



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

celebrating & inspiring

1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road
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<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>
LIVE Video Streaming on www.fpclly.org at 9:30 a.m.
LIVE Radio Broadcast on WLNI 105.9 FM at 9:30 a.m.

The Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Whether you are at First Presbyterian for the first time, a repeat visitor, or a long-time member...

Whether you are familiar with reformed traditions or find some of it a bit different...

Whether you grew up Presbyterian or Baptist or Episcopalian or Lutheran or Methodist or Jewish or Agnostic...

Whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged...

Whatever reason brought you to worship today, you are welcome here. As God's children and Jesus' disciples, we believe it is important to take seriously God's commandment and Jesus' teachings to love God, love one another, and love our neighbors. 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 are called by God to worship together as one unified community. Our worship style is traditional and true to our Reformed heritage. At the same time, 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. Hospitality is important, and friendship is holy. That's why we gather for fellowship, cookies, and lemonade in the Narthex after worship. We hope you will join us in sharing the love, joy, and peace of Christ with one another during this time.

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 let's go, is for everyone. We truly believe this a place for all God's children to be a part of celebrating God's grace and inspiring the next generation for Christ.

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 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) or Catherine Adams (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) or Alex Collier (alex@fpcly.org).

Service of the Lord's Day

November 19, 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

Prelude on "What a Friend we Have in Jesus"

R. Elliott

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

Choral Introit

Rejoice, The Lord is King!

Darwall

Chancel Choir

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

People: **Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

People: **For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.**

*Hymn #555: Now Thank We All Our God

Nun Danket Alle Gott

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, Who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given
the one eternal God, Whom heaven and earth adore;
The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Lord, you are a gracious and generous God. You supply every blessing in abundance, yet we often take your gifts for granted as if they were due us or we take credit for the things which you alone provide. We have bread without scarcity, water that is pure, houses to live in and friends and family to enjoy. Forgive us for enjoying these basics of life day after day, mindless of the multitudes who lack such necessities. Help us to live our lives with joyful thanks for beauty and bounty, for healing and hope and most of all for the gospel of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Those who seek God lack no good thing. The gifts of God - forgiveness and mercy are already ours to enjoy.

People: **God delivers us from our sin and in Christ we are purified. Rejoice, for what we are is but a hint of what we shall yet become.**

*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: Philippians 2:5-13

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

Choral Anthem

Lauda Anima

Arr. M. Andrews

Chancel Choir

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to the throne thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King
Fatherlike, God tends and spares us; well our feeble frame God knows; motherlike, God gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet God's mercy flows.
Angels in the heights, adoring, you behold God face to face; saints triumphant, now adoring, gathered in from every race.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace*

New Testament Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

(pew Bible NT, p. 28-29)

"Speak With Your Life"

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Minute for Covenant Giving

Becky Giles

Call to Offering
Offertory

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
Cory Whittier, Organ

J. Longhurst

***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 #151: Crown Him with Many Crowns**

Diadmata

Crown Him with many crowns, The lamb upon His throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace: whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end; and round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of Paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

***Benediction and Choral Amen**

***Postlude**

Festive Trumpet Tune
Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

D. German

*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.*



Vision: Draw Near to God

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, November 19

- 8:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 am Nursery Care
- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School classes
- 12:00 pm College Cares
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Monday, November 20

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 2:00 pm Canterbury Crew
- 6:00 pm Scouts – Cub Pack 7
- 7:00 pm Scouts – Troop 7

Tuesday, November 21

- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

Wednesday, November 22

- 12:00 pm Church Offices Close
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Thursday, November 23 - Church Offices are closed.

Friday, November 24 - Church Offices are closed.

Sunday, November 26

- 8:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 am Nursery Care
- 9:30 am Worship (baptism)
- 10:30 am Congregational Meeting
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

TODAY will be the last Sunday for Sunday School classes for the 2023 calendar year. We look forward to resuming on January 7, 2024.

The Church Offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from 12:00pm on Wednesday, November 22 and through Friday, November 24.

