



1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503
(434) 384-6231 • www.fpclly.org • e-mail: info@fpclly.org
<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 CELEBRATE the coming of Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah. 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. Everyday we can ask ourselves, "Who is the Messiah to me?", and go about our day looking for ways in which God shows up and guides us. And yes, it is still Christmas, because Christmas is a season of 12 days leading to Epiphany on January 6. So, let's CELEBRATE!

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 Christmas? NO! Christmas 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 manifests 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 2nd 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).

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) or Alex Collier (alex@fpcly.org).

Service of the Lord's Day

First Sunday of Christmas

December 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

Prelude

Christmas Joy: Carol Medley!

arr. O'Dell

Joshua O'Dell, Director of Music and Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: God, our Creator from nothing you made our world.

People: You formed us, loved us and give us all that we need.

Leader: God, our Redeemer, you rescued us from sin and give us new life in Christ.

People: You comfort us, renew us and guide us into your truth.

ALL: Almighty God, for your gracious love for us, we praise and glorify your Holy Name.

***Hymn #37: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**

W Zlobie Lezy

Call to Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

God of compassion, have mercy on us as we make our confession. The year is soon spent and what we ought to have done, still awaits action. The joy and mystery of Christmas is forgotten too soon in the rush to move on. Help us to continue to keep our focus on Christ and the message of forgiveness that he brings. Empower us to follow in Christ's way... (Silent Prayer of Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

***Hymn #22: Angels, From the Realms of Glory** *(verse 4 only)*

Regent Square

All creation, join in praising God the Father. Spirit, Son
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.
Come and Worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn King.

***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

Hymnal, pg. 14

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom -Kaley

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: Colossians 3:12-17

"Put on Love"

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering
Offertory Anthem

Heirlooms
Joshua O'Dell, Director of Music and Organist

A. Grant

*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

*Hymn #49: Once in Royal David's City

Irby

Benediction

Postlude

The Birthday of a King
Joshua O'Dell, Director of Music and Organist

Neidlinger

*Fed by the Word that has been read, sung, proclaimed, and encountered,
Inspired by the presence of God who is with us in this place and with us wherever it is we are,
Let us all now depart from this time together, empowered and encouraged on the wings of the Holy
Spirit who gives us the courage, strength, and hope we need each and every day.*



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
Denise McDonald- '25, Outreach/ Cong. Development
Nancy Strosnider- '25, Finance
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
David Cheatham- '27, Personnel
Caskie Giles- '27, Finance/ Facilities
Bucky Neal- '27, Worship

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.

Sunday, December 29

10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)
4:00 pm Walk with God

Monday, December 30 through Friday, January 3 FPC Weekday School Closed

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

FPCLY Office Closed

12:30 pm Al-Anon meeting

Sunday, January 5, 2025

9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages
10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)- Ordination/ Installation
4:00 pm Walk with God

Chancel Choir and Ringers

Rehearsals begin again on Thursday, January 2. All are welcome to join and offer a "joyful noise to the Lord."

Sunday School is back January 5!

Check out the 2025 Winter/ Spring Educational Opportunities. There are classes for all ages and all stages of life and faith. Classes will begin at 9:30 am and time of coffee, lemonade, goodies, and cookies will help bridge our time to worship.

Youth Group will return January 19!

Meeting in the Middle (MS) and For Real (HS) gets back into gear at 5 pm on Sunday, January 19.

Notes for Today's Worship

Worship Leader/ Preaching:

Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Key Scriptures:

Colossians 3:12-17

Key Message:

Put on Love

Ushers and Greeters:

Kathryn Overstreet and Team

Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, & Cookies:

Bill and Ida Perkins

Worship Workshop Leader:

Pat Adams

Audio and Video Technicians:

Lloyd Agnew (Audio)

Pastor on Call

December 30- January 5:

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

Members Helping Members

December:

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

January:

Ginny McCraw (434) 528-1927
Sally deNiord (434) 384-8153

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.

