*

*Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

Leader: O God, who created us in love,

**All: create us anew in love as we worship you.**

Leader: O Jesus Christ, who redeemed this world in love,

**All: reclaim our hearts as we worship you.**

Leader: O Holy Spirit, who moves this world toward its God-appointed end,

**All: move within us as we worship you.**

### \*Hymn #130: Let Every Christian Pray

Laudes Domini

Let every Christian pray, this day and every day,  
come, Holy Spirit, come! was not the church we love  
commissioned from above?  
Come, Holy Spirit, come!

The Spirit brought to birth the Church of Christ on earth  
to seek and save the lost: God never has withdrawn,  
since that tremendous dawn,  
the gifts at Pentecost.

Only the Spirit's power can fit us for this hour:  
come, Holy Spirit, come! Instruct, inspire, unite  
and help us see Your light:  
come, Holy Spirit, come!

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We often overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are often deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we often abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to transform our lives and make us new.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.  
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

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

## \*Gloria Patri

Hymn #579

## \*Affirmation of Faith: based on 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Colossians 1:15-20

**This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from the dead, in whom all things hold together, in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell by the power of the Spirit. Christ is the head of the body, the church, and by the blood of the cross reconciles all things to God. Amen.**

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

## Children's Moment

Catherine Adams

## Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: Acts 2:1-21

(pew Bible NT, p.119)

## "God With Us: Awakening"

Rev. Jen Brothers

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

## Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

## Call to Offering

## Offertory

### It is Well With My Soul

H. Spafford

*Braden Jarosz, Sydney Wenger, Soloists*

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,*

*When sorrows like sea billows roll;*

*Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,*

*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,*

*Let this blest assurance control,*

*That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,*

*And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

*For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:*

*If Jordan above me shall roll,*

*No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life*

*Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.*

*But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,*

*The sky, not the grave, is our goal;*

*Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!*

*Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!*

*And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,*

*The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;*

*The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,*

*Even so, it is well with my soul.*

**\*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 #316: Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

Trentham

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glow with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life  
Of Thine eternity.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Toccata on St. Anne**

F. Swann

*Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist*

*We encourage all to share the love, joy, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ with one another. All are also encouraged to join in the Narthex for lemonade and cookies.*

***The Two-Cents-A-Meal offering will be collected as you leave the Sanctuary. Please give as you are able.***

**Sunday, May 28 – Pentecost & Memorial Day Weekend**

9:30 am      Worship  
10:45 am     Lemonade and Cookies  
4:00 pm      Walk with God

**Monday, May 29—Church Offices Closed**

6:00 pm      Scouts - Cub Pack 7  
7:00 pm      Scouts - Troop 7

**Tuesday, May 30**

7:00 pm      Scouts - Troop 49

**Wednesday, May 31**

12:30 pm     Al-Anon

**Sunday, June 4**

9:30 am      Worship (Communion Sunday)  
10:45 am     Lemonade and Cookies  
4:00 pm      Walk with God

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**Welcome Guest Preacher Rev. Jen Brothers!**

Rev. Jen Brothers’ day job is Leadership Ministry Specialist for the

Presbytery of the Peaks. Through this role she helps churches navigate the waters of change, facilitating workshops and coaching pastors and session elders to narrow the gap from where they are to where they aspire to be. Jen is also a trained psycho-therapist and an ordained minister in the PCUSA. Jen is a founder of House of Bread, a Roanoke based non-profit providing job skills training and mentoring to formerly incarcerated women through baking and selling bread. Jen holds a Master of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary, a Master of Arts in Education from Virginia Tech, and undergraduate degrees in Communications and Spanish from James Madison University. Jen lives in Roanoke with her husband, Carter. Together they have raised three daughters, four dogs, and a cat.

As part of the *2023 Offtender/Williamson Preaching Series*, we look forward to worship leadership by Rev. Jen Brothers on May 28, June 4, & June 11, Rev. Vernie Bolden on June 18, June 25, July 2, & July 9, and Erik Koroneos on July 16. The *Offtender/Williamson Preaching Series* was created in the 1980s as a memorial tribute to Ted Offtender and his fiancée Ginny Williamson who died in a tragic car accident. The heart of the series seeks to encourage the growth of the church community by providing spiritual nourishment, promoting deeper theological understanding of the Christian faith, promoting better understanding of Presbyterian tradition and faith, and/or promoting better awareness, tolerance, and acceptance of all faiths and traditions.

**Notes for Today’s Worship**

**Worship Leader:**

Bill Perkins

**Ushers and Greeters:**

Rick Milam, Peter Baldwin, Claudia Pierpoint, and Abigail Baldwin

**Worship Workshop Leaders:**

Kara and Darby Byrne

**Sound and Video Technicians:**

Lloyd Agnew & Catherine Adams

**Lemonade and Cookies Host:**

Sally Leslie and Deborah Johnson

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**Pastor on Call:**

Nancy Dawson (804) 899-9545

**Members Helping Members**

**May:**

Jenny Osinga 434-426-1675

Marilyn Hartman 434-665-7043

**Prayer Cares and Concerns**

If you have a prayer request to share with the pastor or staff, you can write it on the blue prayer card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate (or the prayer box off the front hallway) or share your request online at [fpcl.org/ministries/care-nurture.html](http://fpcl.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)



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FPC Lynchburg

## Partner with God by Giving to FPCLY

1. Place your gift in the offering plate today.
2. Mail a check 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

## Lemonade and Cookies – THREE summer host slots remain!

We're excited to keep the post worship fellowship and celebration going throughout the summer months. We cannot do it without the hospitable hands of this community. *If you would like to serve as a host one Sunday, hover your phone over the QR code to the right and sign up!* If you're interested, but not sure how it works, let us know and we will connect you to a veteran Lemonade and Cookie host!



## Vacation Bible School: Food Truck Party – June 5 – 9

It won't be long before the *Food Truck Party* rolls into town for VBS and we are ready. We have 112 children, 17 youth helpers, and 60 volunteers signed up for a great week of faith, fun, and reminders that everything we have comes from God and it is He who meets our daily needs! *Please be in prayer for the children, youth, volunteers, and families participating in this special week of education and outreach! God is going to do BIG things!*



**3 ways YOU can partner with our FPCLY Malawi Mission Team!** The team of 10 members will depart the US on June 20 and return in two groups – one on June 29 and the other on July 8!

- We invite you to *pray for the team* as they continue to make plans and preparations for their time on the ground and for the communities in Malawi as they prepare to receive them.
- **Donate** any of the items listed below. Please give them to Alex Collier, Director of Outreach.
  - soccer balls, pumps and needles
  - unopened packs of construction paper
  - used laptop computers [limit of 20 total]
  - used SMART cell phones
  - ball point pens
- On June 25, make plans **to come for breakfast at 8:00am and ZOOM with the team** while they are in Malawi. You can meet our local hosts AND see video of African worship and ministry from the week. All food will be provided by the Outreach Initiative. Sign up on the clipboard on the table to the right of the main entrance foyer or by emailing Alex ([alex@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)).

**Sign up for IMPACT Week 2023: July 31 – August 5**

The Outreach team has organized over 30 different opportunities for all ages and stages to engage in transformational IMPACT throughout Lynchburg and within our own church community. All we need is YOU! *Scan your phone camera over the QR code to the right or write your name on the boards in the Narthex to participate in this powerful week of community, connection, and outreach.* If you have any questions, contact Alex Collier (alex@fpcl.org), Director of Outreach!



**The church offices will be closed tomorrow, May 29, in recognition of the Memorial Day holiday!**