



1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503  
(434) 384-6231 · [www.fpclly.org](http://www.fpclly.org) · e-mail: [info@fpclly.org](mailto:info@fpclly.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>  
Radio Broadcast: 105.9 FM WLNI @ 9:30 am (1 week delay)  
Live Video Streaming: [youtube.com/FPCLynchburg](https://youtube.com/FPCLynchburg)



# 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 continue in 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.

***Worship Workshop, which typically follows the children’s moment, will not be meeting this morning as all children are either participating in the Christmas Play or welcomed and encouraged to remain in Worship for the Christmas Play. Nursery is available for children ages 0 to 3. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance locating the Nursery.*** 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@fpcl.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@fpcl.org) or Alex Collier (alex@fpcl.org).

## Second Sunday in Advent: REMEMBERING

December 8, 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

Prelude

**Silent Night/Still, Still, Still**  
*Rosa East, Violin & Josh O'Dell, piano*

arr. O'Dell & East

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Christopher and Brianna Hill

\*Hymn 324: Open My Eyes That I May See

Open My Eyes

\*Prayer of the Day

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### **"Remember the Manger"**

- ❖ **Scene: Angels**
- ❖ **Scene: Simeon, Anna, and Elizabeth**
- ❖ **Scene: Wisemen**
- ❖ **Scene: Shepherds**
- ❖ **Scene: Mary, Joseph, Inn Keepers**
- ❖ **Scene: Remember the Manger**
  - **Luke 2:1-9, Luke 2:10-14, Luke 2:15-20**

Anthem

#### **"Away in a Manger"**

*Children's Choir*

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle 'till morning is nigh.*

Anthem

#### **"What Can I Give Him?"**

*Noah Gowen*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what can I give him – give him my heart.*

## **Anthem**

### **“Go Tell It on The Mountain”**

*Go, tell it on the mountains over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountains that Jesus Christ is born!  
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heaven there shone a holy light.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born.  
God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

#### **\*Congregational Hymn: “Joy to the World!”**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

## **Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer**

### **Call to Offering**

### **Offertory Anthem**

### **Christmas Carol Medley**

#### **\*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 12: People, Look East**

Besancon

#### **\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**

**Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**  
*Josh O’Dell, Director of Music and Organist*

arr. Ellson

\*\*\*\*\*

*All are encouraged to remain seated for the postlude. Following the postlude, we welcome all to share the love, joy, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ with one another. This morning, all are also welcome to our congregational Christmas Brunch in the Fellowship Hall.*



**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 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 (Fellowship Hall)
- 4:00 pm Walk with God
- 5:00 pm Meet in the Middle and For Real (MS & HS Youth)

### Monday, December 9

- 9:00 am FPC Weekday School
- 10:00 am FPC Weekday School Christmas Concert (FH)
- 6:00 pm Scouts - Cub Pack 7
- 7:00 pm Scouts - Troop 7

### Tuesday, December 10

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

### Wednesday, December 11

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

### Thursday, December 12

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

### Sunday, December 15- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

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

**Presbyterian Women INVITE!** Monday, December 9, at 11:15 am in the Chapel, the Presbyterian Women would like to invite all women in the church to come and participate in the General Meeting and Christmas Brunch with Staff. Christmas stories will be shared and a great time filled with joy will be had by all.

**CALLING ALL YOUTH... AND PARENTS OF YOUTH! MS and HS youth... and their parents... are encouraged to join in on the Christmas food, fun, fellowship, and festivities this Sunday, December 8 from 5 to 8 pm.** Parents with elementary age and younger children, childcare will be provided at the church so you can enjoy time with the youth. All children will be fed and loved! **Our time will begin at the church in the Fellowship Hall with a great meal- parents bring a side dish to share if you can- and then we will carpool together to do some caroling. To wrap up our evening of Christmas festivities, we will end up at the O'Brian's for dessert and hot chocolate. Merry Merry Christmas to you all and we look forward to seeing you Sunday.**

### Notes for Today's Worship

#### **Worship Leaders/ Preaching:**

Cast and Crew of  
"Remember the Manger"

#### **Key Scripture:**

Luke 2:1-20

#### **Sermon Theme:**

Remember the Manger

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

Kathryn Overstreet, Caskie Giles  
Gary Williams, Beth Williams

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

Matt Fontana, Reid Patty,  
Rebekah Trexler

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

Lloyd Agnew (Audio)

#### **Pastor on Call**

#### **December 9- December 15:**

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).



