

PROPHET PRIEST KING



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<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and peace to you!!! I wanted you to know how much of a joy it is to have you here this morning and I pray you know just how loved and important you are. You are loved by God unconditionally and you are a very important part of God's mission for the church in the world. Therefore; whether you are here today 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 curious...whether you have grown up in the church or are finding your way back...whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged... whatever reason brought you to worship today, I pray you know you matter and are welcome here.

As God's children and Jesus' disciples here at First Presbyterian, 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 leans more traditional and seeks to remain 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 paramount, and relationships with one another are holy. That's why we gather for fellowship, cookies, and lemonade 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

First, our Hospitality and Welcome Desk is a great source of information and all visitors, repeat visitors, and members too, are encouraged to stop and interact with the host or hostess present today. Second, our building is a wonderful resource, however, 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 just outside the Fellowship Hall doors. The Elevator can be accessed from this level on the hallway near the Weekday School Offices. The Nursery is also located on this level in the hallway near the Weekday School Offices. 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 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@fpclly.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@fpclly.org) or Alex Collier (alex@fpclly.org).

Service of the Lord's Day... Christ the King

November 24, 2024

*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

Holy, Holy, Holy

arr. Curnow

Jake Landau, trumpet & Josh O'Dell, piano

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of the Day and Lord's Prayer

We praise you, great God, for you are ruler of the universe and have sent your Son to be Prophet, Priest, and King - for all your people. We rejoice that he has triumphed over all the powers of this world and governs the nations in justice and righteousness. We celebrate his victory in life, death, resurrection, and his ascension to honor and power at your side. By your Spirit, claim our complete loyalty, and establish Christ's rule in every land and in every heart. As our King, we offer our lives in the service of His kingdom. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns

Diademata

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heav'nly 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, And all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, And round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of glory now 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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

"Christ the KING"

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson

John 18:33-37

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

Call to Offering Offertory Anthem

Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven *Chancel Choir*

arr. Pethel

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

*Hymn: Rejoice, The Lord Is King

Darwall's 148th

Rejoice, the Lord is King, Your Lord and King adore;
Rejoice, give thanks and sing And triumph evermore: (Refrain)

Refrain: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

His kingdom cannot fail; Christ rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell Are to our Jesus giv'n: (Refrain)

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge shall come
To glorify the saints For their eternal home: (Refrain)

*Benediction

*Postlude

On Christ, the Solid Rock, I Stand *Jake Landau, trumpet & Josh O'Dell, piano*

arr. Pethel



Session Leadership

Diane Stroud, Clerk of Session
Becky Giles- '24, Education, Cong. Development
Elsie Howerton- '24, Education/ Weekday School Board
Gary Williams- '24, Outreach/ S&O/ Cong. Development
Nathan Gowen- '25, Finance
Denise McDonald- '25, Outreach/ Cong. Development
Mary Ann Tate- '25, Personnel
Marilyn Hartman- '26, Outreach/ C&N
Sam Howe- '26, Outreach/ Cong. Development
Martin Knight- '26, Facilities
John Osinga- '26, Worship
Kathryn Overstreet- '26, Education/ Weekday School Board

Staff Leadership

Alex Collier, Director of Outreach
Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, Parish Associate
Susan Hall, Financial Manager
Maria Karalekas, Director of FPC Weekday School
Joshua O'Dell, Director of Music and Organist
Kim Ryan, Nursery Care Provider
Jody Sprinkle, Director of Facilities
Dr. Marcia Thom- Kaley, Director of Education
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson, Senior Pastor



Vision: Connect, Engage, and Draw Near to God and Others
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 24

- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship (Fellowship Hall)
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm "The Greatest Gift" Advent Study
- 5:00 pm Meet in the Middle and For Real (MS & HS Youth)
- 7:00 pm "Remember the Manger" Rehearsal (Chapel)

November 25-29

FPC Weekday School Closed for Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 25

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

Tuesday, November 26

- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

Wednesday, November 27

***FPCLY Offices Closed**

- 12:30 pm Al-Anon meeting

Thursday, November 28- HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

***FPCLY Offices Closed**

Sunday, December 1- 1st Sunday in Advent

- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Advent Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
- 11:45 am Called Congregational Meeting
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm "The Greatest Gift" Advent Study

Advent and Christmas Worship Opportunities:

REMEMBERING: Sunday, December 8... Worship on this 2nd Sunday in Advent will feature a production of "Remember the Manger" with a full cast of angels, stable animals, shepherds, magi, Mary, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, and more. Come remember! Come praise the good news of Christ, the Messiah! **A Christmas Brunch will follow for all in the Fellowship Hall!**

PRAISING: Sunday, December 15... Worship on this 3rd Sunday in Advent will feature a Service of Lessons and Carols presented by the Chancel Choir, an instrumental ensemble, and narrators. Come praise! Come encountering the good news of Christ, the Messiah, through inspirational music!

