

ONE

HOLY

CATHOLIC

APOSTOLIC



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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, coffee, cookies, and lemonade before and 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@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

October 13, 2024

**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

For the Beauty of the Earth

arr. Lloyd Larson

Joshua O'Dell- Director of Music and Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of the Day and Lord's Prayer

Almighty God, your love for us and for all people is powerful beyond measure. Your love is so vast that nothing will prevail against it. We know this love is trustworthy because of Jesus Christ: his life of compassion, death on the cross, and resurrection from the dead. In life and death, we belong to you, holy triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We confess to you, God, that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation. We have often failed in our calling to be your holy people, a people set apart for your divine purpose. We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope. We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice. We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice. We try to speak in your name without relinquishing our glories, without nourishing our souls, without relying wholly on your grace. Help us to make room in our hearts and lives for you. By your Holy Spirit, forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image. We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

Aurelia

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One.
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

“ONE HOLY CATHOLIC and APOSTOLIC”

Peter Thompson

John 17:20-24, Ephesians 4:1-6

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission: Covenant Giving

Offertory Anthem

Prayer of St. Francis

Allen Pote

Chancel Choir, Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley- soloist

*Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord Where there is doubt, let there be faith*

*Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace Where there's despair, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, let there be light Where there is sadness, let there be joy*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand, to be loved, as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive, and it is in pardoning, that we are pardoned.
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life, Amen!*

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

*Hymn: We All Are One in Mission

We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service to witness in God's name;
Our ministries are different, our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace
So every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission, we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

*Benediction

*Postlude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

arr. Cindy Berry

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

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: Connect, Engage, and Draw Near to God and Others
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, October 13

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

Monday, October 14

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

Tuesday, October 15

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

Wednesday, October 16

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am *Immerse* Bible Study
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon meeting
- 5:00 pm FPC Weekday School Spaghetti Dinner (RSVP needed)

Thursday, October 17

- 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 20

- 9:30 am Worship (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:45 am Lemonade and Cookies
- 11:00 am Sunday School Classes
- 11:00 am Town Hall (Fellowship Hall)
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

TRUNK OR TREAT – Sunday, October 27 @ 4pm

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 Collier (alex@fpcls.org).

Notes for Today's Worship

Key Scriptures:

John 17:20-24, Ephesians 4:1-6

Sermon Theme:

Marks of the Church

Ushers and Greeters:

Rob Cleland, Taylor Cleland,
Barkley Cleland, Nathan Gowen

Worship Workshop Leader:

Becky O'Brian

Lemonade and Cookies Host:

Laurie Sommardahl

Pastor on Call:

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

Members Helping Members

October:

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

Chancel Flower Guild October:

Betsy Burton

Prayer Joys 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.

Worship, Grow, Love, Serve

Town Hall- NEXT SUNDAY, October 20 @ 11 am

The Congregational Development Committee would like to invite you to join together for a Town Hall Forum. Topics of discussion may include updates on Chancel Project, Budget, Personnel, and other questions or comments you may have.

All Saints' Service of Remembrance- Friday, November 1 @ 11 am- FPCLY Columbarium

All Saints' Day is a time to honor those who have gone before us, passing from their earthly life into their eternal life. This service will include a reading of each name of those from this church community who have passed away in the last year, the ringing of a bell in honor of each person, and the sacrament of communion. There will also be a time to share the names of other individuals who have passed on followed by a bell toll.

Celebrating Catherine Adams- Sunday, November 3 following worship

The Personnel Committee would like to invite everyone to join in celebrating Catherine Adams, our former Communications Coordinator and Children's Ministry Assistant. In one way or another, whether you know it or not, Catherine's commitment to FPCLY and dedicated work as a staff member impacted you. Please plan to come say thank you and share your appreciation with her at a celebration brunch following worship on Sunday, November 3 in the Fellowship Hall. You are also welcome to share a love offering either by giving to the church (Susan Hall, Financial Manager) or preparing a card/gift and giving to her directly.

"The Greatest Gift" Advent Study- Beginning Sunday, November 3 @ 5 pm

The Education Initiative would like to invite you to an ADVENT STUDY on Sundays from 5:00-7:00PM. This wonderful study will feature "The Greatest Gift," by Ann Voskamp, and explore the lineage of Jesus' family up to his birth. Kara Byrne will lead us to Bethlehem! A sign-up form is located on the Hospitality Desk outside of the Fellowship Hall. The online sign-up link may be found in this week's "Happenings."

Covenant Giving campaign progressing—join us today!

Our Covenant Giving 2025 campaign has reached \$144,000 toward our \$700,000 goal. Thank you if you have already pledged! If you are still considering your commitment, we appreciate you and look forward to hearing from you by Oct. 15th, if possible.

God's abundant love inspires us to give abundantly and live abundantly in Him (II Cor. :8). You are invited to join us by pledging your time, talent and treasure to support the ministry of our church. This year we ask everyone to consider increasing their financial commitment so that we can raise \$50,000 more than last year and meet our budget expense goal. If you need a Covenant Giving packet, please call 434-384-6231) or visit the Church. Susan Hall, Church Finance Manager, or others will be glad to help you.

Thank you and God bless you, FPC Congregational Development Committee

Sunday Morning Schedule Change- Starting Sunday, November 24, 2024

After receiving a great deal of congregational input from the survey sent out in July and prayerfully assessing many options over the last couple of months, the Session voted on October 6th to change the Sunday morning schedule of opportunities at FPCLY. The following changes in the Sunday morning schedule will take effect Sunday, November 24, 2024. Our main **congregational worship will begin at 10:45 am with a time of fellowship preceding at 10:15 am.** All Sunday School classes will conclude on November 17 and plan resume at 9:30 am starting January 5, 2025. A listing of all classes, times, and locations will be available toward the end of the year. The Session would like to express gratitude to you for your patience during this discernment process. In considering various schedule possibilities, the Session's primary focus was on being sure to include congregational worship, congregational fellowship, and spiritual growth opportunities, as all three (alongside outreach/mission) are vitally important in being the church Christ calls us to be. As the doors of the church swing wide, we pray all of you, and anyone else we have yet to meet, will be able to connect and engage in the life and ministries of God's church here at FPCLY.