# Worship, Grow, Love, Serve

## **Jericho Toy Barrel: 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.

## **Alternative Giving – December 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**

This year the Service & Outreach Committee is inviting you to think about giving to the ministries we support in a slightly different way. On the next 2 Sundays (12/15 and 12/22), members of S&O will be at the bulletin board off the Foyer presenting ways for you to give financially to our world ministry partners, as well as to learn about opportunities to pray for and volunteer with all of our community partners. Stop by to learn more!

## **Informational Gathering for 2025 Malawi Trip – Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 12pm**

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>.

## ***JOIN US IN THE SEASON OF GIVING!***

This is truly the *season of giving, as Christ was given to us as our Messiah*. God's hope, love, joy and peace are a gift we receive through Jesus. Now we have the opportunity to live abundantly and give back...just as he gave for us. God calls each of us to "love our neighbor as ourselves." Making a financial commitment to our church is a direct way to serve others in our church and our community.

So far 148 congregants (55%) have made commitments totaling \$549,260 toward our goal of \$700,000. As the body of Christ, *every member is important and greatly valued. We count on everyone and we appreciate each and every commitment*. If you have already pledged, we thank you! For others, we have attached a commitment card and cards are also available at the church. Our church Session is meeting this month to plan our budget for 2025, and we would be *most grateful for your commitment by December 31<sup>st</sup> or earlier*. **Thank you!** Congregational Development Committee-- *David Tate, Becky Giles, Alex Collier, David Cheatham, Susan Hall, Sam Howe, Denise McDonald, Nancy Strosnider, Peter Thompson, Michael Trexler, Donna Whitehouse, Gary Williams*

## **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@fpcl.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.fpcl.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.

# THE CHRISTMAS PLAY

## Cast Members (Speaking Parts)

Mary	Darby Byrne
Angel Gabriel	Whitney O'Brian
Joseph	Will Absher
The Child	Carrington Borel
Angel #1	Sarah Short
Angel #2	Meredith Borel
Simeon	Michael Trexler
Anna	Rebekah Trexler
Elizabeth	Sue Thornton-Redmond
Wiseman #1	Jason Landes
Wiseman #2	Charlie Landes
Wiseman #3	Alex Landes
Wiseman #4	Owen Williams
Head Shepherd	Jake Dahl
Shepherd #1	Luke Thompson
Shepherd #2	Lizzie Milam
Inn keeper	Rod Shuck
Inn keeper's Wife	April Shuck

## Cast Members (Non-Speaking)

Lambs	WDS & FPC 3-year-olds
Angels	WDS & FPC 4-year-olds
Manger Animals	WDS & FPC children
Junior Shepherds	WDS & FPC children
Wise People	WDS & FPC children



## The Crew

Director	Kara Byrne
Heavenly Chorus	Chancel Choir Singers
Angel & Animal Wranglers	Jenny Osinga, Sally Leslie, Connie Messerschmidt, Brandon Landes, Kinkadee Garland
Costume Team	Diane Stroud and Nancy Ann Gowen
Sign Captain & Wrangler	Barkley Cleland
Food Team	Peter Thompson and a multitude
Queen of Cookies	Gwen Maddox & the Presbyterian Women
Props Captain	Jody Sprinkle
Extra Help in General	The Fabulous Parents
Shepherd/Angel Support	Brittany DeRise, Rob DeRise, Sarah Sanzone, Shea Gravely, Kinkadee Garland
Talent Coordinator	Marcia Thom-Kaley

