

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, October 17, 2021 – 10:30 AM  
515 Court St. Portsmouth, Virginia 23704  
[www.fpcports.org](http://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

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

J.S. Bach

### Call to Worship

Come into the sanctuary and look around.

**Behold the beauty and splendor of God's people.**

All of us-rich and poor, employed and unemployed and sometimes just desperately hanging on.

**Behold the beauty and splendor of God's people.**

We believe that God's steadfast love is better than life, so let our lips praise God as long as we live.

**We also often doubt God's love and that God will really provide when it matters.**

But this is what matters today: God said "Come all who are thirsty, come to the water, and you that have no money, come, buy and eat." All of us-rich and poor, employed and unemployed, and desperately hanging on.

**So with faith-both bold and timid-let us worship God!**

### Hymn

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

### Invitation to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession-followed by a time of silent confession

The words we speak all too often do not show you in our lives, God of our journey. We spend so much time boasting to others, they imagine we have no need for you.

**We grumble impatiently when you don't respond immediately to our requests, and are slow to sing your praises.**

We mutter under our breath about the behavior of those around us, when we could be asking them if there is some way we could serve them.

**As we open our lives to receive your forgiveness, may we turn to the Light which brings us life, following Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, every step of the way.**

### Assurance of God's Grace

How much does God love us?

**Enough to send the divine heart, hope, and spirit to us, not to condemn us, but to save us.**

Not by our speaking or doing, but by God's good and precious grace are we saved.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### Doxology

*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.*

**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**

**Numbers 21:1-9 NIV**

When the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that Israel was coming along the road to Atharim, he attacked the Israelites and captured some of them. Then Israel made this vow to the Lord: “If you will deliver these people into our hands, we will totally destroy[a] their cities.” The Lord listened to Israel’s plea and gave the Canaanites over to them. They completely destroyed them and their towns; so the place was named Hormah.

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!” Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

**Second Lesson**

**John 3:14-17 NIV**

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him

**Sermon**

“Snake Bites”

**Hymn**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

**Benediction**

**Choral Postlude**

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

John Rutter

**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.

**Next Sunday, October 24**, Pastor Steve will be reading from Joshua (1:1-11) and Philipians (4:10-13). The key theme will be preparing for the battles in our lives so that we can move forward. The choir will sing “All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above,” by Ludwig Lenel. Please join us!

There will be a **Congregational Meeting** following the Worship Service on Sunday, October 24, 2021 for the purpose of hearing a report from the Church Officer Nominating Committee to elect three members to serve on the Session and one member to serve as a Trustee for the Class of 2024.

The rosebud on the table this morning honors the **birth of Samuel Lee Baker-Smith**, son of Daniel and Cherie, grandson of Skip and Betsy, born this past week. To place flowers on Sunday, please fill out the flower request form in the Courtyard.

## **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 October 17 - Prayers of the People**

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

- Sonia Powell
- Kerry Westerwick
- Brian Patgorski
- Tom Goolsby
- Lane Pittman
- Mae Harmon
- Rose Layman
- Maryann Taylor
- Evelyn Monds
- Emily Bond
- Linda Thompson
- Karen Diggs
- Monica Manley
- Paul and Alice Butler
- AT Mayo

### **October Birthdays**

1	Kyle McCormick	21	Todd Taylor
2	Maryann Taylor	21	Gail Pittman
3	Michele Graupmann	24	John Fay
3	Barbara Bond	25	Frances Hasty
11	Robby Pond	28	Nancy Ward
14	Merle Gootee, III	30	Tom Goolsby
16	Amanda McCormick	31	Matthew Goodrich

**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church**  
***Celebrating Our 200<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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