

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, March 7, 2021 – 10:30 AM
515 Court St. Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
www.fpcports.org (757) 397-3622

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

In the name of the Risen Christ, welcome to this morning's service of worship. If you are a visitor, we are glad you're with us and hope you will return. May God's Holy Spirit fill our worship with joy, our hearts with forgiveness, and our lives with hope.

Call to Worship

What shall we return to the Lord for all of the good things God has done for us?

We will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Prelude

Ave Verum

Jenkins

Gabrielle Goodrich and Sofia Calicchio

Invitation to Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession – followed by silence for personal confession

God of mighty deliverance, we gratefully embrace the redemption you have offered us through Jesus Christ our Savior, who was lifted high on the cross for our sake. Yet we have dishonored his sacrifice for us; we have not followed his example of loving service, and have spurned his call to honor your life-giving law. In mercy, forgive us for rejecting your way of life. Quicken us by your spirit to take up our cross so that we may walk purposefully and joyously in the ways of life and peace you have set before us this Lenten season, loving you with all our heart and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.

Assurance of God's Grace

As Paul reminds us, "since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, all are justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Jesus Christ." Friend, hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Doxology (Sung in our hearts)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

First Lesson

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 NIV

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those of us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of

God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Greeks and Jews, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Sermon

“A Little Foolishness”

Special Music

Do This in Remembrance of Me

John Purifoy

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Table

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy source and origin of all, deep within us, far beyond us, we thank you and praise you for creating and bringing to birth this unfathomed universe of space and time, with stars and planets, and our own good earth.

From the dawn of time, you loved the earth and its peoples. You revealed yourself to the people of Israel, set them free from slavery, and made a covenant with them that all humankind might be blessed.

When the time was right, you came to live among us. In Jesus you fully shared our life, showing us what human life can be, confronting evil with good, bringing good news to the poor, and deliverance to people in bondage.

Jesus did not work alone, but called people to be with him; he made them a loving community, and sent them out to tell the good news.

We thank you and praise you, Holy God, that at this table we taste and see the evidence of your love in Jesus Christ, healing, teaching, suffering, crucified, risen and alive. Therefore, we offer ourselves, in Christ, to be a living sacrifice, of body, mind and spirit, joyfully proclaiming the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, make us one in Christ. Hear us, O Lord, as we lift before you the prayers of your people....

Prayers of the People

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.

Institution of the Bread and the Wine

Benediction

Postlude

The Lone Wild Bird

Held

Church Staff

Steve Frazier – Covenant Pastor

Billy Ricketts – Pastor for Admin and Mission Outreach

Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music

Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

In the name of Jesus Christ, welcome to this morning's service of worship. Thank you for helping us maintain social distancing and a clean worship environment. Until the Corona Virus is no longer a health threat, we are participating in a more limited liturgy. Tithes and offerings may be placed in the offering plate on the piano by the front Exit door. True worship is a gift of the Holy Spirit. God's healing, forgiving power flows freely to those here and those online. Our prayer is the grace we experience and learn will be shared with our wider community.

Week of March 7 - Prayers of the People

All members and friends who are staying at home until the corona virus is contained.

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| ❖ Sonja Powell | ❖ Frances Hasty |
| ❖ Paul Butler | ❖ Monica Manley |
| ❖ Kathy Goolsby | ❖ Karen Diggs |
| ❖ Lane Pittman | ❖ Scott Fry |
| ❖ A.T. and Nancy Mayo | ❖ Kerry Westerwick |
| ❖ Rose Layman (Mother of Deb
Hardie, Mom to Sylvia Cox) | ❖ Celia Fry |

Post-worship fellowship is online at www.fpcports.org Sunday afternoon.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Edna Broadhurst	21	Mallory James Smith
12	Burma Smith	22	Mae Harmon
13	Penny Brangan	22	Jennifer Patgorski
13	Mary Fitzwater	26	Mike McCormick
15	Lanier Halterman	28	Nancy Grant

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Celebrating Our 199th Year of Ministry

We are delighted to welcome you to the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. We are new and long-time residents, single adults, couples, black, white, Asian, LGBT, one and two parent families, military personnel, teens, and college students. Our faith traditions and stories are varied. What gathers us is God's inviting grace.

Our mission is to glorify God through joyful worship, hospitality, unceasing prayer, engaging study and acts of compassion. Our Peace, Love and a Bag of Chips outreach needs volunteers to prepare 25 lunches (in their home) on August 30. Please let Oralie Wilhite at 757-319-5020 know of your interest.

Dr. Steve Frazier, was born in Seoul, Korea and raised in Washington State. He received his Master of Divinity degree from San Francisco Seminary and his Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. He works full time for TowneBank as an insurance broker specializing in the senior adult market. He came to First Presbyterian in 2016 as our part-time Covenant Pastor. Steve and his wife, Nancy, have a blended family of three grown children and one grandchild.

Billy Ricketts, a lifelong Presbyterian, was baptized at Simonsdale Presbyterian, confirmed at Cradock Presbyterian Church and certified by The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and Union Presbyterian Seminary. Billy has served First Presbyterian Norfolk, Second Presbyterian Norfolk and Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach. He retired from full-time ministry in 2020 and joined the staff of First Presbyterian Portsmouth as part-time Pastor for Administration and Outreach. Billy and his wife, Loretta, have two adult children.

Edna Broadhurst, our Director of Music Ministries, was baptized as an infant by her grandfather, Rev. H. Turner. Edna came to First Presbyterian Church in 1981 as the organist and choir director. She also teaches music at The Williams School in Ghent, Norfolk, teaches private piano/organ lessons, and sings with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus. She generously shares her musical talents. She holds a degree in Organ Performance from Old Dominion University and advanced studies from Appalachian State University and Westminster Choir College. She is married to Michael and they have a daughter, two grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

If you are looking for a church family, we believe First Presbyterian is a community where you can grow spiritually and share the life and gifts God has given to you. Covid19 has derailed some of our plans. Nonetheless, we are confident God has new adventures and opportunities in store to serve God and love our neighbors. For regular updates please visit our website: fpcports.org.

The Session

Dr. Steven E. Frazier – Moderator
Elder Kim McCormick - Clerk

Class of 2020
Paul Butler

Class of 2021
Oralie Wilhite

Class of 2022
Sue Fay

Michael Broadhurst
Pat Sparks

Stuart Shippey
Mary Ann Taylor

Kim McCormick
Todd Taylor