



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

celebrating & inspiring



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Welcome to First Presbyterian Church- Lynchburg, VA

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ!!! It is so wonderful to be together as we worship God this morning. In the spirit of this Eastertide Season, just one week removed from the glorious and celebrative Easter Sunday in which the tomb that once held Jesus' body is now empty, for Christ is Risen!, may we all remember that the beauty of God's goodness and glory surrounds us, God's mercy is new every morning, and the joy of the Lord shines like the noonday sun! I pray today, and the rest of this Easter Season, that you will feel and experience God's presence with you and know of the unconditional love and abounding hope that comes from our Lord.

Today in worship, I hope you will join me in welcoming Gary Williams as our worship leader and Alex Collier, Director of Outreach, as our guest preacher. Many, if not all of you, know Alex and have likely heard him lead and preach before. Alex has a true passion for all God's children and God's call for us, the church, to "love thy neighbor!" This goes hand in hand with Alex's call to serve FPCLY as the Director of Outreach. In his 3 years with FPCLY, Alex has worked faithfully to shift the narrative of outreach from transactional to transformational, and this has happened through opportunities such as Impact: Pursuing Change, Being Change and other community related outreach engagements with mission partners seeking to serve "neighbors" in need every day. Alex is a faithful disciple, son, husband, father, teacher, leader, and colleague in ministry.

Many opportunities abound here at First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg to engage, impact, and expect. Engage in the life and ministries of God's church and mission. Impact our neighbors by sharing the love and light of Christ. Expect God's faithfulness and goodness to unfold before our very eyes. We welcome and encourage all to walk together in being who God has created us to be in this time and place. God has blessed us and bestowed on us many gifts and we acknowledge the call and responsibility we have to share those blessings and gifts with one another. We try but we don't always get things right; therefore, we give thanks for God's gifts of grace and forgiveness and acknowledge the importance of offering grace to one another. May God continue to fill us and use us to bring glory to God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

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 1 (downstairs below the library) 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

April 27, 2025

*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

Welcome and Announcements

*Hymn #399: We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

Dunlap's Creek

We walk by faith and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear
From Christ Who spoke as none e'er spoke;
But we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side,
Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice,
And cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
And may our faith abound
To call on You when You are near
And seek where You are found:

That, when our life of faith is done,
In realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are,
With full and endless sight.

*Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess our doubts. When our childhood understandings fall away, we feel naked. When our long-held beliefs seem to crumble, we feel lost. When our convictions are questioned, we feel ashamed. Guide us into right paths, O God. Guide our feet into the way of peace; guide our hands to care for others; guide our hearts to love our neighbors. Call us back to You, O Christ, and renew our faith. When the ground is unsteady, loving God, put us back on right paths by doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with You. Amen.

(Please take a moment for Silent Prayer)

***Assurance of Pardon** (adapted from Psalm 16)

Leader: The Lord is our chosen portion and our cup. God binds us in, counsels our minds and instructs our hearts. God helps us to stand firm for justice, mercy, and peace.

All: When we fall, God lifts us up, forgives us, and remembers our sins no more. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

Hymn #579

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

***Sharing the Love, Joy, and Peace of Christ**

In response to God's love, grace, and forgiveness given as a gift to us, we are called and encouraged to share those gifts with others. During this time, we invite all to share the love, joy, and peace of Christ you have been given with those around you with a handshake, fist bump, peace sign, or hug. You may also use the words: "May the peace of Christ be with you." And a response would be, "And also with you."

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading: John 20:19-31

"...So I send you"

Alex Collier

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

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

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Minute for Covenant Giving

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem

***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 #421: The Church of Christ in Every Age

Wareham

The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage, and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat, and never live until they die.

Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood,
And teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord,
to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's liberating word.

*Benediction

Postlude

*Fed by the Word that has been read, sung, and proclaimed,
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.*



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN**

2025... A Year to... ENGAGE IMPACT EXPECT

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.fpcl.org.

Sunday, April 27

- 9:30 am Sunday School Classes for all ages
- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)... *Two Cents a Meal*
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm Middle & High School Youth Group

Monday, April 28

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

Tuesday, April 29

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

Wednesday, April 30

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 12:30 pm Al-Anon meeting

Thursday, May 1

- 6:00 pm Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 2nd

- 5:00 pm Parents' Night Out (FH)
- 5:00 pm College Cares at Diane Stroud's home

Sunday, May 4

- 9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages (Various Classrooms)
- 10:15 am Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies
- 10:45 am Worship (Sanctuary)... *Communion*
- 12:00 pm Josh O'Dell Celebration Reception
- 12:00 pm Eagles Group Luncheon (Officers' Room)
- 4:00 pm Walk with God

Pastor on Call... April 28 to May 4

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Thompson- 336.269.7270

Members Helping Members...

