

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 22, 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.

Prelude

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

Wilbur Held

Call to Worship

We can trust God.

God is like the mountain: rock solid.

God loves all people:

the poor, the disabled, the outcast, the stranger.

We can depend on God.

God feeds the hungry, heals the sick, and restores relationships.

Let's commit to trust and be faithful to this loving God,

who faithfully hears our every thought.

On this morning, let's focus ourselves and worship him.

Hymn

"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

We say that we trust you, gracious God,
but how quickly our fears silence our words.

We find you at the side of the poor, while we stand next to those who have it all.

You stand behind the counter serving the hungry,
while we stock our freezers and pantries until they overflow.

**We look down at those whose hands are dirty,
but your hand of mercy pulls them into your embracing love.**

Forgive us, O Lord, when we are without hope or trust.

Forgive us when we have trouble doing good for others.

Surround us with your love and grace and peace;

surround us with the Spirit of your Son, Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Assurance of God's Grace

Christ, in his extravagant compassion, has already secured our forgiveness and calls us to live as those who are renewed and thankful. Our sins are forgiven! Receive this grace, and share it with others.

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.

Special Music

"God Be in My Head"

John Rutter

Prayers of the People – Followed by 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.

First Lesson

Hebrews 11: 1 - 3 (The Message)

The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It’s our handle on what we can’t see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd. By faith, we see the world called into existence by God’s word, what we see created by what we don’t see.

Second Lesson

James 2: 14 – 20 (The Message)

Dear friends, do you think you’ll get anywhere in this life if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it?

For instance, if you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say “Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!” and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup-where does that get you?

Isn’t it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense? I can already hear one of you agreeing by saying, “Sounds good. You take care of the faith department, I’ll handle the works department.” Not so fast. You can no more show me your works apart from faith than I can show you my faith apart from works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove. Do I hear you professing to believe in the one and only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done something wonderful? That’s just great. Demons do that, but what good does it do them? Use your heads! Do you suppose for a minute that you can cut faith and works in two and not end up with a corpse on your hands?

Sermon

“Hope + Trust = Faith”

Hymn

“God of Our Life”

Benediction

Postlude

“Meditation”

Flor Peeters

Prayers for the Journey

All who welcome prayer for themselves, or others, are invited to come forward following the service to pray one-on-one with our pastors or an elder.

“God Be in My Head” by John Rutter

God be in my head and in my understanding.

God be in mine eyes and in my looking.

God be in my mouth and in my speaking.

God be in my heart and in my thinking.

God be at my end and in my departing.

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 August 22 - Prayers of the People

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

- Kerri Westerwick
- Tom Goolsby
- Lane Pittman
- Mae Harmon
- Rose Layman
- Karen Diggs
- Monica Manley
- Paul and Alice Butler

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

7	Makayla Winkler	22	Emily Fay
10	Mike Taylor	23	Ryan Grady Kenrick (Grady)
11	Margaret Smith	23	Richard Griffin
12	Nancy Mayo	26	Margie Arambula
17	Carrie Griffin	26	Kim McCormick
19	Grady Fitzwater	28	Linda Hackworth
19	Linda Rodrigues	29	Alice Simpson
20	Art Kennis	29	Logan Aliff
21	Sylvia Stephenson	31	Benjamin McCormick

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Celebrating Our 200th 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 often needs volunteers to prepare 25 lunches (in their home). 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 Towne Bank 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 2021

Nancy Grant
Stuart Shippey
Mary Ann Taylor

Class of 2022

Sue Fay
Kim McCormick
Todd Taylor

Class of 2023

Mary Leming
Gail Pittman
Dan Swanson