

FALL
AFRESH
ON
ME



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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

"Lord, what are you up to today?!" I have found myself asking God this quite a bit lately. Why? Not because of the increased turmoil in the world (even though there is) and not in a spirit of doubt questioning God's presence and willingness to do anything about the turmoil, but because I trust God is alive and up to something. I may or may not know exactly what God is doing, but I do know God is good and God is great, and because of who God is, I know I want to be a part of whatever God is up to. Don't you?

I truly believe God is up to something in and around you today. Maybe it is a feeling of peace that passes over you. Maybe it is a pick me up from a friend or family member. Maybe it is an open door of possibility and opportunity for employment or relationship or adventure. Maybe it is this experience of worship you have been called into with others. Maybe it is the taste of a cookie or sharing lunch around a table at Sister Stories. God is up to something today, in you and around you, and I pray you will connect and get on board with God in whatever it is.

In this spirit, here at First Presbyterian, we have been encouraged to celebrate God being alive and active through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. In worship we have been inspired through the lens of Spiritual Gifts, gifts bestowed on us by God's grace for the purpose of building up God's church and doing God's work. Several Sunday School classes have now begun studying Spiritual Gifts as well. And just this past week, the *Immerse* and *Colin Caldwell* Bible Studies got geared back up in a study entitled, "Charismata", in which we are affirming, "It is the work of the Holy Spirit that changes our lives. From deep within to the world outside. It is the Holy Spirit working in your life today." The truth is, when we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, miracles take place. And who doesn't want a miracle or two or a thousand? To this we pray, "Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me!"

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.
- All visitors are encouraged to stop by the Hospitality (Welcome) Desk near the main entrance for more information or to share your contact information.
- Hearing-assist devices, Large Print Bulletins, and Large Print Hymnals can be found in the Narthex.
- 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. Following the Children's Moment, children age 4 years to 2nd grade are invited to a Worship Workshop led by Abby Boyle, our new Worship Workshop Coordinator. Worship Workshop runs from post Children's Moment to the Benediction, with all participants being led from the Sanctuary to Room 1 (downstairs below Library) for activities and then back to the Narthex for pickup.

Interested in joining?

First Presbyterian would love to welcome YOU as a new member. 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

September 14, 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

Blessed Assurance

Welcome and Announcements: Minute for Covenant Giving

Call to Worship: Psalm 100

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before the Lord with joyful songs.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us and we are God's;

All: we are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise;
give thanks to God and praise God's name.

**All: For the Lord is good and God's love endures forever;
God's faithfulness continues through all generations.**

***Hymn #483: Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above** (*Verses 1 and 4 only*)

Mit Freuden Zart

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.

Thus all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song, my voice unwearied raises.

Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body take your part:
To God all praise and glory.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive us. Grant, O merciful God, for Jesus' sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. (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: The Apostles' Creed**

Hymnal, pg. 14

***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 given with those around you with a handshake, fist bump, peace sign, or hug. You may also use the words: "May the peace of Christ be with you." And a response would be, "And also with you."

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

All children ages 4 years to 2nd grade are welcome and encouraged to attend Worship Workshop in Room 1. Worship Workshop is led by Abby Boyle, our new Worship Workshop Coordinator. If children do not wish to go to Worship Workshop, they are welcome 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 Readings: Acts 2:1-13, 1 Corinthians 14:1-33

"FALL AFRESH ON ME: To translate, interpret"

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

Hear Me Redeemer

*Hear me, Redeemer,
Send down your love to cleanse my soul.
Lord of Lords, wash away my sinful ways,
Show me the power of your love!
Lord of Lords, shine your light through all my days,
Show me the power of your love!
Hear me Redeemer,
Send down your love to cleanse my soul.
Mighty God, take my hand and lead the way,
Show me the power of your love!
Mighty God, let me praise you every day,
Show me the power of your 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 and Benediction**

*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 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.*

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

***Hymn #361: How Firm a Foundation (Verses 1, 2, 3, 4 only)**

Foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Called Congregational Meeting: Nominating Committee

***Postlude**

God of Grace and God of Glory
