



*The Vision of the Congregation: We see ourselves as the embracing arms of Jesus Christ for each other, for the community and for the world.*

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Seventeenth Sunday**  
**after Pentecost**  
**September 20, 2015**

<p><b>SHARE</b> the amazing love of God</p>	<p><b>REFLECT</b> the light of Jesus Christ</p>	<p><b>LIVE</b> and serve joyfully in the Spirit's power</p>
757.397.3622	515 COURT STREET, PORTSMOUTH, VA 23704	WWW.FPCPORTS.ORG

### Coming Events

Sunday, Sept. 20  
9:30 Breakfast  
9:50 Children's music  
10:00 Sunday school  
11:00 Worship

Monday, Sept. 21  
7:00 Session meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 23  
6:45 Bells  
7:15 Choir

Sunday, Sept. 27  
9:30 Breakfast  
9:50 Children's music  
10:00 Sunday school  
11:00 Worship

Wednesday, Sept. 30  
6:45 Bells  
7:15 Choir

Thursday, Oct. 1  
6:00 Backpack packing

Sunday, Oct. 4  
9:30 Breakfast  
9:50 Children's music  
10:00 Sunday school  
11:00 Worship

Tuesday, Oct. 6  
10:30 Women's Circle

Wednesday, Oct. 7  
6:45 Bells  
7:15 Choir

Sunday, Oct. 11  
9:30 Breakfast  
9:50 Children's music  
10:00 Sunday school  
11:00 Worship with the  
Lord's Supper, including  
receiving gifts for \$6 a  
backpack

*Reminder: The Court St.  
and King St. doors will be  
locked during worship.  
Please enter through the  
sanctuary during worship.*



***\*Please rise in body  
and spirit.***

### *Made One by Christ*

#### **\*Welcome and Call to Worship from Psalm 126**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

then it was said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."

**The Lord has done great things for us, and  
we rejoiced.**

News for the Good of the Church

Prelude "Dundee" Young

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

**\* Hymn #371  
"New Songs of Celebration Render"**

### *Clothed by Christ*

Listening for the silence of God followed by the  
"Gloria Patri"

**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.**

#### **Corporate Prayer of Confession**

It is only by the power of God that we are  
able to stand against evil. Trusting in God's  
grace, let us confess our sins.

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not  
followed Your way. We sow the seeds of  
conflict while You seek the harvest of peace.  
We argue about who is greatest while You  
welcome the last and least. Forgive us, God  
of grace. Draw near to us this day with the  
wisdom of Your word, and teach us how to  
serve you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Corporate Prayer of Confession (continued)**

Now stand firm in your faith, covered by the saving grace of God and ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

Sharing of Christ's Peace

**\* Song of Praise, Hymn #453 "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"**

*Sharing Christ's Promise*

Prayer of Illumination

First Reading                      Genesis 18: 1-15, 21: 1-7                      pages 13, 15-16

**\* Hymn #382                      "Heaven Is Singing for Joy"**

Gospel Reading                      Mark 10: 27                      page 878

Sermon                      "The Narrow Escape"  
The Rev. Dr. Kerry Knox Westerwick

*A Life of Blessing*

Anthem                      "Sing We Now of Gladness"                      Young

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Musical Offering                      "Flight of Angels"                      Handel

**\* Doxology Hymn #606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

**\* Affirmation of Faith – the Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

You may begin your prayers at the first chime sound. At the sound of the second chime, we will conclude our prayers together.

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,**

**as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power**

**and the glory forever. Amen.**

### *A Life of Blessedness*

\* Hymn #550 "Give Praise to the Lord"

\* Charge and Benediction

The grace of our Lord, Je-sus Christ, and the love of God and the  
fel - low - ship of the Ho - ly Spir-it, be with us for ev - er - more

A Blessing in Music

"Recessional of Joy"

arr. Hopson

### *Sing We Now of Gladness*

*Sing we now of gladness;  
every care is driven away.*

*Sing we now of gladness.*

*Sing we now away with sadness;  
all of joy we sing today.*

*Through the night of sin and terror,  
through the days of toil and care,  
Thou hast led us, oh how gently,  
through the valleys of despair.*

*Alleluia, Amen.*

*Sing we now of gladness;  
now away with sadness  
every care is fading away.*

*Sing we now a song of joy!*

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## **Welcome to our visitors!**

We hope that you find our congregation a welcoming one.  
Your presence enriches our worship of God.

