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<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>



# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and Peace to you all from our Lord Jesus Christ. It is so wonderful to be together as we worship God and begin this Advent Season. Advent means “coming.” But what is “coming”? The better question is who is “coming”? The answer to “who is coming” changes everything in life as we know it and provides for us, God’s children, the hope and assurance of things greater than anything we can possibly dream or imagine. Jesus is coming! Yes, Jesus has already been born in Bethlehem a couple thousand years ago, however, we, as the body of Christ, the church, are called to PREPARE, REMEMBER, PRAISE, ENCOUNTER, AND CELEBRATE Jesus’ coming each year as a way to reignite and reinvigorate the meaning Jesus’ coming has within our lives.

With Jesus comes life, light, and love! With Jesus comes grace, mercy, and forgiveness! With Jesus comes peace, hope, and joy! With Jesus comes healing, compassion, and miracles! With Jesus comes righteousness, strength, and courage! With Jesus comes transformation and salvation! For whom? For YOU! For ALL! For just this season of Advent and Christmas? NO! This season of Advent is just the beginning (the foundation if you will) of our PREPARING, REMEMBERING, PRAISING, ENCOUNTERING, AND CELEBRATING throughout the rest of the liturgical year and witnessing it manifest itself throughout our lives every day.

Here at First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg, we acknowledge the many blessings God has bestowed on us and trusted us with; we acknowledge the call and responsibility we have to share those blessings with one another; we acknowledge that we don’t always fulfill our call to be God’s church perfectly and thus need to ask God for forgiveness; we acknowledge our need for God’s grace, and the grace we can offer one another; we acknowledge the truth that we are all better together. Faith is a journey and one we believe God has called us and gifted us to walk together as God’s beloved children. Welcome to this journey!

Run the Race, Fight the Fight, Keep the Faith,

Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson

## Building Hospitality

Our building is a wonderful resource. 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 down the main hallway from the Foyer. The Elevator is also located down the main hallway from the Foyer. The Nursery is located on the ground floor just outside the elevator. In addition to locations, there are two supports available to worship participants should they be needed: Hearing-assist devices and Large Print Hymnals can be found in the Narthex. 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@fpcly.org](mailto:marcia@fpcly.org)).

## Interested in joining?

First Presbyterian has welcomed 20 new members over the last year, and we are ready to welcome more. 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](mailto:peter@fpcly.org)) or Alex Collier ([alex@fpcly.org](mailto:alex@fpcly.org)).

# Service of the Lord's Day... First Sunday in Advent: PREPARING

December 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

Prelude

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

arr. Curnow

## Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

Leader: God calls us to this season of anticipation

**People: God calls us to this time of worship.**

Leader: Here we will prepare for the arrival of Messiah.

**People: Let us watch for the One who makes all things new.**

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Bucky Neal and Holley Bell

### \*Hymn #2: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

### Call to Confession and Corporate Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, when life becomes busier, our tempers grow shorter. When bombarded with commercials our greed outruns our means. When faced with temptations, we too often indulge. May Advent this year be a season in which our focus is not on this world, but on you. (Silent Prayer of Confession)**

### Assurance of Pardon

### Hymn #5: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence *(verse 2 only)*

Picardy

King of Kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of Lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom -Kaley

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 1:5-17

"Prepared for the Lord"

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

## Minute for Covenant Giving

Call to Offering  
Offertory Anthem

**Keep Your Lamps**  
*Chancel Choir*

Andre Thomas

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
the time is drawing nigh.  
Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.  
Christian, journey soon be over,  
the time is drawing nigh!*

**\*Doxology**

Hymn #592

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*

**Prayer of Dedication**

**WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE**

**Benediction**

**\*Hymn #8: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

Truro

**Called Congregational Meeting**

*All are welcome to stay for the Congregational meeting,  
however, only members of FPCLY are able to speak with voice and vote on matters  
brought before them. Today, there are two purposes for the meeting:  
receive and approve the 2025 Terms of Call for The Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson and  
receive and elect nominations for the service of Ruling Elder (class of 2027).*

**Postlude**

**E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come**  
*Joshua O'Dell, Director of Music and Organist*

arr. Brunelle

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### 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  
**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



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN**

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

### Sunday, December 1- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Advent Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm "The Greatest Gift" Advent Study

### Monday, December 2

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

### Tuesday, December 3

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

### Wednesday, December 4

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

### Thursday, December 5

- 7:00 am *Colin Caldwell* Men's Bible Study
- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School

### Sunday, December 8- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Advent Worship- REMEMBERING (Sanctuary)
- 11:45 am Christmas Brunch
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm "The Greatest Gift" Advent Study

### Special Invitation from the FPC Weekday School:

All are invited to attend the joyful Christmas Concert hosted by the students and staff of the FPC Weekday School on Monday, December 9 @ 10 am. Lots of joy and singing will be present!

