



LIVING INTO OUR COVENANT



1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road  
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<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>



# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and peace to you!!! 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**

First, our Hospitality and Welcome Desk is a great source of information and all visitors, repeat visitors, and members too, are encouraged to stop and interact with the host or hostess present today. Second, our building is a wonderful resource, however, 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 just outside the Fellowship Hall doors. The Elevator can be accessed from this level on the hallway near the Weekday School Offices. The Nursery is also located on this level in the hallway near the Weekday School Offices. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:marcia@fpcl.org)) or Catherine Adams ([communications@fpcl.org](mailto: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](mailto:peter@fpcl.org)) or Alex Collier ([alex@fpcl.org](mailto:alex@fpcl.org)).

# Service of the Lord's Day

September 1, 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

### Congregational Fellowship

Prelude

Prayer

Kellner

*Claudia Patterson, piano*

### Welcome and Announcements

### Prayer of the Day and Lord's Prayer

**O God, we joyously come together to worship, realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are here. We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts, for you are there. We need our eyes of faith to be opened, that we may see you; our ears to be unstopped, that we may hear you; our minds to be sensitive; that we may know you; our hearts to be tender, that we may receive you. We pray for your blessing upon the church, upon us, in this place. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to say together when praying... Our Father...**

### \*Hymn: I Come with Joy

*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.*

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

**\*Hymn: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

*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]*

**WE GO OUT IN GOD’S SERVICE**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

**Divertimento**

*Claudia Patterson, piano*

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Loveland/Sherry

*We encourage all to share the love, joy, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ with one another.*



**Session Leadership**

**Diane Stroud**, Clerk of Session  
**Becky Giles**- '24, Education, Cong. Development  
**Elsie Howerton**- '24, Education/ Weekday School Board  
**Gary Williams**- '24, Outreach/ S&O/ Cong. Development  
**Peter Baldwin**- '25, Worship  
**Nathan Gowen**- '25, Finance  
**Denise McDonald**- '25, Outreach/ Cong. Development  
**Mary Ann Tate**- '25, Personnel  
**Marilyn Hartman**- '26, Outreach/ C&N  
**Sam Howe**- '26, Outreach/ Cong. Development  
**Martin Knight**- '26, Facilities  
**John Osinga**- '26, Worship  
**Kathryn Overstreet**- '26, Education/ Weekday School Board

**Staff Leadership**

**Catherine Adams**, Communications Coordinator  
**Alex Collier**, Director of Outreach  
**Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson**, Parish Associate  
**Susan Hall**, Financial Manager  
**Maria Karalekas**, Director of FPC Weekday School  
**Kim Ryan**, Nursery Care Provider  
**Jody Sprinkle**, Director of Facilities  
**Dr. Marcia Thom- Kaley**, Director of Education  
**Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson**, Senior Pastor



**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.fpclly.org](http://www.fpclly.org).

### Sunday, September 1

- 9:30 am Worship (in the Fellowship Hall & Communion)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

### Monday, September 2

*Church Offices Closed for Labor Day Holiday*

### Tuesday, September 3

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

### Wednesday, September 4

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

### Thursday, September 5

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 2:00 pm *GriefShare* Class

### Friday, September 6

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

### Sunday, September 8—Spark Sunday

- 9:30 am Worship (in the Fellowship Hall)
- 10:15 am Connect and Engage Expo
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School Classes
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

### Back-to-School Season is winding down!

Many from our community have transitioned into the new school year. ***This week, we have one more school in our community set to head back to class (Virginia Episcopal School) on September 2.*** We invite your continued prayers for all teachers, students, families, and administrative staff throughout the entire school year!

