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



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!!! It is so wonderful to be together as we worship God this morning. I pray today that you will feel and experience God's presence with you and that the rest of this day is filled with opportunities for you to live into God's light and love in all you do and with all you may be with.

Please join me today in welcoming the Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, our Parish Associate for Pastoral Care, who will be preaching and leading worship with us on this fourth Sunday in the season of Lent. Since Ash Wednesday, we have been invited to focus on tiny things, micro-movements of faith we have called them, as a way to build a sturdy life of discipleship in right relationship with God. The micro-movements we have discussed are repentance, truth, and acceptance. Sermons on each can be found in the archives on the worship page of our website. Now, don't get me wrong, just because we are referring to these as micro-movements, doesn't mean they are small in nature. Actually, that is quite the opposite. Repentance, Truth, and Acceptance are big things with big ramifications in our spiritual life. Our goal has simply been to try and understand their presence in our life as the next right step toward renewing our right relationship with God. Today, Nancy will help us take a stop at an overlook with the view of justice, mercy, and grace from the parable of the prodigal son in Luke. This stop will serve as a bridge to our next micro-movement of faith, Grace, which we will visit on April 6.

Many opportunities abound here at First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg to engage, impact, and expect. Engage in the life and ministries of God's church and mission. Impact our neighbors by sharing the love and light of Christ. Expect God's faithfulness and goodness to unfold before our very eyes. We welcome and encourage all to walk together in being who God has created us to be in this time and place. God has blessed us and bestowed on us many gifts and we acknowledge the call and responsibility we have to share those blessings and gifts with one another. We try but we don't always get things right; therefore, we give thanks for God's gifts of grace and forgiveness and acknowledge the importance of offering grace to one another. May God continue to fill us and use us to bring glory to God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

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 1 (downstairs below the library) 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).

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... Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 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

Morning Has Broken

arr. Catherine McMichael

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: God comes searching for us, seeking our response

People: We come to worship the One who calls us here.

Leader: God watches over us and provides all we need.

People: To the King of all time, glory and honor and praise!

***Hymn #298: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

In Babilone

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings Have such kindly judgment given

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

Call to Confession and Corporate Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, that too often we wander away from your presence and your will. Our priorities become confused as we are tempted by the world around us. Our vision and service is limited as we seek our own self interests. Forgive our foolish ways that shut others out and cut us off from you. Help us to live as your children in the joy and hope of eternal life. (Silent Prayer of Confession)



Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord have mer-cy up-on us.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Know that Jesus has taken our sins upon himself, and we are forgiven. Find hope and peace in God's love.

All: By God, through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***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

Choral Anthem

It is Well With My Soul

arr. John Ness Beck

*When peace like a river attended my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul*

*Refrain: It is well with my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul*

*My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh, my soul*

*And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul*

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: Luke 15:1-3a, 11-32

"Justice, Mercy, and Grace"

Nancy Dawson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Arise My Soul, Arise

Choral Quartet

Dan Forrest

***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 #276: Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

[Refrain]

***Benediction: Philippians 2:5-11**

- Leader: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.
- Choir: And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.
- People: **Therefore, God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to 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.**

Postlude

Blessed Assurance

arr. Catherine McMichael

*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.*

Lent and Easter @ FPCLY

Sundays, March 30 & April 6

Congregational Worship @ 10:45 am (Sanctuary)
Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 5:15 – 6:15 pm (Chapel)

Wednesdays, April 9, 16

Taking the Time to See... Lenten Class + Dinner @ 5:30 pm (Sanctuary... RSVP Desired)

Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday Worship @ 10:45 am (Sanctuary)

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal @ 6 pm (Fellowship Hall... RSVP Needed)

Friday, April 18

“Seven Last Words” Good Friday Concert @ 7 pm (Sanctuary)

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunrise @ 7 am (Columbarium)
Flowering the Cross
Easter Worship... No Choir @ 8:30 am (Sanctuary)
Easter Worship (With Choir) @ 10:45 am (Sanctuary)



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN**

2025... A Year to... ENGAGE IMPACT EXPECT

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.fpcl.org.

Sunday, March 30... Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages
- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)... *Two Cents a Meal*
- 12:00 pm PW Spring Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 4:00 pm FPP: *It Might as Well Be Spring* (Sanctuary)
- 5:15 pm *Sweet Hour of Prayer* (Chapel)

Monday, March 31

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 6:00 pm Scouts - Cub Pack 7
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

Tuesday, April 1

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

Wednesday, April 2

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am *Immerse Bible Study*
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon meeting
- 5:30 pm *Taking the Time to See* (Sanctuary)

Thursday, April 3

- 7:00 am *Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study*
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 6:00 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 4

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 5:30 pm Parents Night Out (FH)

Saturday, April 5

- 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt hosted by FPC WDS

Sunday, April 6... Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages
- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)... *Communion*
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:15 pm *Sweet Hour of Prayer* (Chapel)

Pastor on Call... March 30 to April 6

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson- 336.269.7270

Members Helping Members... April

Persis Tinsley- 434.258.1029 & Brenda Sanzone- 434.426.8025

Notes for Today, March 30, 2025

Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies:

