



First Presbyterian Church
First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2017

SHARE the amazing love of God	REFLECT the light of Jesus Christ	LIVE and serve joyfully in the Spirit's power
757-397-3622 515 Court St. Portsmouth, VA 23704 www.fpcPorts.org		

Coming Events

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

10:30 Worship, with the Lord's supper

Wednesday, December 6

6:45 Bells

7:15 Choir

Thursday, December 7

10:00 Bible study "Book of Exodus" with the Rev. Dr. Chreston Holoman (wk. 9)

Saturday, December 9

12:00 Ladies' circle at Alice Simpson's home

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

10:30 Worship, including receiving gifts for Mission and Outreach

Wednesday, December 13

6:45 Bells

7:15 Choir

Thursday, December 14

10:00 **The last week** of Bible study "Book of Exodus" with the Rev. Dr. Chreston Holoman

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

10:30 Worship, including the cantata *Appalachian Winter*

Wednesday, December 20

6:45 Bells

7:15 Choir

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

10:30 Worship

Reminder: During worship, please enter through the Court Street sanctuary doors.



Made One by Christ

Welcome

News for the Good of the Church

Prelude "Low How a Rose"

Arr. Hackworth

"Advent" has its origin in Medieval Latin and means "arrival." The circular wreath made of evergreen boughs represents eternity. One candle is lit each Advent Sunday and represents our spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

The First Candle is called the **Prophecy Candle** in remembrance of the prophets who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents **hope** or expectation in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.

The Second Candle represents **love**, and some call this the **Bethlehem candle**. It symbolizes Christ's birth and being laid in a manger.

The Third "Pink" Candle is customarily called the **Shepherds' Candle** and it represents **joy**.

The Fourth Candle is often referred to as the **Angels' Candle** and represents **peace**.

On Christmas Eve - The Christmas Eve White Candle at the center of the Advent wreath is called the **Christ Candle** and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world.

Call to Worship

"Where the Promise Shines" Joel Raney
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

First Sunday – *The Promise of Hope*

Readers and Advent candle lighters –
Gail Pittman & her students, Mary Fitzwater, Emma Joyner, Rebecca Tanner, & Arriana Templeton

The congregation is asked to join the choir in singing the refrain.

Refrain – Congregation and Choir



LEAD US ON, LEAD US ON TO A
MORN-ING WHERE THE PROM-ISE SHINES LEAD US

Responsive Litany

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

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every hurt to be healed.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every tear to be dried.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every injustice to be made right.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We celebrate God's promises and long for those yet to unfold.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

Candle Lighting and Reading

Refrain – Congregation and Choir

Opening Prayer

* Hymn #82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Clothed by Christ

Moment of Silence

Corporate Prayer of Confession

We have all sinned; not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet You. We study the trends of our times and ignore the signs of Your reign. We trust in things that pass away and forget Your eternal promise.

Forgive us, God of grace. Strengthen us, by Your hand, so that we may be ready for that day when You come to reign in glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Sharing of Christ's Peace

* Song of Praise, Hymn #390 "Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!"

Sharing God's Blessings and Compassion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Choral Musical Offering "Fling Wide the Door"

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

*** Affirmation of Faith – the Apostles' Creed** page 35 in hymnal

Hearing God's Word of Hope and Power

Time with the Children

*** Hymn #316 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"**

Scripture Reading I Corinthians 13 page 1000

Sermon "Communion - Forever" Steve Frazier

Service of Marriage

Gabrielle Furman and Matthew Goodrich

"The Gift of Love" Arr. Hal Hopson & Edna Broadhurst

Michael Broadhurst, soloist

A reception will follow worship in the fellowship hall. All are invited.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

page 35 in hymnal

Communion of the People

Taking Christ's Blessing to the World

*** Hymn #306 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"**

Charge

A Blessing in Music

"Finale"

Hayden

*** Benediction (sung)**



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.

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 friends and visitors!

We hope that you find our congregation a welcoming one.

Your presence enriches our worship of God.

