



LIVING INTO OUR COVENANT



1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road  
(434) 384-6231 · [www.fpcls.org](http://www.fpcls.org) · e-mail: [info@fpcls.org](mailto:info@fpcls.org)  
<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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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@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

September 22, 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

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

### Prelude

#### In the Sweet By and By

arr. Mark Hayes

*Joshua O'Dell, Director of Music and Organist*

### Welcome and Announcements

### Prayer of Adoration and Lord's Prayer

**Loving God, we have gathered to meet you. We have come to listen to you, to seek you, to worship you. You are the beginning of all things, the life of all things; you knew us before we were born. In you we become; in you we live. Loving God, you are here and everywhere, around us and within us; you know our inmost thoughts. In you we hope; in you we live. You are the source of serenity, giving peace that is beyond our understanding. In you we are still; in you we live. Loving God, we live you; we worship you. Loving God, you live in us; we worship you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to say together when praying... Our Father...**

### \*Hymn: Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

### New Testament Reading: Romans 8:31-39

### "Living into our Covenant"

Peter Thompson

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Minute for Mission: Covenant Giving

## Offertory Anthem

## Above All Else Chancel Choir

Raney/O'Dell

*Lord, you have called us chosen and beloved, beloved.  
And you have held us close and made us your own, your very own.  
Fill our hearts with kindness, teach us forgiveness and compassion.*

*Let our song resound. Let our song resound, our song resound in perfect harmony.*

*Above all else, Lord, above all else, Lord, above all else, Lord, bind us in love, Lord, bind us in love, in love.*

*Filled with a gentle, quiet understanding  
may we forever strive for justice and peace, God's perfect peace.*

*Humble and willing, loving, accepting one another.*

*Grateful hearts we bring, matchless grace we sing, as we have been forgiven, we forgive.*

## Prayer of Dedication

### WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

#### \*Hymn: We Give Thee but Thine Own

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,  
And gladly, as Thou blesses us, to Thee our first-fruits give.

To comfort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,  
To tend the lonely in distress, is angels' work below.

The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,  
To teach the way of life and peace- it is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe Thy Word, though dim our faith may be;  
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord, we do it unto Thee.

#### \*Benediction

#### \*Postlude

### The Church's One Foundation *Joshua O'Dell, Director of Music and Organist*

arr. Lorenz

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*The Chancel Flowers today are given in memory of Anne North Howard by Dennis Howard.*



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

### Sunday, September 22

- 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

### Monday, September 23

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

### Tuesday, September 24

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

### Wednesday, September 25

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

### Thursday, September 26

- 7:00 am *Colin Caldwell Men's Bible Study*
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 11:45 am Staff Lunch and Devotion at Westminster Canterbury
- 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### 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

### Notes for Today's Worship

#### **Ushers and Greeters:**

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

#### **Worship Workshop Leader:**

Whitney O'Brian

#### **Lemonade and Cookies Host:**

Church Staff

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#### **Pastor on Call:**

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 [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 basket 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

### **Care and Nurture Church Notecards for Sale – Sundays starting TODAY**

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 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 – NEXT Sunday, September 29 @ 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 at Marcia's house. Contact [marcia@fpcly.org](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org) with questions, for the address, or to RSVP.

### **Weekday School Spaghetti Fellowship Dinner – Wednesday, October 16**

The Weekday School is hosting a community building spaghetti meal and we're ALL invited! Let's fellowship with them over a meal as one big First Presbyterian family. There will be spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and cookies to delight your tastebuds and there will be conversation and love to delight your soul. This is a ticketed FUNdraiser: \$6 per person or \$25 per family. Stay tuned for RSVP details!

### **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](mailto:alex@fpcly.org). All are welcome and invited to this fun-filled evening of outreach and fellowship!

### **Covenant Giving Packets are available TODAY!**

You are invited to join us in our ministry of "Covenant Giving." *What is Covenant Giving?* Covenant Giving is responding to God's abundant love for us by giving back to Him in all aspects of His blessings in our lives. This is our annual time of renewal of our covenant with God by committing to share: our time, talents and skills; in worship with our presence, participation and prayer, and our financial resources with the church. We encourage you to pick up a Covenant Giving packet today or a team captain will deliver one to you. Please prayerfully consider your commitment to a pledge for 2025 and give with abundance in the year ahead as we seek to continue our church ministries and balance our annual budget. We would be grateful for your commitment by Oct. 15, 2024. Thank you and God bless you,

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

You are loved! Have a great week!