Sally Leslie, Debbie Johnson

Ministers:

Congregation Gathered

Worship Leaders/ Preaching:

Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson

Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Nancy Ann Gowen

Children's Moment

Key Scripture:

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Message Title:

Justice, Mercy, and Grace

Music Leaders/ Accompaniment:

Joshua O'Dell

Director of Music and Organist

Chancel Choir

Choral Anthem

Anne Patterson, *violin*

Colin Watts, *violin/tenor*

Josh Davis, *percussion*

Grace Mead, *soprano*

Ellie Flower, *mezzo-soprano*

Bennett Umhau, *baritone*

Ushers and Greeters:

Nancy Strosnider, Jenny Osinga

Jackie Hill, Ron Hill

Worship Workshop Leaders:

Laurie Sommardahl

Video and Sound Technicians:

Jody Sprinkle, Will Absher, Lloyd Agnew

Chancel Flowers Today:

Chancel Guild

Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231 Email: office@fpcly.org

Website: www.fpcly.org



@firstpresoflynchburg



FPC Lynchburg

***Impact News: Interfaith Outreach Association has been awarded a \$2K grant from the Presbytery of the Peaks.** This award comes through the ongoing support and relationship FPCLY maintains with IOA.

WHEN EVERYONE LEADS...

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To Kirk Todd, Scott Kaley, David Hartman, and Bobby McCurley for your presence and leadership with the new Eagle's Group last Sunday sharing a time of lunch, fellowship, and devotion with student pilots, aviators, aviation mechanics, and more... AND... Kara Byrne, Diane Stroud, Gwen Maddox, Rob Cleland, Collin Byrne, Marcia Thom-Kaley, and Peter Thompson for shepherding the youth to Front Runner Farm last Sunday for a lesson in real shepherding.

First Pres Presents will open its 2025 Fine Arts Series with a vocal recital TODAY at 4:00 PM entitled, **"It Might as Well Be Spring: A Recital of Opera and Musical Theatre Favorites."** Featuring works by: Mozart, Handel, Delibes, Rogers & Hammerstein, and many more. Soprano- Grace Meade, Mezzo-Soprano- Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley, and Baritone- Bennett Umhau will be the featured performers. Collectively these three amazing artists have performed in some of the finest opera houses and concert halls of both Europe and the United States as well as maintaining extensive vocal studios. *This concert is free for all and nursery care will be provided.*

Parent's Night Out... Friday, April 4 from 5:30 to 8 pm

All parents of FPCLY with young children are being offered hearts and hands of support so you can have a date night, catch up on shopping, take a nap, or do whatever it is you do. The Presbyterian Women will be in the Fellowship Hall offering childcare. Please sign up in the Foyer and complete a liability release form.

Upcoming IMPACT Service Opportunities – Save the Dates!

The Service & Outreach Committee has confirmed a few IMPACT opportunities for the rest of 2025. Stay tuned for more details and sign-ups for the following times of learning and serving together:

- Park View Café Dinner Host – June 18th, Sept. 3rd, and Dec. 3rd
- Summer IMPACT Week – August 4th through 9th

EASTER EGG HUNT... Saturday, April 5th @ 10 am

The FPC Weekday School invites all students and families of the school and church to come enjoy the Spring season with an Easter Egg Hunt and other fun things. Activities will be held in the back parking lot and playground of the church.

FPCLY LEADERSHIP

Session

Diane Stroud- Clerk of Session,
Education (Chair)
Denise McDonald- Finance Dev. (Chair)
Nancy Strosnider-Finance
Mary Ann Tate- Personnel (Chair)
Marilyn Hartman- Outreach/ C&N
Sam Howe- Cong. Engagement (Chair)
Martin Knight- Facilities (Chair)/
Nominating
John Osinga-Worship (Chair)
Kathryn Overstreet- Education/
Weekday School Board Session Rep
David Cheatham- Personnel
Caskie Giles- Finance/ Facilities
Bucky Neal- Worship

Corporation

David Tate, President
Tom Pettyjohn, Vice-President
William Paxton, Treasurer
Diane Stroud, Secretary
Johnny Alford, At-Large
Trustees, Session

Other

David Tate, Finance (Chair)
Cathy Oakes, C&N (Chair)
Gary Williams, S&O (Chair)
Bill Perkins, Malawi Mission Partnership
Marilyn Hartman, Presbyterian Women
Becky O'Brian, Chancel Guild
Arline Ore, Wedding Guild
Joan Roberson, Bereavement
Becky Giles, Nominating (Chair)
Sue Thornton- Redmond & Diane Stroud,
First Pres Presents (Co-Chairs)

Staff

Alex Collier, Director Outreach
Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, Parish Assoc.
Susan Hall, Financial Manager
Maria Karalekas, Director FPC WDS
Joshua O'Dell, Director Music/Organist
Ellie Quillen, Communications Coord.
Kim Ryan, Nursery Care Provider
Jody Sprinkle, Director Facilities
Dr. Marcia Thom- Kaley, Director Educ.
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson, Senior Pastor

