

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 6, 2022 – 10:30 AM

First Sunday of Lent

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Prelude”

Guilmant

Call to Worship

After he was baptized by John, Jesus went by himself to the wilderness where he was tempted.

Forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.

Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent, which brings us to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.

Let's worship God and walk the journey together, seeking the spirit as our guide and companion along the way.

Hymn #838

“Standing on the Promises”

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

followed by a time for silent confession and prayer

Holy God, forty days alone, a wilderness of thoughts, tempting and inviting thoughts, which could so easily have distracted you from your task, your mission, your vision.

Yet you emerged, stronger and more attuned to all that had to be done, despite a time constraint that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless.

We too live in stressful times. Demands are made of our time, that leave so little for the important things in life.

We are easily distracted in the wilderness of our lives, by every call to go this way or that, to turn stone to bread, leap from mountains, and do all that would keep us from the truth.

Forgive us, Father, when we get distracted from our task. Forgive us for those times when we try to be all things to all people, and fail to be anything to anyone.

Assurance of God's Grace

Welcome now the abundant grace of God: In Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

And let God's love comfort and heal your soul.

Thanks be to God!

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.

First Lesson

Luke 4: 1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’” The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Second Lesson

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the first fruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the Lord your God is giving to you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the land of the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the Lord your God. Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer subjecting us to harsh labor. Then we cried out to the Lord the God of our ancestors, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the first fruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given to me." Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him. Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household.

Sermon

"Sweet Temptations"

Special Music

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Spiritual

I want Jesus to walk with me. I want Jesus to walk with me. All along my pilgrim journey, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trial, Lord, walk with me. In my trials, Lord, walk with me. When the shades of life are falling, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my sorrow, Lord walk with me. In my sorrow, Lord walk with me. When my heart is aching, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my troubles, Lord walk with me. In my troubles, Lord walk with me. When my life becomes a burden, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Hymn #525

"Let us Break Bread Together on Our Knees"

The Sacrament of the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...Therefore, with apostles and prophets, and that great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, we lift our hearts in joyful praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

...Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

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.

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Benediction

*The Lenten Lights

Postlude/Prayers for the Journey "The Lone Wild Bird" Arr. Held
All who would like to receive prayer for themselves or others are invited to come forward, during the postlude, to pray with one of our pastors or an elder.

*The Lenten Lights are a similar to the Advent Wreath, but in reverse. We'll start off with 6 lit candles this Sunday. Each Sunday, one candle will be extinguished until all the candles have been extinguished. This progressive darkness reminds us of Jesus' 40-day journey to the cross of Good Friday.

You are invited to "tie a prayer to the cross". A variety of colorful 4" x 6" cards with ribbons attached will be near the cross with pens to write a personal prayer and then place it on our cross.

Next Sunday, March 13, is the second Sunday of Lent. Please join us. **There will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship.**

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 our 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 March 6 - 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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Edna Broadhurst	21	Mallory James Smith
12	Burma Smith	22	Jennifer Patgorski
13	Penny Brangan	26	Mike McCormick
13	Mary Fitzwater	28	Nancy Grant
15	Lanier Halterman		

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