

THE REV. DR. MARVIN LINDSAY

Biography

I was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina. My parents were public school teachers and the children of farmers. I have a younger brother and sister. They, their families, and my mother still live in North Carolina. I remember reluctantly helping my father in the garden on hot, humid summer afternoons, but I seem to have caught the great outdoors bug from him. Today I enjoy gardening, running, hiking, and bicycling in most any weather.

I'm a cradle Presbyterian, baptized as an infant. My experiences in our high school youth group and on presbytery mission trips cemented my relationship with Christ and his church.

I attended N.C. State University. While there, I got involved with Presbyterian Campus Ministry. That's where I met my future wife, Laura. My faith continued to grow and deepen in college. Faith sustained me during a ten-month period when my father suffered from terminal cancer. In college I also heard a call to ordained ministry.

In 1994 I graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta. That same year, Laura and I married and moved to Sweet Springs, Missouri where I served two small churches and she worked for the local newspaper. We returned to North Carolina in 1997 after the birth of our son, Ethan. I was a solo pastor in Salisbury NC for 11 years. A second child was born to us in 2000, who began to transition from male to female in 2017. Her name is Lindsay Andrews. In 2008 we moved to Richmond, Virginia, and I enrolled in Union Seminary's Ph.D. program in the History of Christianity. Laura worked in Development for the seminary and later, for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. In 2016 I was called to be the Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, Missouri. The next year I (finally!) defended my dissertation.

Here in Columbia, Laura is the office manager for a counseling practice. We are legal guardians for Ethan, who is autistic. He works at a local pizza restaurant. Lindsay attends a local community college.

I am honored to be called to serve First Presbyterian Church in Haddonfield. Laura and I are excited about making a new home in the Garden State! Ethan will be joining us while Lindsay remains in Columbia.

Statement of Faith

I am a sinner, reconciled to God by my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus's life of self-sacrificial love saves me from living a trivial life. His death on the cross pays the debt that I owe to God, a debt I could never repay on my own. His resurrection frees me from the powers of sin and death. Ascended on high, Jesus rules over all. He calls me to put aside false gods and competing loyalties and follow him in the way of self-denial, cross-bearing, and meditation on the future life. Both the call of Christ and my response are grace—gifts I do not deserve, for which I can take no credit.

Because Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior, I know where I have come from and where I am going. I know that everything is called into being by the loving and powerful artistry of the Creator. Through faith in Christ, the awe I feel in the face of nature's beauty is transformed into praise and thanksgiving to God. Because we are finite, sinful creatures, God's purposes for the Creation are at times a mystery to us. But we know that God has been at work in the world, especially through God's covenant people Israel. When we face an uncertain future, we trust that the last word God will speak over this world will be the same as the first: "It is very good."

Because Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior, the Spirit of God has grafted me, a wild branch, onto God's vine, the Church. The Risen Christ commissions us to make disciples of all nations. By God's grace, the vine grows and bears fruit as we fulfill Christ's commission. A "cradle Presbyterian," I am thankful to be grafted onto this particular branch of the vine, where the ministries of clergy and laity are equally valued, and there is a strong commitment to education, mission, and cooperative work for justice and peace.

The Holy Spirit has planted the Word of God, disclosed in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, deep within my heart, where it grows and bears fruit. The sacrament of Baptism is the sign that I belong to God's covenant community. It is the sign that the blood of Christ has washed away my sins once and for all. In the sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ feeds me with his very self and quenches my thirst for him in the presence of all the saints, living and dead. God uses these signs of water, bread, and wine to seal the Word on our hearts.

I believe that the Spirit has called me to servant leadership that equips the saints to witness to Jesus Christ. Daily I pray for the renewal of the Church and the coming of God's kingdom on earth.

From the Pastor Nominating Committee: Why/How We Chose Marvin Lindsay

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) feels unanimously blessed to have selected Marvin Lindsay to be the next Senior Pastor/Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield. Our first meeting as a PNC, with Executive Presbyter Debbie Brincivalli, was on September 16, 2021. At that meeting, Debbie prayed that God would grant us the discernment to find the pastor He had already chosen for us. At every meeting after September 16th, the PNC continued to ask God for discernment and wisdom, and we had unwavering confidence that the good Lord would lead us to the right person.

Over the course of the next nine months, we prayerfully reviewed 80 Pastor Information Forms (PIF), without regard to gender or ethnicity. We conducted Zoom interviews with four candidates. Two other candidates, to whom we expressed interest in an interview, decided to withdraw from consideration.

We were first drawn to Marvin Lindsay by his PIF. His answers to the main questions were well written and heartfelt. In particular, the way he described the ministry setting to which he felt called resonated with us and aligned perfectly with our approach to ministry at FPCH. Marvin has a deep commitment to his craft, as evidenced by his continuing education and his Ph.D. in the History of Christianity. He likes to teach, and has an approachable, caring personality coupled with a good sense of humor. And, based on available videos, he is a strong preacher. His candidacy was supported by excellent references.

After a second interview in April, both parties agreed that a visit was the appropriate next step. Marvin and his wife Laura visited in early June, and that connection only solidified the PNC's sense that God had led us to Marvin. The committee was able to spend some quality time getting to know Marvin and gaining an understanding of some hard knocks in both his personal and church life, and he is a stronger, more compassionate person as a result. We found both Marvin and Laura to be humble and delightful people.

The PNC met with the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) on July 5th, during which we defended our process and our choice of Marvin as our next Senior Pastor. The COM approved our choice and that set in motion today's congregational meeting.

We were struck by a sermon Marvin preached in July of last year – “What does God have in store for you?” It was a message that challenged the congregation to find ways to serve.

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Indeed, we look forward to what God has in store for FPCH, with Marvin and Nikki as our pastoral team.

We'd like to thank the congregation for entrusting this process to us. It has been an honor to serve on this Pastor Nominating Committee.

Peter Hurd

Brian McGlade

Bud Miller

Deb Nussbaum

Margaret O'Neil

Andy Reinecker

Maggie Sell

Rebeca Silva de Foote



The Lindsay Family – Marvin, Ethan, Laura, and Lindsay Andrews