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Elsie Howerton

Ushers and Greeters:

Nathan Gowen, Donnie Ore,
Mary Burger, and Cathy Oakes

Worship Workshop Leader:

Becky O'Brian

Sound and Video Technicians:

Lloyd Agnew & Catherine Adams

Lemonade and Cookies Host:

Mary Ann Tate

Pastor on Call:

November 17 – 25

Nancy Dawson (804) 399-9545

Members Helping Members

November:

Katy Nunn (434) 229-5289

Treena Koroneos (434) 944-9014

Diane Stroud (434) 485-3712

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 fpclly.org/ministries/care-nurture.html.

Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231

Email: office@fpcly.org

Website: www.fpcly.org



@firstpresoflynchburg



FPC Lynchburg

Partner with God by Giving to FPCLY

1. Place your gift in the offering plate today.
2. Mail checks to FPCLY, 1215 V.E.S. Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503.
3. Use a credit card online at 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

College Exam Care Packages

We're sharing encouragement and love with our college students during exam season. If you haven't picked a name, but would like to pack a box, we still have a few names available. Contact Alex Collier to pick a name or to return your filled box. We plan to mail these to the students following Thanksgiving to ensure they arrive prior to the busy exam weeks.

Called Congregational Meeting – Sunday, November 26 (immediately following worship)

The Session has called this meeting for the purpose of approving the 2024 Terms of Call for Senior Pastor and Head of Staff, Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson.

FPC Weekday School Jersey Mike's Fundraiser –Thursday, November 28th from 5 – 8pm

Support the First Presbyterian Weekday School with an *easy* post-Thanksgiving dinner from *Jersey Mike's* at 3901 Old Forest Road! The restaurant will donate 15% of all sales during the 5 – 8pm time window to the Weekday School. This fundraiser will support the teachers and staff in their efforts to provide a kind, loving educational experience for children to learn and grow!

Potluck Fellowship Dinner – Wednesday, November 29th @ 5:30pm

Come, enjoy a little post-Thanksgiving potluck meal and church community in the Fellowship Hall! Please bring your favorite dish (entrée, side, or dessert) to share, as you are able! Contact Alex Collier (alex@fpcly.org), Director of Outreach, for details.

Share the Warmth Coat Drive – November 1 – November 30

During November we're partnering with *One Community, One Voice* to collect winter clothing for neighbors throughout Lynchburg. There is a bin in the foyer for all sizes of new or gently used coats, gloves, socks, stocking hats, scarves, and blankets. YOU have donated a total of 52 total items as of 11/14. Thank you!

Christmas Poinsettias "in honor" or "in memory" of a loved one!

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia "in honor" or "in memory" of someone to help decorate the Sanctuary for worship during Advent, the time is upon us. The cost is \$20 per poinsettia (pot is 6"). You can place your order on the sheet in the front entry or by using the QR code to the right. The order deadline is December 3. You may take your poinsettia home after worship on December 17.



You're Invited to Host "Lemonade and Cookies!" – Two spots remaining for December

We have two more Lemonade and Cookies hosting slots left to fill for the rest of 2023. If you would like to lend a hand as a host one Sunday, sign up using the QR code to the left or contact the church office. 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!

You are loved! Have a great week!

Experiencing a **SACRED CHRISTMAS** at First Presbyterian Church

Christmas, prefaced by the season of Advent, is nothing short of sacred. God's hope, love, joy, and peace await us in this season and long to serve as the foundation of all our life's experiences. Our *Experiencing a Sacred Christmas* worship sermon series will begin on November 26 (the week before the first Sunday of Advent) and carry us on a week-by-week journey of preparing, praising, remembering, encountering, and celebrating.

Worship – Sundays @ 9:30am

Nursery will be available for all Sunday morning services during this season. It will not be available for either Christmas Eve service. *Worship Workshop* will be on pause throughout the month of December as children will be invited to praise, remember, encounter, and celebrate alongside the adults. After November 19, Sunday School classes will conclude for the calendar year.

