

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 27, 2022 – 10:30 AM

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Prelude in E Minor”

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

O God, we gather together today to praise you; for your tender compassion and care of needy people.

Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your prayers.

Listening God, we gather to honor your concern for people who cry to you for help.

Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your praise.

People of every nation are called to gather together to worship God,

Come, all who seek the Lord God, offer your worship.

Invitation to Confession

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

Today, O Lord, we once again take up our crosses and follow you.

Forgive us for choosing daily to be complacent.

Happiness has been my god and I believe I'm entitled to it.

Forgive me for all the excuses I have

For not responding to you immediately, with urgency, and sacrificially.

Forgive me when I complain about being bored as I sit and do nothing.

Forgive me for the times I have tried to make carrying my cross more comfortable.

I have been too concerned with finding things to make it easier: gadgets and toys to make my own cross lighter, smaller, and cushioned,

Assurance of God's Grace

God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us!

As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others, so that love, hope, and joy might touch all people.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! 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.

Special Music

“Air”

J.S. Bach

Michael Broadhurst, flute

Prayers of the People & 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.

Today's Lesson

Chapter 20 The Story

Ester was a beautiful woman. She was one of God's people - the people of Israel. They were called Jews. The king chose Ester to be his new queen.

But the king didn't know that Ester was Jewish!

During this time, the king chose a man names Haman to work for him. Haman disliked the Jews. He found a way to make a law that would get rid of them. God's people were in danger!

When Ester found out about the law, she knew she had to talk to the king to save God's people. Queen Ester was afraid. She prayed to God, "Please help me be brave for your people." God helped Ester come up with a plan.

Ester invited the king to a big dinner. She told him to bring Haman too. At the dinner, she turned to the king and said, "Please don't hurt me or my people!"

"Who wants to hurt you?" the king asked. Ester pointed to Haman. "Haman wants to get rid of the Jews," Ester said. "I am Jewish."

The king was angry with Haman and punished him. Then the king wrote a new law to keep God's people safe.

Sermon

"The Queen of Beauty and Courage"

Benediction

Postlude

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

J.S. Bach



On next Sunday, March 6, we will begin our Lenten season.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church of Old Town Portsmouth. We had planned for a birthday celebration on May 22, 2022. The pandemic may have postponed this plan but in the meantime, we are asking anyone who wishes to participate to pray (for the next 200 days) that God blesses the mission and ministry of the church. A future birthday celebration date will be announced ASAP. Please join us in 200 days of prayer from February 11 through August 29.

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 February 27 - Prayers of the People

- Sonia Powell
- Brian Patgorski
- Lane Pittman
- Rose Layman
- Agnes McFadden
- Emily Bond
- Linda Thompson
- Monica Manley
- Paul and Alice Butler
- AT Mayo
- Cathy Revell
- Those who have COVID
- Schools and educators
- Danny and Candice, Mae Harmon's son and granddaughter
- Toby's cousin, Lark, who is facing serious health issues

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Charles Bond
3 Lauren Graupmann
10 Logan Smith
17 Rebecca Yaeckel
20 Diane Griffin
20 Steve Frazier
24 Judy Powell
27 Betty Bartlett
27 Bunky Joyner
28 Grace Bryant

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