### Regular Office Hours Return Tuesday, September 3.

After Labor Day, the church office hours will be

- Sundays 8:00am – 12:00pm
- Mondays – Thursdays 9:00am – 5:00pm
- Fridays and Saturdays Church Offices closed

### Notes for Today's Worship

#### Ushers and Greeters:

Sam Howe, Elsie Howerton, and  
Terry Adams

#### Worship Workshop Leader:

Patricia Adams

#### Communion Preparer:

Bill Perkins

#### Lemonade and Cookies Host:

Sally Leslie

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#### Pastor on Call:

Sept. 1 – 4: Rev. Peter Thompson  
(336) 269-7270

Sept. 5 – 8: Rev. Nancy Dawson  
(804) 399-9545

#### Members Helping Members September:

Sheila Modjeska (434) 384-2021  
Diana Smack (434) 384-7046

#### Chancel Flower Guild

#### September:

Cathy Capps, Laura Crumbley,  
Marilyn Bellaire, and Marilyn  
Hartman

#### 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 [fpclly.org/ministries/care-nurture.html](http://fpclly.org/ministries/care-nurture.html).

## Connect with us!

**Phone:** (434) 384-6231

**Email:** [office@fpcly.org](mailto:office@fpcly.org)

**Website:** [www.fpcly.org](http://www.fpcly.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 [fpcly.org](http://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

## ***Embracing Grief: Renewing Joy* – Thursdays @ 2:00pm**

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson will lead another *GriefShare* class for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one (whether it's been in the last couple of weeks or been in the last couple of years.) This class offers the opportunity to embrace grief with the support and encouragement of others who are walking on a similar path. To join the class, contact Nancy at (804) 399-9545 or [nancy@fpcly.org](mailto:nancy@fpcly.org).

## **SPARK SUNDAY – NEXT Sunday, September 8**

*Spark Sunday celebrates the launch of a new program year involving the life and ministries of First Presbyterian Church.* From the core of our covenant relationship with God and one another, opportunities to learn and live through worship, education, outreach, and a variety of office/admin support ministries, are available for all to connect and engage with all God is doing in this time and place.

- We have a great slate of educational opportunities for children, youth, and adults. We encourage you to be in prayer where you can be present and participate. A print copy of Sunday and Weekday classes for all ages is included on the blue insert!
- As we launch into the program year, we're hosting an in-house "expo" after worship on September 8 AND 15 to share with you ways you can connect and engage at FPCLY with your time and talents. Church members from each of our Initiatives (Worship, Education, Outreach, and Resources) will be available for conversations about different opportunities within their arm of our church body. We encourage you to pray about how you would like to share your time and talents this fall!

## **FPC Hosts Red Cross Blood Drive – Thursday, September 12 from 12:00 – 6:00pm**

Your next IMPACT opportunity is on the church calendar as we are seeking both blood donors and volunteers to assist with our annual Red Cross Blood Drive! If you are eligible to donate blood, sign up on [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use the sponsor code FPC. If you would like to assist as a walker, snack/drink provider, registration, or cleanup support, hover over the QR code to the right!



## **Meeting in the Middle Evening Youth Gathering – Sunday, September 15 @ 5:00 pm**

Calling ALL middle school students! It's time to meet in the Fellowship Hall for food, faith, and fun as a special youth gathering. We will have ice breakers, play games, and get to know one another! Contact [marcia@fpcly.org](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org) if you have any questions.

## **Fellowship Dinners are back!**

Wednesday, September 18 at 5:30pm, we will kick off our first Potluck dinner of the year! Come for an evening of food and fun with your church family as we gather at the table for a meal! You are encouraged to bring a dish (side item, dessert, or main dish) to share!

*You are loved! Have a great week!*



# ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Weekdays

Sundays @ 11:00am

## BIBLE 101: THE LETTERS OF PAUL

Officers' Room (Room #117) - 1st Floor

What caused the early Christian church to prosper? What issues divided it? What can we learn about those things as we experience them in our time and church? Join us as we answer these questions by studying the letters written by Paul to the early churches.

## I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL MY KIDS!

Bride's Room (Room #114) - 1st Floor

Parenthood is a rewarding journey, filled with joy, struggle, and love, but it often feels overwhelming. In those moments, the support of friends, family, and God can make all the difference. We'll enjoy social time with others walking the same trials—we mean, trails—as the class explores a variety of interesting and relevant topics that will point parents toward a place of confidence, hope, and joy. Parents will also learn practical and creative ways to pray for their kids.