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

Service of Ordination and Installation- Sunday, January 5th, 2025 at 10:45 am

Next Sunday, we have an incredible opportunity as a church to ordain and install new leaders into service. Bucky Neal will be both ordained and installed as Ruling Elder and David Cheatham, Caskie Giles, and Nancy Strosnider will all be installed as Ruling Elders. This service will focus on the power of the Holy Spirit as God calls and equips us to serve God's mission and ministry of the church in governance and leadership. A laying on of hands will be included as a sign of anointing them all into service and your participation is greatly appreciated.

Informational Gathering for 2025 Malawi Trip – Sunday, January 12th, 2025 at 12 pm

A trip to visit and work with our friends in Malawi is being planned for June of 2025. An informational meeting is being planned for Sunday, January 12th at 12pm in the Martin Gifford room. Lunch will be provided, and anyone that is interested in hearing more about our partnership OR that has even a remote interest in traveling with the group is encouraged to attend! Please RSVP to Alex by Sunday, January 5th.

Park View Café Dinner – Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025

During IMPACT Week in August we provided the Wednesday dinner for Park View Café for the first time, and it was amazing! Service & Outreach has suggested that we provide this meal a couple of times each year and landed on 1/22 as our first opportunity for the year. Sign-ups will start on Sunday (1/5) for cooking (1-3pm) and serving roles (3-6pm) that day, split between FPCLY and Park View. Contact Alex for more information!

Year-End Reminders from the Financial Manager

As we near the end of the calendar year, we share a few reminders regarding contributions and expense reimbursements. Please contact Susan Hall (finance@fpcly.org or 434-384-6231) with any questions.

- **2024 Contributions.** All contributions *received in the office by close of business or postmarked by December 31* will be posted to contribution statements for the 2024 tax year.
 - **Electronic Contributions (credit card or draft from your checking account).** You can make contributions through our website portal (www.fpcly.org) or through your bank's bill pay system. Should you need assistance, contact Susan by **December 30** to ensure everything clears for this tax year.
 - **Stock Gift Transfers.** If you plan to transfer stock for your contribution, *please complete those right away.* It takes time for the gifts to be transferred to our accounts & clear.
- **Expense Reimbursements.** Please submit requests for reimbursement for any 2024 expenses by **December 30.** Any checks written after December 31 will be charged to the 2025 budget.

Winter/Spring 2025 EDUCATION CLASSES

SUNDAYS - January 5 - May 18 (9:30am – 10:15am)

Children

NURSERY (9:00 am - 12:00 pm)

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

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! We hope to empower them to be Christ's light in the world around them!

College & 20-somethings

COLLEGE CARES

College age students & 20-somethings

College students and 20-somethings meet individually and in small groups when schedules allow. Weekly contact and outreach is made to arrange possible days/times to meet. Pastor Peter Thompson and Marcia Thom-Kaley are always available. If you would like to meet or join a small group get-together, please let Peter or Marcia know.

Youth

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 – FOR REAL!

9th - 12th Graders

Room 126 - 1st Floor

High School students will explore God's truth and love together through conversation, lived experiences and an array of supplemental material. Through shared discussions, youth will embrace the lessons learned through personal choice and hear the simple truths given by our loving God. (led by Barrett Thompson)

**YOUTH GROUP:
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
WILL MEET EVERY 2 WEEKS
BEGINNING JANUARY 19
(5:00-7:00PM) Fellowship Hall**



If you have questions regarding any educational offering, please contact Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley, Director of Educational Ministries at FPCLY at Marcia@FPCLY.org.

ADULT EDUCATION

Sundays @ 9:30AM

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! (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 pointing parents towards 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!

Weekdays

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HORIZON CIRCLE 2nd Monday of each month @ 10 am

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 Calls to Care for Neighbors and All Creation"* by Patricia Tull.

IMMERSE BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays @ 10 am

Martin-Gifford (Room #119) - 1st Floor

In this bible study for both *women and men*, 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 @ 7 am

Library (Room #100) - 1st Floor

The Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson will lead this Bible study for *men*. 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!