**Musicians** Josh O'Dell (piano), Rosa East (violin), and Noah Gowen (soloist)



## Lambs (3-year-olds)

Hollis Deacon  
 Chloe Burke  
 Mary Gowen  
 Josephine Absher  
 Hunter Bryan  
 Michaela Sanzone  
 Page Bauer  
 Hatcher Tinsley



## Other Manger Animals (5-year-olds)

Georgia Absher  
 Penelope Burke  
 CeCe Raia  
 Atticus Bryan  
 Ruby Sweeney  
 Shep Sanzone  
 Susanna Pinkard  
 Margot Robertson

Izora Cayton  
 Emmett Collier  
 Lincoln Lee



## Angels (4-year-olds)

Noah Jacob Valencia  
 Rooney Nelsen  
 Maggie Gowen  
 Graham Bilodeau  
 Reese Epperson  
 Zachariah Hutchison

Cassidy Elcan  
 Millie DeRise  
 Addie DeRise  
 Hannah Lee



## Junior Shepherds & Wise People

Nash Nelsen  
 Noah Gowen  
 Ray O'Brian  
 James Gravely  
 Peter Baldwin  
 Lewis Pinkard  
 Alden Howe

Sawyer Howe  
 Emma Gray  
 Noah Thompson  
 Harriet Bauer  
 Olive Elcan  
 Witt Tinsley  
 Haven Collier  
 Scotty Grimes



## Junior Angels

Abbie Ferrell  
 Harper Gravely  
 Babs Bilodeau  
 Goldie Bilodeau  
 Ryleigh Grimes  
 Katherine Winfrey  
 Elsa Wolff  
 Ella Grace Thompson

## Youth Guides and Helpers

Josie Milam  
 Althea O'Brian  
 Cullen O'Brian  
 Abbie Baldwin  
 Virginia Baldwin  
 Barkley Cleland  
 Sam Thompson  
 Jeb Milam  
 Layla Woods  
 Riley Grubbs



# Experiencing the MESSIAH

## Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Christmas, prefaced by the season of Advent, is nothing short of sacred. The reason for this is the coming of our Messiah. God's hope, love, joy, and peace, which are a gift we receive from Jesus, await us in this season and serve as the foundation of all our life's experiences. *Experiencing the Messiah* will begin on December 1st and carry us on a week-by-week journey of preparing, remembering, praising, encountering, and celebrating.

### Sundays @ 10:45am

Nursery will be available for all Sunday morning services during this season beginning at 10:15am, as well as the 4pm service on Christmas Eve. *Worship Workshop* will not happen on December 8th, but will be available on the other Sundays. Sunday School classes have concluded for the 2024 calendar year and will resume in January.

#### December 1 - 1st Sunday of Advent

John proclaimed, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" This invitation from John is really an imperative. **Preparing** is a necessary step in any journey, for our hearts and minds and lives need to be ready for what is about to take place- namely the coming of the "Messiah", Christ our Lord. The Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care, will be helping us unpack what it means to be "Prepared for the Lord."



#### December 8 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

**Remember** the Christmas story (with a twist)! The Christmas Play, as told by Children and Adults of our church community, reminds us of where our attention should be during this special time of year. **After worship, all are welcome to join for Christmas brunch in the Fellowship Hall, which will include cookie decorating! Bring a friend!**



#### December 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Join us for a thoughtful journey of **praise** through the Christmas story with familiar scripture readings and beautiful Christmas music provided by our Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, and Chamber Orchestra.

#### December 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent

**Encounter** elements of what Advent truly means through hands-on and conversational opportunities following a shortened worship service in the Sanctuary.



### Christmas Eve - December 24

#### 4:00pm

Await the light of the world with a kid-friendly service of carols, communion, and candlelight! Pastor Pete will share a special children's moment. Festive attire is encouraged, including your pajamas! Nursery care will be available!

#### 11:00pm

Embrace the coming of the Lord with this special service of carols, communion, and candlelight in the Sanctuary! Nursery care will be **not** be available.