## IF WE ARE THE "BODY," THEN...

Martin-Gifford Room (Room #119) - 1st Floor

We are all a cast of characters, human and imperfect, yet God has found a place for us - in and as the Body of Christ. God knows that we are all in need of community: Eugene Peterson shares, "*Scripture knows nothing of a solitary Christian. People of faith are always members of a community.*" The Apostle Paul urges us to encourage each other and build each other up while sharing the spiritual gifts with which God has graced us.

Sundays @ 4:00pm

## WALK WITH GOD

Front Parking Lot

Experience God in a new way and embrace what it means to journey through life with a community of believers by your side. Share a brief time of devotion and study prior to taking a two-ish mile stroll down Peakland Place. The spiritual insight is uplifting, the communion of friends is enriching, and the exercise is fulfilling.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HORIZON STUDY CIRCLE

2nd Monday of each month

September - May, 10am

Library (Room #100) - 1st Floor

Presbyterian Women (PW) is a ministry of the PCUSA offering an opportunity for **women** to gather to encourage and lift one another up in the faith. The women meet for community, study, and outreach. This year's study is called "*Let Justice Roll Down, God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation.*"

## IMMERSE BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 10am, starting 9/11

Martin-Gifford (Room #119) - 1st Floor

In this fall bible study for **women and men** called *Searching*, we will focus on exploring who we are as children of God, how we can listen for God's voice to remind us of that, and how we can walk in the light of Christ in hope and confidence. The Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson will lead the discussion.

## COLIN CALDWELL MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 7am, starting 9/12

Library (Room #100) - 1st Floor

The Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson will lead this Bible study for **men** called *Searching*. Men are invited to journey together as we discuss who we are as God's sons and how we can confidently walk in that light. We will have coffee made or you can bring your own!

## EMBRACING GRIEF: RENEWING JOY

Thursdays, 2pm

Library (Room #100) - 1st Floor

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson will lead another *GriefShare* class for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one (whether it's been in the last couple of weeks or been in the last couple of years.) This class offers the opportunity to embrace grief with the support and encouragement of others who are walking on a similar path.

# CHILDREN, YOUTH, & COLLEGE EDUCATION CLASSES

## SUNDAYS

September 8 - November 17  
11:00AM - 11:45AM

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### Children

#### **NURSERY (9:00AM - 12:00PM)**

Infants thru 2-year-olds - Room #8 - Ground Floor  
FPCLY is happy to offer families nursery care for young children. Our staff are CPR trained and have successfully passed background checks.

#### **ELEMENTARY CHILDREN**

3s, 4s & 5s - Room #207    2nd & 3rd - Room #210  
K & 1st - Room #205        4th & 5th - Room #212

We are excited for our children to explore the Bible and what it shares with us about God - who He is and how much He loves us! Then like a fire builds in the forest, we hope to empower them to be Christ's light in the world around them!

### Middle School

#### **MEETING IN THE MIDDLE**

6th - 8th Graders  
Youth Room - Room #2 - Ground Floor

Middle schoolers will have fun as they explore their own faith and God's promises through Bible study, service, and community building activities. They will also be reminded of God's deep love and grace for all His children, especially those on the journey through middle school!

led by Becky Giles

### High School

#### **HIGH SCHOOL - FOR REAL!**

9th - 12th Graders  
Room 126 - 1st Floor

High School students will explore God's truth and love together through Jana Riess' book *Flunking Sainthood - A Year of Breaking the Sabbath, Forgetting to Pray, and Still Loving My Neighbor*. Through this memoir and shared discussions, the youth will embrace the lessons failure can teach us and the simple truths given by our loving God.

led by Barrett Thompson

### College & 20-somethings

#### **COLLEGE CARES**

College age students & 20-somethings  
Fellowship Hall & Kitchen - Ground Floor

College students and 20-somethings will journey together through young adulthood with God's grace & love, full bellies, and community. Meeting in the kitchen, the group will share in both God's word and delicious food at table.

led by Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson and  
Marcia Thom-Kaley.



*If you have questions regarding any educational offering, please contact Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley, FPCLY Director of Educational Ministries, at [marcia@fpcl.org](mailto:marcia@fpcl.org).*