April

Persis Tinsley- 434.258.1029 & Brenda Sanzone- 434.426.8025

May

Jenny Osinga- 434-426-1675 & Marilyn Hartman 434-665-7043

Notes for Today, April 27, 2025

Ministers:

Congregation Gathered

Coffee, Lemonade, Goodies, and Cookies:

Laurie & Camp Sommardahl

Worship Leaders/ Preaching:

Gary Williams

Worship Leader

Alex Collier

Director of Outreach

Dr. Marcia Thom-Kaley

Children's Moment

Becky Giles

Minute for Covenant Giving

Key Scripture:

John 20:19-31

Message Title:

...So I send you

Music Leaders/ Accompaniment:

Joshua O'Dell

Director of Music and Organist

Chancel Choir

Choral Anthem

Ushers and Greeters:

David Cheatham, Maurice Hickson,

Terry Adams, Betsy Jones

Worship Workshop Leaders:

Nancy Ann Gowen

Video and Sound Technicians:

Jody Sprinkle, Will Absher, Lloyd Agnew

Chancel Flowers Today:

Chancel Guild

Connect with us!

Phone: (434) 384-6231 Email: office@fpcly.org

Website: www.fpcly.org



@firstpresoflynchburg



FPC Lynchburg

WHEN EVERYONE LEADS...

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To everyone involved in the Holy Week & Easter services: from flowers to communion prep, musicians to food prep, Ushers to set-up and clean-up and everything in between...many hands made for a beautiful week of worship!

Last Call for VBS Registrations!

The last day to register children for VBS is April 30th! Contact marcia@fpcly.org with any questions!

G. Rudolph Leonard Scholarship Grant – Due 3pm on May 2nd

This grant is available to active members of Presbyterian Churches located within a nine-mile radius of Lynchburg, VA. Applicants may be preparing for undergraduate or graduate study at a four-year accredited college, university, or theological institution. The scholarships will be awarded on merit and financial need, taking into consideration each applicant's academic record and test scores, community, school, & church activities, and other extracurricular activities. Contact finance@fpcly.org for guidelines or application.

Parents Night Out – May 2nd from 5:00-8:00pm

All parents of FPCLY with young children are being offered hearts and hands of support so you can have a date night, catch up on shopping, take a nap, or do whatever it is you do. The Presbyterian Women & Education Initiative will be hosting this event. Please sign up in the Foyer and complete a liability release form.

Josh O'Dell Celebration Reception... May 4

Join the Personnel Committee and the Director of Music & Organist Search Committee to celebrate Josh O'Dell being with us for six months as our wonderful Director of Music and Organist. We are so grateful for his work and dedication and will take some time following worship to thank him in the narthex!

Hymn Sing and Picnic... Sunday, June 1 @ 10:45am

Please join us for an outdoor worship service of hymns and communion, taking the place of our regular worship service. We will celebrate our Malawi team as they prepare to depart and kickoff our summer programs here at First Presbyterian Church. Following the service, there will be a picnic lunch, games, socializing and music. Casual attire and fun for the whole family. Hope to see you there!

FPCLY LEADERSHIP

Session

Diane Stroud- Clerk of Session,
Education (Chair)
Denise McDonald- Finance Dev. (Chair)
Nancy Strosnider-Finance
Mary Ann Tate- Personnel (Chair)
Marilyn Hartman- Outreach/ C&N
Sam Howe- Cong. Engagement (Chair)
Martin Knight- Facilities (Chair)/
Nominating
John Osinga-Worship (Chair)
Kathryn Overstreet- Education/
Weekday School Board Session Rep
David Cheatham- Personnel
Caskie Giles- Finance/ Facilities
Bucky Neal- Worship

Corporation

David Tate, President
Tom Pettyjohn, Vice-President
William Paxton, Treasurer
Diane Stroud, Secretary
Johnny Alford, At-Large
Trustees, Session

Other

David Tate, Finance (Chair)
Cathy Oakes, C&N (Chair)
Gary Williams, S&O (Chair)
Bill Perkins, Malawi Mission Partnership
Marilyn Hartman, Presbyterian Women
Becky O'Brian, Chancel Guild
Arline Ore, Wedding Guild
Joan Roberson, Bereavement
Becky Giles, Nominating (Chair)
Sue Thornton- Redmond & Diane Stroud,
First Pres Presents (Co-Chairs)

Staff

Alex Collier, Director Outreach
Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, Parish Assoc.
Susan Hall, Financial Manager
Maria Karalekas, Director FPC WDS
Joshua O'Dell, Director Music/Organist
Ellie Quillen, Communications Coord.
Kim Ryan, Nursery Care Provider
Jody Sprinkle, Director Facilities
Dr. Marcia Thom- Kaley, Director Educ.
Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson, Senior Pastor

