



First Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday in Advent
December 16, 2018

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 STREET, PORTSMOUTH, VA 23704	WWW.FPCPORTS.ORG

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.

****You have told us what we should do: live humbly, give generously, and be rich in compassion. Even still, O God, we fall back into our selfish ways. We have been claimed in the waters of baptism, but we do not live as people redeemed. We have been washed in waters of grace, but we do not trust the depth of Your love. Forgive us, God of mercy. Heal us, guide us, and call us to try again.**

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 #633 "Praise Ye the Lord" (see today's insert)

Sharing God's Blessings and Compassion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Choral Musical Offering "O Radiant Dawn" James MacMillan

***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 #121 "O little Town of Bethlehem"**

First Reading

Second Reading

Sermon

Dr. Antipas Harris

Taking Christ's Blessing to the World

***Hymn #123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

Charge

*** Benediction Hymn #543 "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"**

Verse 5



Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

A Blessing in Music "Bring a Torch Jeannette Isabella" arr. Uehlein

O Radiant Dawn

*O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal Light,
Sun of Justice: come, shine on those who dwell in
darkness and the shadow of death.*

*Isaiah had prophesied, "The people who walked in
the darkness have seen a great light; upon those
who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."*

*O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal Light,
Sun of Justice: come, shine on those who dwell in
darkness and the shadow of death.*

Amen.

*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.
Please join us after worship for post-worship fellowship
(refreshments and fellowship) in our courtyard lobby.

Prayer List

Dick Barnwell (friend of the Butlers),
Brenda Berry (friend of Oralie & Raymond),
Alan Butler (Paul Butler's brother),
Jeanne Butler (Paul Butler's sister),
Rebecca Duncan (friend of Oralie & Raymond),
Jackie & Tyler Forsythe,
Lt. Col. Rob Gerlach (deployed to Kuwait),
Mary Alice Jarman (friend of the Powells),
Brian Mills,
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,	A. T. Mayo,
Sue Parker,	Lane Pittman,
Harvey Spiers,	Grace Yingling

Leading in worship today

The Rev. Steve Frazier
Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries
Ushers: David Culpepper, Yolanda Faas, Dan Swanson
Counters: David Culpepper, Nancy Grant

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@pfpcports.org, cell: 757-319-5019) or the church office (757-397-3622) by Tuesday evening.

December Offerings

12/2	\$ 3,997.00	12/23	
12/9	\$ 4,814.00	12/30	
12/16		MTD	\$ 8,811.00

December Attendance

12/2	Worship	71	Sunday school	25
12/9	Worship		Sunday school	
12/16	Worship		Sunday school	
12/23	Worship		Sunday school	
12/30	Worship		Sunday school	

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

To assist with timely preparation of the bulletin, please send all notices to pastor@fpcports.org and/or bulletin@fpcports.org no later than 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

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Session

Moderator of Session – The Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier
 Clerk of Session – Gail Pittman (2019) | Administration/Property – Paul Butler (2020)
 Christian Formation – Kim McCormick (2019)
 Congregational Fellowship/Care – Betty Bartlett (2019), Pat Sparks (2020)
 Finance - Diane Griffin (2018) | Mission/Outreach – Oralie Wilhite (2020)
 Worship – Michael Broadhurst (2020)

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

Sunday Ministries

12/9	Breakfast	Nancy & Steve Frazier
	Sunday school	Bill Faas
	Post-Worship Fellowship	Birthdays -Pat Sparks
12/16	Breakfast	Pat Sparks
	Sunday school	Paul Butler
	Post-Worship Fellowship	Ashley & Cameron McCormick
12/23	Breakfast	Frankie Austin & Nancy Grant
	Sunday school	Chreston Holoman
	Post-Worship Fellowship	
12/30	Breakfast	
	Sunday School	Chreston Holoman
	Post-Worship Fellowship	Gail Pittman

December Birthdays

2 Kathy Goolsby, 6 Joyce Kallaher, 12 Jay James,
 12 Viki Goolsby, 18 Michael Broadhurst, 20 Bill Faas,
 21 Pat Sparks, 22 Earl Griffin, 26 Sarah Arambula,
 28 Elizabeth [Pond] Gerlach, 28 Malakai Allen Goodrich,
 28 Riley Winkler, 30 Kara McCormick, 30 Ian Taylor

Missing a birthday? Contact the Church at pastor@fpcports.org or call 397-3622 or email the bulletin editor at bulletin@fpcports.org.

pastor@FPCports.org



www.FPCports.org



First Presbyterian Church
Portsmouth, VA
Coming Events

Sunday, December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 Breakfast fellowship
9:20 Children's music
9:30 Sunday school
10:30 Worship, with Dr. Antipas Harris
11:30 Post-Worship Fellowship

Wednesday, December 19

6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Thursday, December 20

10:00 Bible study with the Rev. Dr. Chreston Holoman

Sunday, December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 Breakfast fellowship
9:20 Children's music
9:30 Sunday school
10:30 Worship, including the cantata *Tapestry of Light*
11:30 Post-Worship Fellowship

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

7:00 Worship

Wednesday, December 26

6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Thursday, December 27

10:00 Bible study with the Rev. Dr. Chreston Holoman

Sunday, December 30– First Sunday of Christmas

9:00 Breakfast fellowship
9:20 Children's music
9:30 Sunday school
10:30 Worship
11:30 Post-Worship Fellowship

Wednesday, January 2

6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Thursday, January 3

10:00 Bible study with the Rev. Dr. Chreston Holoman

Saturday, January 12 – Friday, January 18

Shelter Week – Please consider volunteering as an overnight chaperone. See Sue Fay or Oralie Wilhite for details.



First Presbyterian Church Portsmouth Announcements

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

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

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

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.

Overflowing baskets for a large family Christmas dinner were delivered on Tuesday, December 11. Our church family donated the items including a Christmas tablecloth, napkins, plates, cups, and candy canes. A large turkey and ham were added by the church. It was a blessing to be able to do this for a special EDMARC family.

***Today's Song of Praise** (sung after "Sharing Christ's Peace")



Praise ye the Lord, Hal-le-lu-jah! Ev-ery-bod-y praise the Lord.



Praise God on top of the moun-tains. Praise God both day and night.



Praise God down in the low val-leys. Praise God with all of your might.