

FALL
AFRESH
ON
ME



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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

You matter and I am very excited to see you today as we gather as God's church to worship God this morning. Thank you for following the nudge of the Spirit to get up, get going, and be present here. That matters! You matter! This morning's worship wouldn't be the same without you. I pray your worship experience and the community fellowship of others around you will be a celebration and inspiration to you. Please know that you are welcome here at FPCLY!

Today is a day that continues in the aftermath of rising flood waters, in which people are still missing; of raging wars, in which people are still seeking refuge and peace; of unanswered new realities, in which people are unsettled and on the verge of emotional burnout; and those are just the things that have made the news. Today is a day that rides the wave of another birthday celebrated by the USA and the joy of holiday cookouts, vacations, fireworks, and memories of heroes. Today is a day that, more than any of these other happenings, is a gift from our God. God gave us this day to live in the joy and peace and love of God so that we would all know just how important we are to God. God holds us all, and our circumstances, in care and compassion. Ask yourself-- whether your circumstance and reality are good, bad, or ugly-- where is God in your life today? And know this: God is alive and today, God sits with you, walks with you, talks with you, and when necessary, carries you. I pray you may know of God's hope, joy, peace, and love this day and every day.

During these Summer months, I would like to encourage you to be intentional about your spiritual growth in at least one way. It could be praying, reading scripture, or coming to worship more often. It could be allowing yourself to serve others more often, teach someone something, get outside in creation, or even play more. God is all around us, each and every day. How can you be engaged in the work God is doing? How can you be an impact partner in God's work? How are you expecting God to be there in your life? And may God be with you till we meet again.

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith,
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

Building Hospitality and Welcoming Children

Just as God's arms are open wide with grace and welcome, so too are the doors of FPCLY open wide with hospitality. We are grateful you are here today and pray you feel at home! The following are a few notes to help be a comfort and guide during your time here:

- Ushers are available and willing to assist you in finding your way or answering other questions.
- Hearing-assist devices, Large Print Bulletins, and Large Print Hymnals can be found in the Narthex.
- Wayfinding signs are also posted at all intersections throughout the building.
- 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 (ages 0 to 3) and Nursery Nook are located on this level through the Chapel in Room 101. A Nursery Care Provider is there to help assist you.
- Welcoming Children: Just as Jesus welcomes the little children to come, so we welcome children of all ages in worship. In order to make the worship service as welcoming for our littlest ones as possible, we provide worship carts in the Narthex 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.

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

July 13, 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

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn #482: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe Den Herren

*Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, you promise to pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. I humbly confess my sin and ask your mercy. I have not always loved you with a pure heart, nor have I always loved my neighbor as myself. I have not always done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you. Have mercy on me, O God, in your loving kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ. *(Please take a moment for Silent Prayer)*

*Assurance of Pardon

As the water is poured into the baptismal font, and the good news of God is shared, know that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. God embraces you, forgives you, and strengthens you to live a renewed life. Glory be to God. Alleluia. 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: A Brief Statement of Faith

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

*Sharing the Love, Joy, and Peace of Christ

In response to God's love, grace, and forgiveness given as a gift to us, we are called and encouraged to share those gifts with others. During this time, we invite all to share the love, joy, and peace of Christ you have been

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

*All children are welcome and encouraged to return to their seats for the remainder of worship.
Worship carts are available for those who might like an activity to learn more about God and worship.*

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: Romans 12:3-8, Acts 11:22-24 and 15:22-35

“FALL AFRESH ON ME: To come alongside of”

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Response: Spirit of the Living God

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

***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 #555: Now Thank We All Our God**

Nun Danket Alle Gott

***Benediction**

Postlude

*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.*