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LIVE Video Streaming on www.fpcly.org at 9:30 a.m.
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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: World Communion

October 1, 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

Be Thou My Vision

C. Tornquist

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

Choral Introit

Be Joyful in the Lord

D. Moore

Chancel Choir

Welcome and Announcements

***Hymn #461: God Is Here!**

Abbot's Leigh

God is here! As we Your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold,
Here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
Keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work Your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
We, who cannot live without You, We adore you! We believe!

CELEBRATING BAPTISM

Sacrament of Baptism:

Shelby Anne Capps

Parents: Tom and Holly Capps

Session Representative: Tom Capps, Sr.

Presentation of Purpose and Promise

Questions to the Parents, Congregation, and Children

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Water

Act of Baptism
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 Tom and Holly, 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.

Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me." [Refrain]

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Choral Anthem

The Table of Peace

D. Hannibal/B. Furman

*All who are weary, lost and alone, All who are seeking, I am your home.
All who are grieving, burdened by sin, I am your comfort, let healing begin.
Calm, come to the table of peace. Bring every burden, bring every need.
Calm, come to the Savior, come, to the table of peace.
All who are wounded, all who are worn, All who needs shelter, a place from the storm,
All who need mercy, all who need rest, I am your solace, come and be blessed.
Come, come to the table of peace, Bring every burden, bring every need.
Calm, come to the Savior, come to the table of peace.*

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

(pew Bible NT, p. 23-24)

"Everyday Ebenezers"

Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Celebrating World Communion

**Call to Offering
Offertory Anthem**

Goin' Home
Braden Jarosz, Soloist

Fisher/Dvorak

*Goin' home. Goin' home. I'm a-goin' home.
Quiet-like some still day, I'm just goin' home.
It's not far, just close by, through an open door.
Work all done, cares laid by, goin' to roam no more;
Mother's there 'xpecting me, father's waiting, too,
Lots of folks gathered there, all the friends I knew.
Morning star lights the way, restless dream all done.
Shadows gone, break of day, real life just begun.
There's no break, there's no end, just a-living on;
Wide awake, with a smile, going on and on.
Going home. Going home, I'm just going home.
It's not far, just close by, through an open door.*

***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 #514: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

Linstead

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy.
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one.
At the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share.
God (Emmanuel) everywhere! [Refrain]

***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.*

Choral Benediction

May the Grace of Christ Our Savior

J. Stainer

Postlude

Praise Him! Praise Him!

C. G. Allen

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.

The Chancel flowers this Sunday have been given to the glory of God in loving memory of Scott and Dippy Reams by Gwen and Phil Maddox.



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, October 1—World Communion Sunday

- 9:30 am Worship (baptism)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School classes
- 12:00 pm College Cares
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm Come & Be Fed Dinner #2

Monday, October 2

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 2:00 pm Canterbury Crew
- 6:00 pm Scouts – Cub Pack 7
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

Tuesday, October 3

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

Wednesday, October 4

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am Immerse Bible Study, *Fearless*
- 11:00 am *Embracing Grief, Renewing Joy* class
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Thursday, October 5

- 7:00 am Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study, *Fearless*
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 6

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Sunday, October 8

- 9:30 am Worship (baptism)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School classes
- 12:00 pm College Cares
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm Come & Be Fed Dinner #2

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader:

Alex Collier

Ushers and Greeters:

Al Baker, Elsie Howerton, Rick Milam, and Bo Gravely

Worship Workshop Leaders:

Emma and Sutton Tinsley

Communion Preparers:

Becky and Bobby O'Brian

Sound and Video Technicians:

Lloyd Agnew & Catherine Adams

Lemonade and Cookies Hosts:

Sally Leslie and Debbie Johnson

Pastor on Call:

Peter Thompson (336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members

October:

Sheila Modjeska (434) 384-2021 or (925) 389-2594

Sue Thornton (434) 384-5299 or (434) 944-3049

Thank you to Dorothy Niles and Diana Smack for leading in September.

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.

Tonal finishing on the organ begins this week in the Sanctuary. This is the very important process of transitioning from a construction project to becoming a musical instrument!

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

Come & Be Fed Dinner #2 – TONIGHT Sunday, October 1 @ 5:00pm

Thanks to all that participated on September 10th! If you couldn't make it, materials from that evening are available on the table in the Foyer. Today's sermon as well as the bulletin board outside of Peter's office are also reflections on the Ebenezer concept that was discussed on September 10th. Tonight's discussion is open to all—whether you were able to attend the first conversation or not! Join us for this time of fellowship and connecting with each other. All food and activities for children will be provided.

Middle School and High School Game Day with St. John's Church – October 8 - 4:30 – 6:30pm

Game on! Middle and High School Youth are invited to a fun evening of outdoor games (kickball, tug of war, lacrosse, and more), dinner, and community with our Rivermont neighbors at St. John's Church. We will meet at the field on Spotswood Drive and are encouraged to bring sports equipment for the above games. Please sign up so we have a count for dinner: email marcia@fpcly.org or text (434) 610-7784. We would love to have adult volunteers to support, cheer on, and connect with all the kids!

Presbyterian Cemetery 200th Anniversary Celebration – October 14 @ 4:00pm

Join this special celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Presbyterian Cemetery! A short program will include encouraging words from Pastor Peter and Shawn (from Westminster Presbyterian) as current leaders of the founding churches, remarks from the Cemetery Board, and a few stories about the cemetery's 200 years. Light Hors D'oeuvre and drinks will be offered as well as a raffle of a cemetery painting by Winston Cobb Green. To get tickets for the raffle, scan your phone camera over the QR code to the right. To RSVP to the celebration, please call (434) 845-0551 or email office@presbyteriancemeteryva.com.



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

Let's come together and celebrate all that God has done through the *Rooted and Reaching* campaign over a catered brunch from Peakland Catering! We will offer stories of impact, share photos and artifacts of the projects, express thanks to God in prayer, and enjoy a meal together. There will be an activity for older children and nursery care for children 3 & under. Text or call Theresa Burton at (434) 660-7611 to RSVP by October 9th!

Trunk or Treat – Sunday, October 29th from 4-6pm

We invite you to join us for our 3rd annual night of candy, costumes, and community! Sign up to be a “Trunk Host” on the clipboard below the Outreach bulletin board or by contacting Alex (alex@fpcl.org). If you can't host a “trunk” but still want to participate, there are a few volunteer roles needed to help make the event happen. We hope to see you out there for this fun event!

You are loved! Have a great week!