The flowers in the sanctuary today, given by Raymond Rodrigues, honor Oralie Wilhite's birthday.

**Sign-up for October ministries!** The October sign-up sheet is located in the fellowship hall.

**Volunteers are needed for backpack packing** on Thursday, October 1, at 6:00 in the fellowship hall.

**The Scriptures are read from the pulpit Bible.** The pew Bibles are a slightly different translation. To follow the exact text, use your smart phone/tablet, go to [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) and select the NRSV version.

### **Prayer List**

Jeff Baker (Norma Halterman's brother-in-law), Betty Bartlett,  
Richard Butler (Paul's cousin), Kyle Craig (Kerry's cousin),  
Ronald Curry (Grace Yingling's son), Jackie and Tyler Forsythe,  
Benjamin Gerlach (Pat Sparks' grandson),  
the Goodwin family (neighbors of Cecilia and Alfred Fry),  
Stephanie Green, Mildred Humphrey (Lane Pittman's mother),  
Joe Jennings, Mark Leonard (Claudia Laughlin's brother),  
Agnes McFadden, Bob Pomeroy, Jr. (Diane Griffin's brother),  
Marina Reimann, Carl Rhodes, Georgie Stewart (David's mother),  
the Winkler and Powell families,  
Dorothy Wooldridge (friend of Carl Rhodes)

### **Everyone suffering with cancer and facing surgery**

#### **Our friends at home, especially**

Margaret Glynn, Lanier Halterman, Frances Hardy,  
AT and Nancy Mayo, Ann Michaluk, Sue Parker, Lane Pittman,  
Burma and Leon Smith, Frances and Harvey Spiers, Robert Westbrook,  
Patrice and Phil Winkler, Joyce Wright, Grace and Harold Yingling

### **Leading in worship today**

The Rev. Dr. Kerry Knox Westerwick

Mrs. Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries

Reader: Kay Kidd

Ushers: David Culpepper

Counters: Rudy Simpson, Bill Westbrook

### August Offerings

9/6	\$ 3,797.00	9/20
9/13	\$ 2,297.00	9/27
		MTD \$ 6,094.00

### August Attendance

9/6	Worship	26	Sunday school	13
9/13	Worship	35	Sunday school	14
9/20	Worship		Sunday school	
9/27	Worship		Sunday school	

The church office will be open on Wednesdays only, from 10:00 – 1:30.  
Please call the pastor at other times.

In order to prepare the bulletin in a timely manner, all notices should be sent to the pastor ([pastor@fpcports.org](mailto:pastor@fpcports.org)) and the bulletin editor ([rjrodriguesiii@yahoo.com](mailto:rjrodriguesiii@yahoo.com)) no later than noon Wednesday.

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### Session

The Rev. Dr. Kerry Knox Westerwick, Moderator of Session  
Karen Diggs, Class of 2015, Clerk of Session  
Worship, led by Agnes McFadden and David Culpepper  
Congregational Fellowship, led by Oralie Wilhite  
Administration, Property and Finance, led by Paul Butler  
Mission and Outreach, led by Jennifer Patgorski  
Christian Formation, led by Gail Pittman

Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to contact the appropriate elder with their comments and suggestions.

### Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Kerry Knox Westerwick, Pastor	397-3622 ext. 202
Mrs. Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries	397-3622 ext. 203

<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Ministries</u>	
9/8 Sonia Powell	<b>9/6</b>	
9/10 Collin Taylor	Sun. Sch. Paul Butler	
9/15 Rudy Simpson	Brkfst. Diane Griffin	
9/20 Pat Rayburn	PLBC	
Karen Diggs	<b>9/13</b>	
9/23 Patrice Winkler	Sun. Sch. Paul Butler	
Alfred Fry	Brkfst. Rodrigues/Wilhite	
9/24 Leon Smith	PLBC Green Acres Presbyterian	
C. C. Smith	<b>9/20</b>	
9/25 Oralie Wilhite	Sun. Sch. Kerry Westerwick	
9/28 Agnes McFadden	Brkfst. Arriana/Monica	
	PLBC Kerry Westerwick	
<i>Missing a birthday?</i>	<b>9/27</b>	
<i>Please contact:</i>	Sun. Sch.	
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