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# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

As you are reading this, I am finding myself entering week 3 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. On 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@fpcl.org](mailto:marcia@fpcl.org)) or Catherine Adams ([communications@fpcl.org](mailto:communications@fpcl.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@fpcl.org](mailto:peter@fpcl.org)) or Alex Collier ([alex@fpcl.org](mailto:alex@fpcl.org)).

# Service of the Lord's Day...Trinity Sunday

June 4, 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, 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

Adagio

F. Mendelssohn

*Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist*

## Welcome and Announcements

\*Hymn #138: Holy, Holy, Holy

Nicaea

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

## Call to Worship

Leader: Celebrating the source of love and life, who created us;

**All: let us worship God the Father.**

Leader: Celebrating the risen one, who came to live among us and save us;

**All: let us worship Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Leader: Celebrating the Holy Spirit, who renews us and sustains us;

**All: let us worship the Holy Spirit.**

**In the name of our Triune God, let us praise God together.**

**Call to Confession**  
**Prayer of Confession**

Loving God you know our hidden thoughts and deeds. You judge us in our disobedience and lack of faith. We aspire to honors we do not deserve and to places of privilege you do not intend. Our sins not only injure ourselves, but also hurt other people. Forgive us, O God for doubting your love and grace, and lead us in your will and way. Amen.

**Silent Prayer of Confession**

**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

*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: 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: John 14: 15-23**

(pew Bible NT, p. 109)

**"God With Us: The Trinity Within"**

Rev. Jen Brothers

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

**Minute for Rooted and Reaching**

Becky Giles

**Call to Offering**  
**Offertory Anthem**

**O Bread of Life**

*Summer Choir*

D. White

*O Bread of Life from heaven,  
To saints and angels given;  
O manna from above!  
The souls that hunger, feed Thou,  
The hearts that seek Thee, lead Thou,  
With Thy sweet, tender love.*

**\*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 #132: Come Great God of All the Ages**

Abbot's Leigh

Come, great God of all the ages,  
Make Your earthly mission known;  
Speak through every deed and person,  
Let Your way and will be shown.  
Guide the church to true commitment,  
Give direction now, we ask;  
Fit us for the work of building, dedicate us to the task.

Come, Christ Jesus, flesh and spirit,  
Sure foundation, cornerstone,  
Help us form the church eternal,  
May Your vision be our own.  
Send a message to each follower,  
Lead all people to Your way;  
Urge us to strong faith and action as we build the church today.

Come, great Spirit, in and with us,  
Tune our ears to hear Your call;  
Through the moving of Your presence.  
Let redeeming love recall  
Ministry in dedication,  
Love embodied in our deeds;  
Challenge us to do Your bidding,  
See Your purpose, fill all needs.

Come, O come, in celebration,  
Household of the one true God.  
In commitment and rejoicing  
Let us go where Christ has trod;  
As we act in faith and reverence.  
Let us, Lord, the future see;  
Place us in the church triumphant,  
Now and for eternity.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Tuba Tune in D**

C. S. Lang

*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.*

**Sunday, June 4**

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

**Monday, June 5**

9:00 am      Vacation Bible School  
 6:00 pm      Scouts - Cub Pack 7  
 7:00 pm      Scouts - Troop 7

**Tuesday, June 6**

9:00 am      Vacation Bible School  
 7:00 pm      Scouts - Troop 49

**Wednesday, June 7**

9:00 am      Vacation Bible School  
 12:30 pm     Al-Anon

**Thursday, June 8**

9:00 am      Vacation Bible School

**Friday, June 9**

9:00 am      Vacation Bible School

**Sunday, June 11**

9:30 am      Worship (VBS kids singing during worship)  
 10:45 am     Lemonade and Cookies  
 4:00 pm      Walk with God

**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.

**Notes for Today's Worship****Worship Leader:**

Bob Thomas

**Ushers and Greeters:**

Robert O'Brian & family and Jackie Hill

**Worship Workshop Leader:**

Marcia Thom-Kaley

**Sound and Video Technicians:**

Will Absher, Ken Slusher, and Catherine Adams

**Lemonade and Cookies Host:**

Gwen Maddox

**Pastor on Call:**

Nancy Dawson (804) 399-9545

**Members Helping Members****June:**

Jackie Hill 434-384-3748

Ida Perkins 434-258-8873

**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 [fpcly.org/ministries/care-nurture.html](http://fpcly.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)



## 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

## *2023 Offterdinger/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 *Offterdinger/Williamson Preaching Series* was created in the 1980s as a memorial tribute to Ted Offterdinger 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.

**Summer Choir** - Whether you are an experienced singer or simply love to sing, you are invited to come and sing on certain Sundays throughout the summer! ***The dates the Summer Choir will sing are June 4 & 18, July 2 & 23, and August 6 & 20.*** The choir gathers on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary to rehearse simple anthems and then help lead worship. Please join us! Contact Cory Whittier to get on the email list!

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

Tomorrow, the fun begins as the VBS Food Truck Party rolls into town! Pray with us for the children, youth, volunteers, and families participating in this special week of faith, fun, and reminders that everything we have comes from God and it is He who meets our daily needs!



## **3 ways YOU can partner with our FPCLY Malawi Mission Team!**

- ***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@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)), Director of Outreach!

