

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 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.

Prelude

Annette Crandall

Call to Worship

Here in this place, there are no foreigners,
for all are welcome in God's house.
Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,
for love is the language of faith.
Here in our lives, there are no divisions,
for God dwells in each of us.
Come, let's worship in unity and love.

Hymn (on provided insert) "Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession-followed by a time for silent confession and prayer

God, you loved this world so much that you sent your own son, Jesus the Christ to live and die among us, so that we might have eternal life.

**Forgive us for keeping that abundant life to ourselves,
for jealously hoarding your generous gifts,
for choosing self-interest over compassion and justice.**

Teach us what it means to live as children of the light, generously sharing your abundance with our brothers and sisters in need, helping to turn their sadness to joy.

Assurance of God's Grace

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.*

Special Music

"Wither Thou Goest"
Kara McCormick, Soloist

Guy Singer

Today's Lesson

Chapter Nine from *The Story for Children - A Storybook Bible*

Over time, a great famine came to the land of Israel. Naomi, her husband and their two sons moved to the land of Moab. There the boys grew and married two women from that foreign land. Everyone was happy. But years passed and Naomi's husband and sons died. Now the women

were alone. Naomi told her sons' wives she was going to return to Bethlehem. Ruth (one of Naomi's daughters-in-law) ran down the road after Naomi. "Wait!" Ruth called. "Wait for me!"

Naomi stopped and turned to see her daughter-in-law racing to catch up to her. The older woman put down her belongings and shook her head. "No, Ruth. You must stay here. Moab is your home; your parents live here. It would be best for you to be with them." "But I will be sad if you leave without me. Wherever you go, I will go too."

There on the road, Ruth made her choice. She and Naomi had been through so much together. It was time to start a new life. "You are truly a daughter to me," said Naomi. "We will go together."

When the two women arrived in Bethlehem, all the townspeople welcomed them. They remembered Naomi. They were happy to have her back in their neighborhood. When they learned about Ruth's kindness to Naomi, the people were pleased to be her friend too. Ruth and Naomi made a home in Bethlehem. Even though they were very poor, they thanked God for Providing for them. Each day, Ruth tried to find food for herself and Naomi. Her mother-in-law suggested she go into the fields owned by a rich man named Boaz. "He is my relative, so he will take care of us."

One day, Boaz noticed Ruth. Boaz was a generous man. He told his workers to let Ruth gather as much grain as she wanted. He shared his lunch with her and sent home extra food for Naomi. Soon Boaz and Ruth fell in love. Naomi was grateful to God that Ruth had found a good man to marry. After a while, Ruth and Boaz had a baby boy named Obed. Ruth and Naomi's sadness had turned to joy.

Sermon

"Sadness to Joy"

The Sacrament of the Lord's Table

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn (on provided insert)

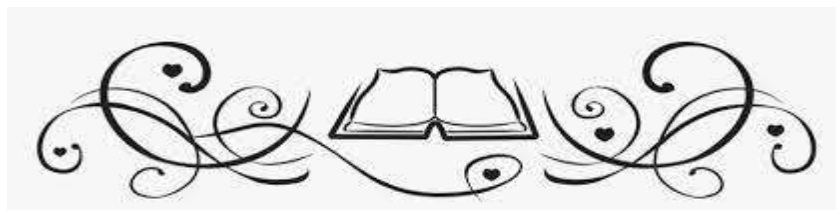
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Benediction

Postlude

Annette Crandall

Prayers for the Journey—All who welcome prayers 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, November 14, Pastor Steve will be reading from 1 John (2:15-17), 1 Samuel (8:1-22) and Philippians (4:8). The key theme will be how following God requires us to turn away from many things in society that we find attractive. Our choir will sing *For the Beauty of the Earth*, by John Rutter. Please join us!

If you would like to place flowers one Sunday, please fill out the flower request form in the Courtyard Lobby

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.

Week of November 7 - Prayers of the People

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

November Birthdays

1	Betsy Brown	19	Susan Fay
4	Toby Pennell	19	Corbin Taylor
9	Graham Fitzwater	20	Paul Butler
12	John Hackworth	23	Diane Turner
15	Tanner Furman	28	Connor 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