



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
celebrating & inspiring

1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road
(434) 384-6231 · www.fpclly.org · e-mail: info@fpclly.org
<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.

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

August 20, 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 "Amazing Grace"

D. Wood

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn #430: Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!**

Darwall's 148th

Come sing, O church, in joy. Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now And praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend, let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord!

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed O'er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now
And praise the Lord!

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we want to be faithful followers of Christ in our hearts; please forgive our disobedience. We want to be faithful followers of Christ in our actions; please forgive our bad choices. We want to be faithful followers of Christ in our words; please forgive the mean things we say. We want to be faithful followers of Christ throughout our lives; help us, God, to be more loving to you and all your children everywhere.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; the old life has gone and a new life has begun.

All: **In Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God! 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: Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Catherine Adams

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Zechariah 9:16-17 and 10:6-7

(pew Bible OT, p. 884-885)

"Catch the Vision"

Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Minute for Music

Cory Whittier

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

Summer Choir

C. Young

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light
Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art
Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.*

*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 #419: How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

Repton

How clear is our vocation, Lord, When once we heed Your call:
To live according to Your word, And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find Your yoke is hard to bear,
If worldly pressures fray the mind And love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care: Our inward life repair.

We mark Your saints, how they became In hindrances more sure,
Whose joyful virtues put to shame The casual way we wear
Your name, And by our faults obscure Your power to cleanse and cure.

In what You give us, Lord, to do, Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new, May we not cease to look to You--
The cross You hung upon-- All You endeavored done

*Benediction

*May today there be peace within. May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in yourself and others.
May you use the gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be content with yourself just the way God has created you.
Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance,
praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.*

*Postlude

Toccata in Seven

J. Rutter

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

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.fpclj.org.

Sunday, August 20

- 8:45 am Summer Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Session Meeting

Monday, August 21

FPC Weekday School begins!

Foley-Baker organ installation in the Sanctuary & Narthex

- 2:00 pm Canterbury Crew
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

Tuesday, August 22

Foley-Baker organ installation in the Sanctuary & Narthex

- 11:30 am *Embracing Grief: Renewing Joy* class
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

Wednesday, August 23

Foley-Baker organ installation in the Sanctuary & Narthex

- 10:00 am Immerse Bible Study
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Thursday, August 24

Foley-Baker organ installation in the Sanctuary & Narthex

- 7:00 am Collin Caldwell Men's Bible Study
- 11:45 am Staff Lunch and Devotion at Westminster Canterbury

Friday, August 25

Foley-Baker organ installation in the Sanctuary & Narthex

Saturday, August 26

Foley-Baker organ installation in the Sanctuary & Narthex

- 4:00 pm First Pres Presents: *Powerful Passages* Concert

Sunday, August 27

- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Bill Perkins

Ushers and Greeters:

Dickie Stowers, Becky & Caskie
Giles, Gwen Maddox,
and Bob Thomas

Worship Workshop Leader:

Nancy Ann Gowen

Sound and Video Technicians:

Will Absher & Catherine Adams

Lemonade and Cookies:

Judy Stowers

Pastor on Call:

Peter Thompson (336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members

August:

Sally deNiord (434) 384-8153
Bonnie Miles (434) 386-8645

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

The Nominating Committee needs your help!

If you know someone who would serve as a great leader for our governing Session, please submit his/her name to the Nominating Committee using the blue form in the red friendship pads near the center aisle. Place the completed form in the offering plate. Please see Bob Thomas, Chair of the Committee, with any questions.

Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231

Email: office@fpcly.org

Website: www.fpcly.org



Partner with God by Giving to FPCLY

1. Place your gift in the offering plate today.
2. Mail a check 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

***Fearless*: a weekday Bible study starting THIS Week!**

Fear comes in many different shapes, sizes and forms, and the truth is we all fear something or someone. Scripturally, the phrase “do not fear” or “do not be afraid” appears enough for us to have a daily reminder; however, being fearless is difficult. Let’s talk about it in an honest and truthful way guided by the presence of the Holy Spirit, God’s word, and excerpts from *Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear* by Max Lucado.

- *Immerse Bible Study*, Wednesdays starting August 23 at 10:00am
- *Colin Caldwell Men’s Bible Study*, Thursdays starting August 24 at 7:00am

First Pres Presents Concert Series Kicks Off NEXT Saturday, August 26 @ 4:00pm

For the first FPP concert, we will serve as hosts for the *Seven Hills Chamber Music Festival*. This amazing group of young and talented musicians will share a bounty of works in small groups and as solos in a performance entitled *Powerful Passages*. This concert, free and open to the public, will feature the works of Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Frank Bridge, and a world premiere of *Achilles Heel* by Evan Fein.

Presbyterian Cemetery Cleanup Day – Saturday, September 9 @ 9:00am

As the cemetery prepares to celebrate its 200th anniversary, your help is needed to clean up the grounds by removing sticks, cutting brush, trimming bushes, and completing other yard tasks. If you’re looking for a September opportunity to serve or just love working in the yard, contact Noel Thomas at nsnowt@aol.com.

Spark Sunday is September 10! Are you ready?

Mark your calendars for the start of a NEW program year! *We look forward to Sunday School classes for all ages and Walk with God returning to Sunday programming on September 10th.*

Come & Be Fed Dinner Series – Sundays, September 10 and October 1 @ 5:00pm

This two-part dialogue will be built on roundtable and group discussion led by the Outreach Initiative. During these evenings we will explore the power of our individual stories and experiences, understand how those stories connect us, and the role they play in how we move forward as a congregation. As such, the success of these dinners rests on having as many FPC community members present as possible to add their stories to the conversations. Sign-up by September 3rd on the sign-up sheet in the foyer hallway or online.

Back to School Season is here!

If you are on school or administrative staff, we are praying for you! If you are a parent or student, we are praying for you too! Shared below are the dates that our central Virginia students will return to the classroom for your prayers. Our college students begin at various points throughout the month so let's pray continuously.

August 21—FPC Weekday, St. John's Preschool, & Peakland Preschool and Liberty University, Sweet Briar College, & Central Virginia Community College

August 23—James River Day School

August 24—University of Lynchburg and Randolph College

August 28—Virginia Episcopal School