

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 9, 2022 – 10:30 AM

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Chorale Prelude”

Healy William

Call to Worship

Come and worship, all who love and serve the Lord!

Outsiders and insiders, old-timers and new-comers, the young, old and the in-between.

Come as you are, for this is God’s house – a house of prayer for all people, and God welcomes each one who comes.

Invitation to Confession

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

Almighty God, we confess that we have taken Your commandments and turned them into rules.

We have criticized those who have fallen short and selfishly proclaimed ourselves righteous.

We have failed to understand the spirit of the commandments and the Way that was shown by You to live, loving God and loving our neighbors.

Forgive us for turning your law into burdens for others and ourselves, instead of a way to love and freedom in you.

Assurance of God’s Grace

Friends, You are loved.

Love is the Way.

When you love God, you love others.

When you truly lay down your life for others, you lay down your life for God.

Know that in God’s love there is forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation. **Amen.**

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

“Carols of the Winter Wind”

Martin

Gail Pittman-solo, John Hackworth-Guitar, Amanda McCormick-flute

Upon the wind there comes a song, a gentle voice of grace, a song of hope, a hymn of peace for winter’s chilling days. It fills the air with sounds of joy; ‘tis music for the soul. It whispers soft of coming spring and roses in the snow.

I hear the music in the night; the silence fills with song, a gentle voice that whispers love till glory wakes the dawn. O morning stars, break forth in praise and teach the world to sing. The Son has come to all the earth with healing in His wings.

Soon to the winter comes a strain, a carol from above, a lullaby of perfect peace sent from the heart of God. A baby cried; a mother, sighed; the earth greeted her Lord; and God will send a winter wind, and hope will be restored. Hope will be restored.

First Lesson

1 Kings 3:5-14

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.” Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very

day. “Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?” The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.”

Second Lesson

1 Kings 11:1-13

King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh’s daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, “You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.” Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done. On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods. The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD’s command. So the LORD said to Solomon, “Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen.”

Sermon

“How to Please Everybody”

Benediction

Postlude

Selection by Amanda McCormick, flute

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.



On next Sunday, January 16, Pastor Steve will be focused on Chapter 14 of The Story.

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary, 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 January 9 - Prayers of the People

- **Sonia Powell**
- **Brian Patgorski**
- **Estelle Umphlette**
- **Lane Pittman**
- **Mae Harmon**
- **Rose Layman**
- **Agnes McFadden**
- **Emily Bond**
- **Linda Thompson**
- **Monica Manley**
- **Paul and Alice Butler**
- **AT Mayo**
- **Family of Dick Lovingood**
- **Cathy Revell**

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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| 7 | David Turner |
| 17 | Carl Rhodes, Jr. |
| 18 | Brantley Aliff |
| 26 | Sylvie Joyner |
| 27 | Kay Kidd |
| 27 | Kerry Westerwick |
| 31 | Kelsey Smith |
| 31 | Abbey Taylor |

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