



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

September 29, 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

Share the Love, Joy, and Peace of Christ with others!

Prelude

Amazing Grace

arr. Curnow

Joshua O'Dell, Director of Music and Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of Adoration and Lord's Prayer

Almighty God, we praise you for creating this world in all beauty, for redeeming the world through Christ, our Lord, and for sending us the gift of your Spirit to encourage, instruct, and sustain us. We long for your Spirit to work among us now, to inspire our praise, to challenge us with your truth, and to equip us for service in your world. We pray for your blessing on the church in this place. Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened. Here may the doubting find faith, and the anxious be encouraged. Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful find comfort. Here may the weary find rest, and the strong be renewed. Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to say together when praying... Our Father...

***Hymn: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for Thy courts above.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

New Testament Reading: John 15
"Living into our Covenant"

Peter Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission: Covenant Giving

*One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which He died,
one voice, one song we lift in praise to Him who was and is and shall be evermore.*

*There is one body, one spirit, as you were called to one hope.
One Lord, baptism and faith, one God and Father of all,
one God and Father of all, who is in you all.*

*Though we be many people diverse with various gifts,
we are given to each other for the unity of faith,
that we grow in the knowledge of the Son of God, in the fullness of Christ.*

One faith, one hope, one Lord, one God.

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN GOD’S SERVICE

***Hymn: God, Bless Your Church with Strength!**

God bless Your church with strength! Wherever we may be,
up build Your servants as we work in common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith to venture and to soar
through open skies to sing the praise of Christ whom we adore.

God bless Your church with life! May all our branches thrive,
unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit, abundantly alive.
From you, one holy vine, in freedom may we grow;
sustain us in our mission, Lord, your love and peace to show.

God bless Your church with hope! Despite chaotic days,
may we in chaos shine to light a pathway through life's maze.
May justice be our aim, and kindness ours to share;
in humbleness oh may we walk, assured our God is there!

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Holy, Holy, Holy

arr. Court

Joshua O’Dell, Director of Music and Organist



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
- Joshua O’Dell**, Director of Music and Organist
- 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.fpcls.org.

Sunday, September 29

- 9:30 am Worship (in the Fellowship Hall)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School Classes
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm High & Middle School Youth Gathering

Monday, September 30

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

Tuesday, October 1

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

Wednesday, October 2

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

Thursday, October 3

- 7:00 am *Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study*
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 2:00 pm *GriefShare* Class
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 6

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

Notes for Today's Worship

Ushers and Greeters:

Sam Howe, Elsie Howerton, and Abbie, Gracie, & Peter Baldwin

Worship Workshop Leaders:

Olivia and Graham Nelsen

Lemonade and Cookies Host:

Church Staff

Pastor on Call:

Rev. Peter Thompson
(336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members September:

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

Members Helping Members October:

Dorothy Niles (434) 509-6767
Sue Thornton (434) 944-3049

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

Care and Nurture Church Notecards for Sale – Sundays until the cards are gone!

The Care and Nurture committee has created packets of 8 notecards – one set features seasonal pictures of First Presbyterian Church and the other set features a sketch of the building and a few of our stained-glass windows. The packets will be sold for \$10 each after worship starting September 22 and continuing while supplies last.

High School: FOR REAL! Dinner Event – TODAY @ 5:00pm

Calling ALL high school youth! It's time for an evening of fun, fellowship, and FOOD as a special evening gathering. Barrett Thompson and Marcia Thom-Kaley will be leading a great evening of conversation and activities in the Fellowship Hall. Contact marcia@fpcly.org with questions or to RSVP.

Weekday School Spaghetti Fellowship Dinner – Wednesday, October 16

The Weekday School is hosting a community building spaghetti meal and ALL are invited! Let us fellowship with them over a meal as one big First Presbyterian family. There will be spaghetti, garlic bread, and cookies to delight your tastebuds, conversation and love to delight your soul, and if that's not enough, *Balloon Dude Travis* will be here to make fun balloon creations! This is a ticketed FUNdraiser for all ages: \$6 per person or \$25 per family. Tickets will be available for purchase by cash or check (made out to FPC Weekday School) on Sunday, September 29 AND October 6. The ticket deadline is October 6th!

SAVE THE DATE – *Trunk or Treat* is Coming – Sunday, October 27 @ 4pm

The fall season is here, and we are gearing up for a great afternoon of costumes, candy, and community at our fourth annual *Trunk or Treat*! We are eager to find “trunk host” volunteers willing to decorate their vehicles (or themselves) to pass out candy, as well as other volunteers to assist with set up, take down, snack distribution, greeting, and other important roles. If you're interested, please contact alex@fpcly.org.

Covenant Giving is Covenant Living—join us today!

God loves us abundantly...and He calls us to abundant living and abundant giving (II Cor.9:8). You are invited to join us in our fall “Covenant Giving 2025 Annual Campaign” by pledging your time, talent and treasure to support the ministry of our church. **Thank you** if you have already picked up your Covenant Giving packet at church. If you don't have your packet yet, Team Captains are now delivering them. Need a packet? contact Susan Hall, Church Finance Manager (434-384-6231 or finance@fpcly.org).

We invite you to consider your annual commitment 2025, and give even more abundantly in the year ahead as we seek to continue our church ministries and balance our annual budget. Our goal is \$700,000, which is \$50,000 more than last year's goal, and we would be grateful for your pledge **by Oct. 15, 2024.**

FPC Congregational Development Committee (David Tate, Becky Giles, David Cheatham, Sam Howe, Denise McDonald, Nancy Strosnider, Michael Trexler, Donna Whitehouse, and Gary Williams)