



First Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2015

SHARE the amazing love of God	REFLECT the light of Jesus Christ	LIVE and serve joyfully in the Spirit's power
757.397.6322	515 Court Street, Portsmouth, Va 23704	www.fpcports.org

Coming Events

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

Sunday, Jan. 3
9:30 Breakfast
9:50 Children's music
10:00 Sunday school
11:00 Worship with
the Lord's Supper

Tuesday, Jan. 5
10:30 Women's circle

Sunday, Jan. 10
9:30 Breakfast
9:50 Children's music
10:00 Sunday school
11:00 Worship,
including receiving gifts
for \$6 a backpack and
**installation of new
officers**
12:00 Hospitality hour

Sunday, Jan. 17
9:30 Breakfast
9:50 Children's music
10:00 Sunday school
11:00 Worship

Sunday, Jan. 24
9:30 Breakfast
9:50 Children's music
10:00 Sunday school
11:00 Worship

Sunday, Jan. 31
9:30 Breakfast
9:50 Children's music
10:00 Sunday school
11:00 Worship and
**annual congregation
meeting**

*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

News for the Good of the Church

Prelude "Prelude on an American Carol"

Kirkpatrick

* Choral Call to Worship

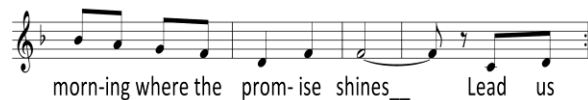
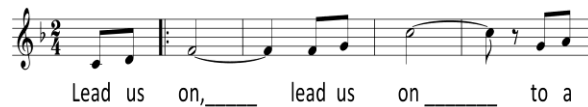
"Where the Promise Shines" Joel Raney

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Christmas Eve – *The Promise of Arrival*

Candle lighters – Gabrielle and Tanner
Furman

Refrain – Congregation and Choir



Responsive Litany

Advent is a time for God's people to
reawaken their longings.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to worship the newborn
King.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to hear the good news
proclaimed by the angels.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to receive the promise
foretold.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Candle Lighting and Reading

Refrain – Congregation and Choir

Closing Prayer

* Hymn #134 "Joy to the World"

Clothed by Christ

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Christ Jesus came to save us, not because of our works, but according to the mercy of God through the water of rebirth and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

God our Savior, we confess that we are not people of peace. You came to show us mercy, but we are not merciful to others. You came to establish justice, but we fail to seek what is right. Forgive us, God of grace. Let Your light shine upon us to deliver us from evil and lead us in Your holy way, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God has poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might have the hope of eternal life. 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

Time with the Children

Prayer of Illumination

Gospel Lesson Luke 1: 1-20 page 887

Sermon "A Holy Night" The Rev. Walt Hunting

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy" Mac Gimsey
Michael Broadhurst, soloist

*** Hymn #115 "Away in a Manger"**

A Life of Blessing

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Joy Offering

Choral Musical offering "A Tiny Little Baby" Don Besig

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

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Christmas Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

**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.

Communion of the People

A Life of Blessedness

*** Candle Lighting**

Hymn #122 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

During the singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night," acolytes will light their candles from the Christ candle and pass the light to the congregation. The congregation will pass the light from the front of the sanctuary to the back until all candles are lit.

*** Charge and Benediction**

Please leave in the sanctuary in silence.

A Tiny Little Baby

*There's a wonderful story that I love to tell,
'bout a tiny little baby named Jesus.
So gather around me now and listen well,
'bout a tiny little baby named Jesus.
It happened oh so long ago,
amid the cold of the winter snow.
He came from heav'n to the earth below,
this tiny little baby named Jesus.
And the angels sang: "Glory to God!"
And the angels sang: "Glory to God!"
And the angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace and good will!"*

*There were shepherds who came from the hills afar
to see the tiny little baby named Jesus.
Led by the light of the shining star,
to see the tiny little baby named Jesus.
They entered in that lowly place,
and saw the smile on the mother's face
and they all were filled with the holy grace
of the tiny little baby named Jesus.
And the angels sang: "Glory to God!"
And the angels sang: "Glory to God!"
And the angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace and good will!"*

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.

Welcome to our visitors!

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

Important dates in January:

Jan. 10 – Installation of new officers
Jan. 24 – Session committee reports due
Jan. 31 – Annual congregational meeting

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 and select the NRSV version.

Memorial Donations

Alice and Paul Butler in memory of Frances Spiers
Todd Taylor in memory of Mildred Humphrey (Lane Pittman's mother)

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, 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, Harvey Spiers, Robert Westbrook,
Patrice and Phil Winkler, Joyce Wright, Grace and Harold Yingling

Leading in worship today

The Rev. Walt Hunting
Mrs. Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries
Communion Preparation: Agnes McFadden
Communion Servers: Alice Butler, Paul Butler,
The Rev. Walter Hunting, Oralie Wilhite
Reader: Michael Broadhurst
Ushers: David Culpepper, Dan Swanson
Counters: David Culpepper, Dan Swanson

December Offerings

12/6	\$ 6,364.81	12/20
12/13	\$ 3,053.00	12/27
		MTD \$ 9,417.81

\$163.00 has been received through 12/13 for the \$6 a backpack ministry.

December Attendance

12/6	Worship 33	Sunday school 16
12/13	Worship 42	Sunday school 16
12/20	Worship	Sunday school
12/27	Worship	Sunday school

The church office will be open on Wednesdays only, from 2:00 – 4:00.

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

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Session

The Rev. Walter Hunting, 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. Walter Hunting, Crisis Pastor 483-4721 Home, 615-2944 Cell
Mrs. Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries 397-3622 ext. 203

Birthdays

12/2 Kathy Goolsby
12/12 Margaret Glynn
Jay James
Viki Goolsby
12/18 Mike Broadhurst
12/21 Pat Sparks
12/22 Earl Griffin
12/28 Elizabeth Gerlach
Riley Winkler
12/30 Ian Taylor

Missing a birthday?
Please contact:
Church churchr@fpcports.org
397-3622
Bulletin Editor
rjrodriguesiii@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor
slp149@aol.com

Ministries

12/6
Sun. Sch. The Butlers
Brkfst. Todd Taylor

12/13
Sun. Sch. The Butlers
Brkfst. Diane Griffin
Hospitality

12/20
Sun. Sch. The Butlers
Brkfst. Rodrigues/Wilhite

12/27
Sun. Sch. The Butlers
Brkfst.

Contact Us:
757-397-3622

www.fpcports.org
church@fpcports.org



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