

INTRODUCING OUR CANDIDATE FOR  
PASTOR  
**REVEREND BILLY KLUTTZ**



***The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington (FPCA) is grateful for all your prayers, encouragement and patience while we diligently and humbly undertook the holy task you entrusted to us – discerning who God is calling to be our next Pastor. The team lovingly and thoughtfully reviewed nearly 100 Personal Information Forms (PIFs) received through the PCUSA’s Church Leadership Connection (CLC) and self-referrals after developing and submitting our Ministry Information Form (MIF) describing FPCA today and the leadership qualities and ministry opportunities the congregation identified for moving us into the future.***

While we learned about many pastors doing wonderful work in faith communities across the country (and beyond), one candidate overwhelmingly caught the attention of the PNC due to his incredible passion for living and sharing the Word of God - the Reverend Billy Kluttz. Like beautiful threads of varied lengths and breadths all knotted into a rich tapestry, his manifold skills, broad experiences and diverse education weave together to reveal God’s abundant love and grace. Together, these gifts and talents align so well with the realities and needs of FPCA identified from your thoughtful and sincere input earlier in the call process. Ever faithful yet pragmatic, we spoke extensively with Pastor Billy and those who have worked with him in a variety of settings

to verify his fit with us. Over and over again, we heard enthusiastically of his compassionate pastoral care, warmth, creativity, organization, energy and joy for serving the Lord. We quickly perceived his engaged and engaging servant leadership, which was acknowledged and acclaimed by all with whom we spoke.

While fairly fresh to ordained leadership, Rev. Kluttz’s call to live out God’s command to care for God’s people and creation has been long and strong. He has led and fed God’s children inside and outside of ministry sites - large to small, rural to urban.

The PNC/Session Handbook from the National Capital Presbytery Committee on Ministry poses a question when closing the discernment process: “Are you excited, enthusiastic and confident that this candidate will be successful at our church?” We, your PNC, boldly proclaim: “YES!”

We praise God for bringing us to this juncture in FPCA’s ministry and look with excited hope to our future together. We ardently pray that the Holy Spirit now moves your hearts and minds to affirm this inspired brother in Christ by voting to call Rev. Billy Kluttz to lead FPCA as we continue to collectively create opportunities to worship and bear witness to the One who created, redeemed and sustains us.

*Amen*



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**Dear First Presbyterian Church,**

You are already an inspiration to me. In getting to know your congregation and ministry this past year, I have been impressed by your ability to continue the work of Jesus no matter what challenges present themselves. Pandemics, pastoral transitions, and problems of the day seem to be no match for your love for Christ, for one another, and for your neighbors.

That is just one of the many reasons I am excited to be called as your next pastor. You have already begun the important work of celebrating your 150 year legacy. Accordingly, my question to you in this moment is what are your dreams for the next 150 years at First Presbyterian? Or, perhaps more importantly, what are God's dreams for this congregation that are already moving and stirring in your soul? I am thrilled for the opportunity to work with a congregation that has such a strong foundation and is well equipped to do the creative work of following Jesus in this liminal moment.

I want you to know that I am a relational leader. My education and background in non-profit administration have given me many formal skills for being a pastor, but my primary tool for leadership is relationships. I have loved getting to hear the macro stories of First Presbyterian, but I am equally excited to hear your personal stories and how they harmonize.

I want you to know that I care deeply about worship. My vision for worship is participatory, communal, and intimately connected to the context of our neighborhood and our lives. I have had the blessing of leading worship as a Christian educator, a musician, and a preacher. I cannot wait to bring those varying perspectives to our work together.

I want you to know that I care deeply for you. I have already been praying for you and I will continue to be holding you in prayer. I covet your prayers, as well, during this transition. I think there are few honors greater than getting to pray for and alongside God's people.

And, finally, I want you to know that I love God as best I can with all of my heart, soul, and mind. I learned about God's love for me in a church not so different from yours and it is the gift of my life to be able to share a similar message to all of us who are hurting and hungering still.

Peace,  
Billy

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## ABOUT PASTOR BILLY

**Rev. Billy Kluttz currently serves as Associate Pastor at Govans Presbyterian Church (USA) in Baltimore, Maryland. At Govans, he leads community engagement work, youth and young families ministries, and communications for the congregation. Rev. Kluttz was ordained in 2019 by the National Capital Presbytery and has served several congregations in northern Virginia and Washington, DC.**

Prior to ordination, Rev. Kluttz worked in non-profit communications, fundraising, and program management in addition to serving as a director of music for local Presbyterian congregations. He has a passion for creative ministry that engages church communities in mission and intergenerational worship that welcomes people of all ages and abilities.

Rev. Kluttz graduated with honors from Wesley Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in 2016; at Wesley, he was awarded the Interpretation Award for Excellence in Biblical Studies and the Bishop's award scholarship. He also holds a master of public administration degree with a concentration in nonprofit management from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

He completed clinical pastoral education at Frederick Memorial Hospital and Hospice in Frederick, Maryland and interim pastor training through the Presbyterian Church USA's Synod of Lakes and Prairies. He is currently completing a Doctor of Ministry degree in church leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary. He has a specific research interest in church metrics, program evaluation, and the confluence of the non-profit and congregational spheres.

A native of North Carolina, Billy loves all things southern, especially barbecue, country music, and the UNC Tar Heels (everyone needs a fault!). He is an avid skier and active traveler. In 2021, he earned the Diplome Approfondi de Langue Francaise; he volunteers as a French-language translator for Q Christian Fellowship.