### Notes for Today's Worship

#### **Worship Leader/ Preaching:**

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson  
*Parish Associate for Pastoral Care*

#### **Key Scripture:**

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 1:5-17

#### **Sermon Theme:**

Prepared for the Lord

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

Kathryn Overstreet and Terry Adams

#### **Communion Preparer:**

Diane Stroud, Michael & Rebekah Trexler

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

Pat Adams

#### **Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, & Cookies:**

Debbie Goode

#### **Audio and Video Technicians:**

Will Absher (Audio)

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#### **Pastor on Call**

#### **December 2- December 8:**

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

#### **Members Helping Members**

#### **December:**

Elinor Ann Clark (434) 841-7778  
Diane Stroud (434) 485-3712

#### **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](http://fpcls.org/ministries/care-nurture.html).

### Connect with us!

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

**Email:** office@fpclly.org

**Website:** www.fpclly.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 fpclly.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

### **"Share the Warmth" Coat Drive – Through December 8th**

We've extended the collecting of coats until December 8<sup>th</sup>! A donation bucket is outside Alex's office for coats and warm clothing of any sizes and styles -- gently used or new items are welcomed!

### **Jericho Toy Barrell: November 17<sup>th</sup> through December 13th**

Jericho Baptist Missionary Chapel is hosting their 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Drive, benefiting kids and families in our area. Please drop off *NEW toys still in original packaging* in the red barrel in the Foyer through 12/13.

### **Care & Nurture Notecards – On Sale TODAY!**

These amazing cards make great gifts for the Holidays, or just for your use to send someone a thoughtful note! Representatives from C&N will be in the Narthex to help you get your own pack today. Proceeds help support the ongoing efforts of the Care and Nurture Committee to provide loving support to members of FPCLY throughout the year.

### **Seeking 100% participation in ministry & giving!**

As we approach Thanksgiving, *we are thankful* for all **135 commitments (from 50% of our congregants)** to our **Covenant Giving campaign for the 2025 Budget year**. Commitments now total **\$508,330 toward our goal of \$700,000**. This is a great start, and – if you haven't yet pledged--we are seeking 100% participation which will support our staff and all of the ministries at First Presbyterian.

**We have big plans for First Pres and we need everyone's pledge** to bring these plans to fruition. We invite *you* to return your commitment card and if possible, to prayerfully consider any increase you might be able to make over your giving this year. *God's abundant love inspires us to give abundantly and live abundantly in Him (II Cor 9:8)*. **Commitment cards are available at the Church Welcome Desk at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall** or call the church 434-384-6231. Thank you and God bless you, The Congregational Development Committee

### **Christmas Poinsettias "in honor" or "in memory" of a loved one!**

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia "in honor" or "in memory" of someone to help decorate the Sanctuary for worship during Advent, the time is upon us. The cost is \$20 per poinsettia (pot is 6"). You can place your order on the sheet in the front entry or by using the QR code to the right. The order deadline is December 5. You may take your poinsettia home after worship on Dec.22.



### **Updates from November 17 Stated Session Meeting:**

- Reception of Christopher and Brianna Hill into active membership by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Removal of Charles and Roberta Miller from membership.
- Approval of Wedding: Sarah Thomas to Andrew Capecci on August 8, 2025.
- Approval of Building Use: Opera on the James to host event in FH on March 9, 2025.
- Called Congregational Meeting for December 1, 2024 for two purposes: Approve 2025 Terms of Call for The Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson and Elect Elders for Class of 2027.
- Progress on prioritization of ministries in effort to balance the 2025 Income and Expense Budget.
- Approval of new step and handrail to be installed outside the Choir Stairwell entrance.