November 26

Step into this season of **preparing** and getting ready for the greatest gift we've ever received – Jesus Christ – with this pre-Advent service intertwined with hints of Advent including a sermon centered around the Fantastic Four: hope, love, joy, and peace!

December 3 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Praise God in scripture and song as we journey through the Christmas story at our annual *Lessons and Carols* service! The Chancel Choir will sing Vivaldi's *Magnificat*, multiple soloists will share their musical gifts, and the congregation will sing hymns in tandem with scripture readings. All music will be supported by a local string quartet.

December 10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Remember the Christmas story, from the angel Gabriel speaking to Mary to the wisemen bringing gifts to baby Jesus, as it is re-enacted by children and adults of this church community. **After worship, all are welcome to join for Christmas brunch in the Fellowship Hall, which will include cookie decorating!**

December 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Dig deeper into what hope, love, joy, and peace look like in the season of Advent and beyond through song and worship, followed by hands-on experiences designed to show us where and how we **encounter** these emotions in our day to day lives.

December 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent

We continue our journey of waiting for Jesus while embracing “the Fantastic Four” in a new light. The anticipation will be high for the King is coming...soon!

Christmas Eve – December 24

4:00pm

Await the light of the world with a kid-friendly service of carols, communion, and candlelight! Pastor Pete will share a special children's moment. Festive attire is encouraged, including your pajamas! Nursery care will **not** be available!

11:00pm

Embrace the coming of the Lord with this special service of carols, communion, and candlelight in the Sanctuary! Nursery care will be **not** be available.



Music

Saturday, December 9 @ 4:00pm

Enjoy this festive holiday concert featuring *The Seven Hills Chorus*. This local, choral group will perform a variety of secular and sacred songs spanning the last 500 years. The concert repertoire will include jazz, pop, Renaissance, and more! Tickets for this concert are \$12.

Saturday, December 16 @ 4:00pm

Fill your spirit with joy and hope as the local handbell ensemble, *Bells of the Blue Ridge*, presents its holiday program "A BBR Christmas-versary: 20 Years of Holiday Cheer." This concert, as part of the *First Pres Presents Fine Arts Series*, will feature 17 Lynchburg-area handbell musicians playing seasonal favorites like *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, *Silent Night*, *Ukrainian Bell Carol*, and many more! This concert is free and open to the public!

Education

Starting December 3, and continuing throughout December, the Education Initiative will provide a series of Advent educational resources, available in the Foyer area. This center will contain a variety of educational offerings for you and your family to experience a deeper Advent together and await the coming of the "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9: 6) in a special way. The resource table will include

- an advent devotional booklet called *A Little Child Shall Lead Them*. This devotional is inspired by the writings of Henri J.M. Nouwen.
- a "Garland of Good Deeds" activity kit (encouraging seasonal good deeds for children)
- a Chrismon ornament resource booklet
- a family-friendly Advent calendar

You're encouraged to stop by anytime during Advent to check the resources out!



Outreach

As we embrace the season of preparing and waiting, we reflect on what the gift of Jesus means to our individual lives and to our greater world – the gift of hope, love, joy, and peace. With those reflections in mind, we often strive to act upon and share "The Fantastic Four" throughout the season. The Outreach Initiative has organized an assortment of opportunities for outreach and engagement with each other and with our community throughout the season. You're invited and encouraged to join in any or all!

Jericho Toy Drive

November 27 – December 17

Donate NEW toys, games, and books for families in our community facing financial difficulties this holiday season. The collection barrel will be in the front entrance foyer. Child-friendly outreach idea!

Christmas Brunch

December 10 @ 10:45am

Immediately following *The Christmas Play* worship service, we will enjoy a time of festive food, holiday music, fellowship, and cookie decorating in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome! No RSVP is needed.

Alternative Giving

December 3, 10, 17, & 24

We will again offer the opportunity for you to give a slightly different gift to loved ones – the gift of supporting our outreach partners in very tangible ways. This year, we will highlight two local partners and two international partners with a very specific need within their work that your gift will go towards. This is a child-friendly outreach idea.