



First Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 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 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

**10:30 Worship, with
liturgist Sylvia Hutson "It's
All Wrong"**

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

6:45 p.m. Special music

7:00 p.m. Worship

**Please invite your family
and friends to join us.**

Wednesday, December 27

6:45 Bells

7:15 Choir

Sunday, December 31

First Sunday of Christmas

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

**10:30 Worship "Lights on
Kensington Corner"**

Tuesday, January 2

10:30 Ladies' circle

Wednesday, January 3

6:45 Bells

7:15 Choir

Sunday, January 7

Baptism of the Lord

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

**10:30 Worship "Let It
Shine"**

Wednesday, January 10

6:45 Bells

7:15 Choir

Sunday, January 14

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

**10:30 Worship "Always
Baptist"**

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



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

Made One by Christ

Welcome

News for the Good of the Church

Prelude "The Huron Carol" Trad.

Call to Worship

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

Fourth Sunday – *The Promise of Love*

Readers and Advent candle lighters –
Matthew & Gabrielle Goodrich

***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.

**God so loved the world that He gave His
one and only Son.**

When we longed for the silence to be
broken,

**God so loved the world that He gave His
one and only Son.**

When we longed for the light that shines
in the darkness,

**God so loved the world that He gave His
one and only Son.**

When we longed for the peace that
surpasses understanding,

**God so loved the world that He gave His
one and only Son.**

Candle Lighting and Reading

Today we light four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope, granting strength to the weary. The **second candle** is the light of peace that surpasses our understanding. The **third candle** is the light of joy that touches the depths of our soul. The **fourth candle** reminds us of the light of God's love poured out in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Refrain – Congregation and Choir

Opening Prayer

*** Hymn #113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

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. You offer us a place in Your house, yet we find no room for You in our lives. You invite us into Your eternal realm, yet we fail to welcome others. Forgive us, God of grace. Let Your word of life be with us so that we may truly believe that nothing is impossible with You.

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!"**



Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho-ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise God's ho-ly name. Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God's ho-ly name. Al-le-lu-ia!

Sharing God's Blessings and Compassion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Choral Musical Offering "The Jesus Gift" Gilbert M. Martin

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

Prayers of the People and 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

Hearing God's Word of Hope and Power

Time with the Children

* Hymn #135 "There's a Star in the East"

On behalf of the session, Matthew and Gabrielle Goodrich present
their son, Malachi Allen Goodrich, for the Sacrament of Baptism.

Elder Michael Broadhurst, liturgist

First Reading Titus 2:11-14 page 1041

Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20 page 889

Sermon "It's All Wrong"
Steve Frazier and Sylvia Hutson

Taking Christ's Blessing to the World

* Hymn #136 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Charge

Postlude "The Shepherds" Held

* Benediction (sung) "Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

The Jesus Gift

*Shall I gather emeralds; shall I bring Him gold?
Shall I shower diamonds, white-hard, bright-cold?
Shall I spangle jewels like stars above?*

*Give Him laughter; bring peace-filled laughter;
Offer Him warm laughter and love.
Simplest of gifts, gentlest of hearts;
Kindness He'll use as He leads.*

*So, give Him these gifts; hand Him your hearts.
Honor His birth and you'll need no emeralds or rubies,
Silver nor gold, neither bright diamonds,
white-hard, bright-cold.*

*Spangle not rich jewels like stars above;
You'll have laughter, sweet peace-filled laughter,
simple warm laughter and love.*

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.

EdMarc Christmas Dinner project update: Two tubs of staples, a box of frozen items, and a box of refrigerated items were delivered this past Tuesday to EdMarc. Specific items were requested to go with menus and recipes furnished to the large family that was chosen, and FPC members pitched in generously. Of course, the temptation to put in additional items like gingerbread cookies for the children could not be resisted.

Thank you, Alice & Paul Butler, for spearheading this mission!

FPC will host the Winter Shelter on Jan. 13 – 19, in partnership with Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless and Green Acres PC. There are many opportunities to help with this critical mission such as greeters, chaperones, prayer teams, muscles to unload mats and bedding, or with donations of supplies and warm clothing. Please see the signup sheet in the fellowship hall for more information on how you can get involved!

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. Please bring donations to the fellowship hall and place them in the donation box.

Prayer List

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

To the church triumphant - Ann Rogers Michaluk

Everyone suffering with cancer and facing surgery

Our friends at home, especially

Ronald Curry (Grace Yingling's son), Lanier Halterman, Frances Hardy, 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

Michael Broadhurst & Sylvia Hutson, Liturgists

Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries

Ushers: David Culpepper, Deb Hardie

Counters: David Culpepper, TBA

December Offerings

12/3	\$ 2,873.01	12/24	
12/10	\$29,344.00	12/31	
12/17	\$ 3,497.00	MTD	\$35,714.01

December Attendance

12/3	Worship	102	Sunday school	23
12/10	Worship	66	Sunday school	19
12/17	Worship	77	Sunday school	19
12/24	Worship		Sunday school	
12/31	Worship		Sunday school	

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
Gabbi Goodrich, Secretary	397-3622 g.furman121@hotmail.com

Birthdays	Ministries
12/2 Kathy Goolsby	12/3 BF Nancy Grant
12/12 Jay James	SS Diane Griffin
Vicki Goolsby	PWF Betty Bartlett
12/18 Mike Broadhurst	12/10 BF
12/21 Pat Sparks	SS Diane Griffin
12/22 Earl Griffin	PWF Betty Bartlett
12/28 Elizabeth [Pond]	12/17 BF
Gerlach	SS Diane Griffin
Malakai Goodrich	PWF Jean Byers
Riley Winkler	12/24 (Morning service)
12/30 Ian Taylor	BF
	SS Diane Griffin
	PWF
	12/31 BF Raymond Rodrigues
	SS Diane Griffin
	PWF Lou & Oralie Wilhite

Missing a birthday?
Please contact:
 Church pastor@fpcports.org
 397-3622
 Bulletin Editor
bulletin@fpcports.org