



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
celebrating & inspiring

1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road
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<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 27, 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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

Cory Whittier, Piano; Russell Hovda, Guitar

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn #485: To God Be the Glory**

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
and give Him the glory, great things He hath done!

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]

CELEBRATING BAPTISM

Sacrament of Baptism:

Ann Elizabeth Stowers

Parents: Richard & Alix Stowers

Session Representatives: Dickie & Judy Stowers

Presentation of Purpose and Promise

Questions to the Parents, Congregation, and Children

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water

Act of Baptism

... I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You are now a child of the covenant, may God bless you, and keep you, and may you always be open to God's guidance.

Prayer and Welcome

Leader: Annie has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made her a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ.

All: With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Annie into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support Annie, and her parents Richard and Alix, to share the good news of the gospel with them, and to help them know and follow Christ.

*Hymn #304: Jesus Loves Me!

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: Galatians 3:27-29

(pew Bible NT, p. 189)

“One in Christ”

Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Minute for Education

Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

Why Me, Lord?

K. Kristofferson

Russell Hovda, 12-String Guitar

*Why me Lord, what have I ever done To deserve even one Of the pleasures I've known
Tell me Lord, what did I ever do That was worth loving you Or the kindness you've shown.
Lord help me Jesus, I've wasted it so Help me Jesus I know what I am
Now that I know that I've needed you so Help me Jesus, my soul's in your hand.
Tell me Lord, if you think there's a way I can try to repay All I've taken from you
Maybe Lord, I can show someone else What I've been through myself On my way back to you.
Lord help me Jesus, I've wasted it so Help me Jesus I know what I am
Now that I know that I've needed you so Help me Jesus, my soul's in your hand.*

*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 #435: We All Are One in Mission

En Flog Ein Kleins Waldvoegelein

We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service to witness in God's name;
Our ministries are different, our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace
So every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

*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

Postlude on "Italian Hymn"
Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

J. Longhurst

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 27

9:30 am Worship (Baptism)
10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies

Monday, August 28

Foley-Baker organ installation in the Sanctuary & Narthex

9:00 am FPC Weekday School
2:00 pm Canterbury Crew
7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

Tuesday, August 29

Foley-Baker organ installation in the Sanctuary & Narthex

9:00 am FPC Weekday School
11:30 am *Embracing Grief: Renewing Joy* class
7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 49

Wednesday, August 30

Foley-Baker organ installation in the Sanctuary & Narthex

9:00 am FPC Weekday School
10:00 am Immerse Bible Study, *Fearless*
12:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Thursday, August 31

Foley-Baker organ installation in the Sanctuary & Narthex

7:00 am Collin Caldwell Men's Bible Study, *Fearless*
9:00 am FPC Weekday School
11:45 am Staff Lunch and Devotion at Westminster Canterbury

Friday, September 1

Foley-Baker organ installation in the Sanctuary & Narthex

9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Sunday, September 3

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

You're Invited to Host Lemonade and Cookies!

We LOVE the opportunity to stay after worship and visit with folks while enjoying lemonade and treats! It's a great way to connect and engage with others! We cannot do it without the hospitable hands of this community.

If you would like to lend a hand as a host one Sunday, hover your phone over the QR code above and sign up!



Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Becky Giles

Ushers and Greeters:

Dickie Stowers, Jenny & John Osinga,
and Al Baker

Worship Workshop Leader:

Whitney O'Brian

Sound and Video Technicians:

Will Absher & Catherine Adams

Lemonade and Cookies:

Gwen Maddox

Pastor on Call:

Peter Thompson (336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members

August:

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

Members Helping Members

September:

Dorothy Niles (434) 509-6767
Diana Smack (434) 384-7046

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.

Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231

Email: office@fpcly.org

Website: www.fpcly.org



@firstpresoflynchburg

FPC Lynchburg

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

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?

We have a great slate of programming activities for the fall season. Weekday classes are in full swing. We cannot wait for Sunday opportunities to open up for adults, youth, and children on Spark Sunday including Sunday School classes for all ages and Walk with God.



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

This two-part series is focused on using group discussion to explore the power of our individual stories, how they connect us as a faith community, and how this connection will move us forward as a congregation. We invite you to come and share, hear from, and connect with others in the FPC family. Sign-up for dinner #1 by September 3rd on the sign-up sheet in the foyer hallway or online using the QR code to the right. Dinner and nursery care will be provided. The voices of children and youth are welcomed! If you're interested in joining Pastor Peter in a time of fellowship while preparing the meal at 4pm, reach out to Peter or Alex by email.

Red Cross Blood Drive – Thursday, September 14, 12:00pm – 6:00pm

FPCLY is hosting the next blood drive rotation in partnership with other Rivermont Area Churches. If you are interested and able to donate blood please visit redcrossblood.org. If you are interested in another September opportunity to serve the day of (registration, walking donors to snacks, or cleanup) or by providing snacks or drinks for donors, please contact Tracy Baker at swee2ths@comcast.net or head to the Service and Outreach page on our website (<https://www.fpcly.org/ministries/service-outreach>.)

Presbyterian Women Kick Off Luncheon – Sunday, September 17 @ 12:00pm

Gather for community and conversation in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the new program year with lunch around the table and inspirational insight from the Malawi mission field. Ladies from the June 2023 mission trip will enlighten and engage us with tales of their adventures! Please RSVP by



September 13. A signup sheet is located on the table off the front hallway or hover your phone over the QR code to the right!

Back to School Season

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! **August 28**, students at *Virginia Episcopal School* begin their 2023-2024 school journey. Last week, we missed acknowledging students attending *Compass Academy* who started classes on **Monday, August 21**. Our college students return throughout the rest of the month so let's pray continuously.

SAVE THE DATE – Rooted and Reaching Celebration Brunch – Sunday, October 15 @ 11:00am