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader/ Preaching:

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Key Scripture:

John 18:33-37

Sermon Theme:

Christ the KING

Ushers and Greeters:

Gary Williams, Maurice Hickson,
Martin Knight

Worship Workshop Leader:

Whitney O'Brian

Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, & Cookies:

Congregational Development Team

November Chancel Guild:

Arline Ore, Becky O'Brian

Pastor on Call

November 22-December 1:

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson
(804)399-9545

Members Helping Members

November:

Trenea Koroneos (434) 944-9014
Diane Stroud (434) 485-3712

Prayer Joys and Concerns

If you have a prayer request to share with the pastor or staff, please speak with them before or after worship, call the church office, or share your request online at fpclly.org/ministries/care-nurture.html.

Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231

Email: office@fpclly.org

Website: www.fpclly.org



@firstpresoflynchburg



FPC Lynchburg

Partner with God by Giving to FPCLY

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

"Share the Warmth" Coat Drive - Through November

We're still collecting coats for folks in our community over the next few weeks! A donation bucket is outside Alex's office through November. Many sizes and styles are needed--gently used or new items are welcomed!

Jericho Toy Barrell: November 17th through December 13th

Jericho Baptist Missionary Chapel is hosting their 47th Annual Toy Drive, benefiting kids and families in our area. Please drop off *NEW toys still in original packaging* in the red barrel in the Foyer through 12/13.

Care & Nurture Notecards – On Sale December 1st!

These amazing cards make great gifts for the Holidays, or just for your use to send someone a thoughtful note! Representatives from C&N will be in the Narthex before worship beginning next week.

Seeking 100% participation in ministry & giving!

As we approach Thanksgiving, *we are thankful* for all **132 commitments (from 49% of our congregants)** to our **Covenant Giving campaign for the 2025 Budget year**. Commitments now total **\$502,130 toward our goal of \$700,000**. This is a great start, and – if you haven't yet pledged--we are seeking 100% participation which will support our staff and all of the ministries at First Presbyterian.

We have big plans for First Pres and we need everyone's pledge to bring these plans to fruition. We invite *you* to return your commitment card and if possible, to prayerfully consider any increase you might be able to make over your giving this year. *God's abundant love inspires us to give abundantly and live abundantly in Him (II Cor 9:8)*. **Commitment cards are available at the Church Welcome Desk at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall** or call the church 434-384-6231. Thank you and God bless you, The Congregational Development Committee

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 5. You may take your poinsettia home after worship on Dec.2.



Updates from November 17 Stated Session Meeting:

- Reception of Christopher and Brianna Hill into active membership by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Removal of Charles and Roberta Miller from membership.
- Approval of Wedding: Sarah Thomas to Andrew Capecci on August 8, 2025.
- Approval of Building Use: Opera on the James to host event in FH on March 9, 2025.
- Called Congregational Meeting for December 1, 2024 for two purposes: Approve 2025 Terms of Call for The Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson and Elect Elders for Class of 2027.
- Progress on prioritization of ministries in effort to balance the 2025 Income and Expense Budget.
- Approval of new step and handrail to be installed outside the Choir Stairwell entrance.

Experiencing the MESSIAH

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Christmas, prefaced by the season of Advent, is nothing short of sacred. The reason for this is the coming of our Messiah. God's hope, love, joy, and peace, which are a gift we receive from Jesus, await us in this season and serve as the foundation of all our life's experiences. *Experiencing the Messiah* will begin on December 1st and carry us on a week-by-week journey of preparing, remembering, praising, encountering, and celebrating.

Sundays @ 10:45am

Nursery will be available for all Sunday morning services during this season beginning at 10:15am, as well as the 4pm service on Christmas Eve. *Worship Workshop* will not happen on December 8th, but will be available on the other Sundays. Sunday School classes have concluded for the 2024 calendar year and will resume in January.

December 1 - 1st Sunday of Advent

John proclaimed, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" This invitation from John is really an imperative. **Preparing** is a necessary step in any journey, for our hearts and minds and lives need to be ready for what is about to take place- namely the coming of the "Messiah", Christ our Lord. The Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care, will be helping us unpack what it means to be "Prepared for the Lord."



December 8 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Remember the Christmas story (with a twist)! The Christmas Play, as told by Children and Adults of our church community, reminds us of where our attention should be during this special time of year. **After worship, all are welcome to join for Christmas brunch in the Fellowship Hall, which will include cookie decorating! Bring a friend!**



December 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Join us for a thoughtful journey of **praise** through the Christmas story with familiar scripture readings and beautiful Christmas music provided by our Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, and Chamber Orchestra.

December 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Encounter elements of what Advent truly means through hands-on and conversational opportunities following a shortened worship service in the Sanctuary.



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 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.