



LIVING INTO OUR COVENANT



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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 are holy. That's why we gather for fellowship, cookies, and lemonade 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 2nd grade aged children are invited to participate in worship workshop in room 1 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: SPARK SUNDAY

September 8, 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

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of the Day and Lord's Prayer

Most gracious and loving God, we have tasted your goodness in days gone by and it has satisfied us. But now with this new day we turn to you again for the bread of life that you have prepared for us, and for the wine of the Spirit that you pour out for your people.

Help us Lord, to empty ourselves of those things that hinder us from knowing the fullness of your love and fill us with those things that tend to make us all that you want us to be. We need your presence Lord. We need your anointing. Touch us, we pray, and make us whole. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to say together when praying... Our Father...

*Praising God in Song

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

New Testament Reading: Luke 5:17-26

"Living into our Covenant"

Alex Collier

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Commissioning of Teachers for Spiritual Growth Opportunities

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

I Will Carry You
Whitney O'Brian, guitar

Ellie Holcomb

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

Invitation to the Covenant Giving Expo

*Praising God in Song

*Benediction

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





**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN**

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, 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

Monday, September 9

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am Presbyterian Women Horizon Circle Meeting
- 6:00 pm Scouts - Cub Pack 7
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

Tuesday, September 10

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

Wednesday, September 11

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am *Immerse* Bible Study
- 12:30 pm AI-Anon meeting

Thursday, September 12

- 7:00 am *Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study*
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 12:00 pm Blood Drive
- 2:00 pm *GriefShare* Class

Friday, September 13

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

Sunday, September 15

- 9:30 am Worship (in the Fellowship Hall)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School Classes
- 12:00 pm Stated Session Meeting
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm Meeting in the Middle Youth Group

Notes for Today's Worship

Ushers and Greeters:

Becky and Bobby O'Brian,
Elsie Howerton, and Terry Adams

Worship Workshop Leader:

Laurie Sommardahl

Lemonade and Cookies Hosts:

Sally Leslie and
the Middle School Youth

Pastor on Call:

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

Sept. 9 – 30: Rev. Peter Thompson
(336) 269-7270

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, please speak with them before or after worship, call the church office, or share your request online at fpcls.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 basket today.
2. Mail checks 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

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

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson is leading 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.

SPARK SUNDAY – TODAY 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. The yellow insert includes all the Sunday and Weekday Education classes for adults, children, and youth!
- As we launch into the program year, we're hosting an in-house "expo" after worship today and September 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 – THIS Thursday, September 12 from 12:00 – 6:00pm

We have at least 10 blood donor slots left to fill, and three more volunteers are needed to assist plus a few snacks! If you are eligible to donate blood, sign up on redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code FPC. If you would like to assist as a walker, snack/drink provider, or cleanup support, hover your phone over the QR code to the right to sign up!



Meeting in the Middle Evening Youth Gathering – NEXT 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 if you have any questions.

Fellowship Potluck Dinner – Wednesday, September 18 @ 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!

We are back to Regular Office Hours!

The church office hours are now

Sundays	8:00am – 12:00pm
Mondays – Thursdays	9:00am – 4:30pm
Fridays and Saturdays	Church Offices closed

You are loved! Have a great week!

Hope In Front of Me

by Danny Gokey

I've been running through rain
That I thought would never end
Trying to make it on faith
In a struggle against the wind
I've seen the dark and the broken places
But I know in my soul
No matter how bad it gets
I'll be alright

Chorus

There's hope in front of me
There's a light, I still see it
There's a hand still holding me
Even when I don't believe it
I might be down but I'm not dead
There's better days still up ahead
Even after all I've seen
There's hope in front of me

There's a place at the end of the storm
You finally find
Where the hurt and the tears and the pain
All fall behind

You open up your eyes and up ahead
There's a big sun shining
Right then and there you realize
You'll be alright

(Chorus)

There's a hope still burning
I can feel it rising through the night
And my world's still turning
I can feel your love here by my side

You're my hope
You're the light, I still see it
Your hands are holding me
Even when I don't believe it
I've got to believe
I still have hope
You are my hope

In Christ Alone

by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Go Light Your World

by Chris Rice

There is a candle in every soul
Some brightly burning, some dark and cold
There is a Spirit who brings a fire
Ignites a candle and makes His home

Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the helpless, confused and torn
And hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

Frustrated brother, see how he's tried to
Light his own candle some other way
See now your sister, she's been robbed and
lied to
Still holds a candle without a flame

So carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the lonely, the tired and worn
And hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

'Cause we are a family whose hearts are
blazing
So let's raise our candles and light up the sky
Praying to our Father, in the name of Jesus
Make us a beacon in darkest times

Carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, deceived and poor
Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

Hold out your candle for all to see it
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world
Take your candle, and go light your world

Thy Word

by Amy Grant

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid
Think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to your side
I will love you to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path
And a light unto my path
You're the light unto my path

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

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.

Weekdays

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

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@fpcly.org.