Please join us after worship for refreshments and fellowship in our courtyard lobby.

Help us fill the sanctuary with poinsettias on Christmas Eve. The plants are \$9.00 each. Just fill out the order form found inside your bulletin and place it in the offering plate along with your payment by Sunday, Dec.17. We ask that you take home your poinsettias (or make arrangements for them to be removed) after the evening worship on Christmas Eve.

Calling for Coats! As you are preparing for the wintry weather, please consider **donating your gently used coats, jackets, or rain gear** to the homeless in our city. The biggest need is for adult male sizes. The goal is to collect the coats and then distribute them to our guests when we host the winter shelter here at First Presbyterian from Jan., 13 - 19. Please bring donations to the fellowship hall and place them in the donation box.

Prayer List

Jackie & Tyler Forsythe, Rosco & Betty Graham, Lanier Halterman, Mae Harmon (recovering from surgery), Mary Alice Jarman (friend of Bob & Judy Powell), A. T. Mayo, Mary McFadden, Brian Mills, Joan & Jim Plaatsman, Carl Rhodes, Dorothy Wooldridge (friend of Carl Rhodes)

Everyone suffering with cancer and facing surgery

Our friends at home, especially

Ronald Curry (Grace Yingling's son), Lanier Halterman, Frances Hardy, Ann Michaluk, Sue Parker, Lane Pittman, Harvey Spiers, Joyce Wright, Grace Yingling

Our bulletin is printed on Wednesday. We are pleased to include any you wish to be added to the prayer list. You may contact Raymond (email: bulletin@fpcports.org, cell: 757-319-5019) or the church office (757-397-3622) by Tuesday evening.

Leading in worship today

The Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier
Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries
Communion preparation: Gail Pittman
Communion servers: Steve Frazier, Diane Griffin,
Gail Pittman, Pat Sparks
Ushers: David Culpepper,
Countess
rs: David Culpepper, TBA

November Offerings

11/5	\$ 3,676.00	11/19	\$ 2,099.65
11/12	\$ 5,186.00	11/26	\$ 1,063.00
		MTD	\$12,024.65

November Attendance

11/5	Worship	59	Sunday school	18
11/12	Worship	47	Sunday school	21
11/19	Worship	55	Sunday school	19
11/26	Worship	59	Sunday school	18

The church office will be open on Wednesdays only, from 1:00 – 4:00.

In order to prepare the bulletin in a timely manner, all notices should be sent to (pastor@fpcports.org) and/or the bulletin editor (bulletin@fpcports.org) no later than 6 pm Tuesday.

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Session

The Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier, Moderator of Session
 Gail Pittman (17), Clerk of Session
 Administration/Property – Michael Broadhurst (17)
 Christian Formation/Fellowship – Betty Bartlett (19)
 Finance - Diane Griffin (18) | Mission/Outreach – Oralie Wilhite (17)
 Worship - Agnes McFadden (17) and David Culpepper (17)

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

Church Staff

The Rev. Steve Frazier, Covenant Pastor	397-3622 ext. 202 pastor@fpcports.org
Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries	397-3622 ext. 203 ednafpc@aol.com
Gabi Furman, Secretary	397-3622 g.furman121@hotmail.com

<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Ministries</u>
12/2 Kathy Goolsby	12/3 BF
12/3 Frances Spires	SS Diane Griffin
12/12 Margaret Glynn	PWF Betty Bartlett
Jay James	12/10 BF
Vicki Goolsby	SS Diane Griffin
12/18 Mike Broadhurst	PWF
12/21 Pat Sparks	12/17 BF
12/22 Earl Griffin	SS Diane Griffin
12/28 Elizabeth [Pond]	PWF
Gerlach	12/24 (Morning service)
Riley Winkler	BF
12/30 Ian Taylor	SS Diane Griffin
Missing a birthday?	PWF
Please contact:	12/31 BF Raymond Rodrigues
Church pastor@fpcports.org	SS Diane Griffin
397-3622	PWF Lou & Oralie Wilhite
Bulletin Editor	
bulletin@fpcports.org	