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## FORMAL EDUCATION

**Doctor of Ministry - Degree in Progress**  
Program focus in Church Leadership  
Wesley Theological Seminary  
*May 2024 anticipated graduation date*

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**Master of Divinity with Honors**  
Wesley Theological Seminary  
*May 2016*

- Received Interpretation Award for Excellence in Biblical Studies
- Received Bishop's Award Scholarship

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**Master of Public Affairs with Honors**  
Degree concentration in non-profit management

Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs  
*June 2013*

- Award Recipient, Brady K. Howell Student Address

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**Bachelor of Arts with Highest Honors**  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
*May 2012*

## WHAT WE HEARD FROM COLLEAGUES AND ASSOCIATES

☞ *I've known Billy since his seminary days at Wesley. He is thoughtful, generous, and creative. He is theologically sophisticated while also being pastorally open and accessible. He also has mad musical chops!*  
*Rev David Ensign*

☞ *Billy is a great listener, leader and teammate. I have seen him make many feel welcomed and know that they are loved by God.*  
*Cali Bronkema*

☞ *Billy is bright, compassionate, fair, observant of doing the right thing, and of the church doing the right thing. He is kind, a good preacher and passionate about social and racial justice. Engaged and energetic, he loves people across the board and brings fresh and new ideas, innovating in worship, while working to ensure worship is integrated across music, preaching and the lectionary and church calendar.*  
*Mary Hamlin Spencer, former colleague*

☞ *Billy was remarkable to work with at Immanuel. He is inviting, very pastoral and sees the need for new church members as well as member retention and outreach.*  
*Elizabeth Pruchnicki, current recruiter at Wesley Theological Seminary and former colleague at Immanuel Presbyterian*

☞ *He has so much energy, he would bring in so much positive energy. He is well organized.*  
*Rev. Anita Hendrix, retired pastor, member, Govans Presbyterian Church*



## WHAT ELSE YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PASTOR BILLY

- My favorite monument in the DC region is probably the Titanic Memorial. I used to live near it on the southwest DC waterfront. I love how seemingly remote it is and the quiet you can find in the city there next to the water.
- I grew up with lots of animals at our family's home in North Carolina, including two goats and a half-wolf. I still love animals to this day, but I am glad not to have a goat in my apartment.
- I am a very adventurous eater. I love trying new foods, but I hate ketchup.
- I am a political nerd and still love staying up late to watch election returns.
- I am an avid skier.
- I love to travel. I am currently preparing for a two week hiking trip in Indonesia.
- I love to read, but I am easily distracted, so I am usually reading six to eight books at a time. Sometimes I remember what happens in them.
- I love country and bluegrass music. I make an annual pilgrimage to Wolf Trap to hear Mary Chapin Carpenter.
- I tried learning to play the banjo; I am still seeking God's forgiveness for that.
- I'm not sure if I have a favorite Bible verse, but, if I did, it would probably be Deuteronomy 30:19b: "Choose life so that you and your descendants may live."



## STATEMENT OF FAITH

### GOD CHOOSES US IN CREATION

At the beginning, creation was called good. Despite sin's atrocities, nothing can rob creation of God's claim.

### GOD CHOOSES US IN JESUS

Jesus showed the specificity of God's love. Jesus gave communities captivating Good News to live into and share. Jesus taught people to practice and claim God's Reign. Jesus proved God's commitment through his life, death, and resurrection. Our crosses cannot break God's solidarity; even our sin is overcome by God's fidelity.

### GOD CHOOSES US IN THE SPIRIT

The same Spirit who hovered over the water and was present in Christ's breath works among us today. The Spirit opens Scripture, enables faithful living, and gifts the Sacraments. The church's ongoing presence and unity are God's gifts.

### WE ARE CHOSEN FOR COMMUNITY

The Trinity is a community of equality and we model ourselves in God's likeness. The church is the center of Christian discipleship because the Gospel is always personal, but never individualistic. The Spirit calls us together and enables us to live and work. God initiates us into community through baptism and nourishes life through communion.

### WE ARE CHOSEN FOR SERVICE

The community discerns our call, works with us, and offers accountability and encouragement. The church interprets Scripture for our context today and scripture testifies to Jesus and continues to inspire and challenge us. This is how we know Scripture is God's Word, because the Spirit continues to speak through these Sacred stories.

### WE ARE CHOSEN FOR GOD'S REIGN

The same Spirit who hovered over the water and was present in Christ's breath works among us today. The Spirit opens Scripture, enables faithful living, and gifts the Sacraments. The church's ongoing presence and unity are God's gifts.

### THROUGH CHRIST'S CHOOSING, WE WERE FREED FROM THE SIN THAT WE CANNOT ESCAPE ON OUR OWN

The resurrection manifests God's triumph over death and dominance. Through Christ, we are forgiven and set free so that we might set others free.

### GOD CHOOSES US IN LIFE AND GOD CHOOSES US IN DEATH

God claims us again in death and receives us into a relationship without bounds. And so, we live life and embrace death at peace, confident of God's ongoing choice. That is our hope and that is the world's hope. We do not know how the end will come. We only know that God will be present, loving us toward reconciliation and peace even then. That's knowledge enough to labor and rest. That's knowledge enough for now.



THANKS BE TO GOD.

SUN 5  
11AM

Worship with communion led by Rev Klutz; and after worship: meeting of the congregation to vote to call Rev Klutz to our church and approve the proposed terms of call

SAT 4  
2-4PM

Open house to meet Rev Klutz in welcome area outside sanctuary

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The Pastor Nominating Committee of  
First Presbyterian Church of Arlington invites you to join us:

**FEBRUARY 2023**



**First Presbyterian Church Arlington**  
601 N. Vermont Street  
Arlington, VA 22203