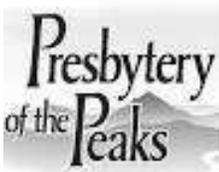




FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
celebrating & inspiring



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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Spring is in full swing, and I can't believe it is May already! Whatever the season, I wanted you to know how much of a joy it is to have you here this morning and I pray you know just how loved and important you are. You are loved by God unconditionally and you are a very important part of God's mission for the church in the world. Therefore; whether you are here today 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 curious...whether you have grown up in the church or are finding your way back...whether you are in search of comfort or wanting to be challenged... whatever reason brought you to worship today, I pray you know you matter and are welcome here.

As God's children and Jesus' disciples here at First Presbyterian, 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 leans more traditional and seeks to remain 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 paramount, and relationships with one another 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@fpcl.org) or Catherine Adams (communications@fpcl.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@fpcl.org) or Alex Collier (alex@fpcl.org).

Service of the Lord's Day

May 5, 2024

*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

Adagio

F. Mendelssohn

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

Leader: We desire to live in God's house and to seek God in his holy temple.

All: We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

All: Teach us your ways and make straight our paths in this hour and always.

*Hymn #507: I Come with Joy

Dove of Peace

I come with joy, to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and free,
in awe and wonder to recall, His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

And thus with joy we meet our Lord, His presence always near,
is in such friendship better known, we see and praise Him here,
we see and praise Him here.

Together met, together bound we'll go our different ways,
And as His people in the world we'll live and speak His praise,
we'll live and speak His praise.

CELEBRATING BAPTISM

Sacrament of Baptism:

Sunny Paige Gowen
Parents: Nancy Ann and Nathan Gowen
Session Representative: Marcia Thom-Kaley

**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: Sunny 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 Sunny 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 Sunny, and her parents Nancy Ann and Nathan, 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]

All children ages 4 to 2nd Grade are welcome to attend Worship Workshop in Room 101

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Bell Anthem

Classical Easter

M. Helman

*(Medley of the Hallelujah Chorus, Thine is the Glory, and Joyful, Joyful)
Chancel Ringers*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: Acts 10:44-48 and Psalm 98

(pew Bible NT, p.130 and OT, p.551-552)

"The Victory of Our God"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Celebrating the Reception of a New Member: Kinkadee Garland

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

All Creatures of Our God and King

Chancel Ringers

M. Ryan

***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 #264: When in Our Music God is Glorified**

Engelberg

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How often, in making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound
as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

So has the Church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue, Alleluia!

Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise, let all rejoice who have a voice to raise,
and may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

***Benediction**

Postlude

Venite!

Cory Whittier, Director of Music and Organist

J. Leavitt

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 before participating in one of the many spiritual growth opportunities available for all ages.



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.fpcls.org.

Sunday, May 5

- 9:30 am Worship (Communion & Baptism Sunday)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School classes
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Monday, May 6

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

Tuesday, May 7

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

Wednesday, May 8

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon meeting

Thursday, May 9

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Sunday, May 12

- 9:30 am Worship (Youth Sunday)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School classes
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Summer Office Hours

Starting Monday, May 6, we will make a transition to our summer office hours of 9:00am to 3:00pm on Mondays – Thursdays with the offices closed on Fridays and Saturdays. Please keep these days and hours in mind as you make plans to come to the church to pick up or drop off items, meet with a staff member, plan for an event, program, or committee meeting, or complete other church office related tasks.

Prayer Cares and Concerns

If you have a prayer request to share with the pastor or staff, please share it directly, write it on a 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 fpcls.org/ministries/care-nurture.html. We are praying with and for you!

Prayer Chain

Would you like to be a part of a group that engages in on-going prayers for our community, both within the walls of FPCLY and beyond? If so, consider joining our prayer chain! Each week our staff sends an email communication with prayers and praises for that week. Contact alex@fpcls.org to be added to the list.

Notes for Today's Worship

Ushers and Greeters:

Sam Howe, Rob Cleland,
Elsie Howerton and
Laurie & Camp Sommardahl

Worship Workshop Leader:

Nancy Ann Gowen

Sound and Video Technicians:

Will Absher & Catherine Adams

Lemonade and Cookies Host:

Laura Borel

Pastor on Call:

Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson
(336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members

May:

Marilyn Hartman (434) 665-7043
Jenny Osinga (434) 426-1675

Special thanks to Persis Tinsley and
Brenda Sanzone for serving in April.

Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231

Email: office@fpclly.org

Website: www.fpclly.org



@firstpresoflynchburg

FPC Lynchburg

Partner with God by Giving to FPCLY

1. Place your gift in the offering plate today.
2. Mail checks to FPCLY, 1215 V.E.S. Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503.
3. Use a credit card online at fpclly.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

May Education Updates

- Weekday Education classes (Canterbury Crew, *Colin Caldwell* Men's Bible Study, College Cares Brunches, and *Immerse* Bible Study) are on pause for the summer months. The class leaders will be praying about and discerning the next topics of discussion and study during this season.
- Sunday School classes for adults, youth, and children will conclude for the summer season on May 19th.

Youth Sunday is NEXT Sunday, May 12 – Mother's Day

We're excited for our children and youth to prepare and lead worship next Sunday. They have been writing and preparing various components of worship with our newest members (confirmation class of 2023-24) leading the way. Our young children will provide a couple of musical offerings. We have postponed the Bible distribution to the fall (Spark Sunday) to fall in line with the return of Sunday School classes.

Sister Stories Luncheon – Sunday, May 19 @ 12:00pm



Our lives are made up of a series of stories. Each year, our Presbyterian Women host a luncheon as a place to gather and share our stories to learn from and grow with one another. This year's featured speaker is Bonnie Miles: a faithful member of the choir, an avid traveler, and passionate about bats. She will share about her travels, life experiences, and a few things she's learned about bats and life! The catered lunch is \$10 payable at the door. Please RSVP by May 12, using the QR code to the left or the sheet on the table in the front hall.

Opportunity to Serve the Weekday School during the next two weeks

Assistance needed! Weekdays through May 17, we need help cleaning the Weekday School from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. The cleaning involves collecting trash, sweeping and vacuuming floors, and cleaning the restrooms. If you are able, use the QR code to the right to sign up or contact Peter.



Chancel Project Update

Here's a brief update on the Chancel Project. During the first week in April, we received the revised rebuild concepts, a timeline for completion, and an approximate overall expense projection. After review from the Facilities team, a Called Session meeting was held on April 14 to review the price quote, the rebuild timeline, and the architectural concept. After extensive discussion, the Session felt it prudent to go back to the architect and construction team with adjustments to the concept design, construction timeline, and materials to allow cost savings. As a result, we remain in a prayerful holding pattern until more information is gleaned. We will continue to worship in the Sanctuary with the support of the livestream and radio broadcasts. As soon as we have additional information about the next steps, we will be sure to keep you informed.

Have a great week! You are loved!