

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 24, 2022 – 10:30 AM

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Entrée”

Dubois

Call to Worship

We are often skeptical people, relying on that which we can hear, see or prove.

Sometimes we get carried away by our emotions, by wishful thinking and by popular trends that pull us in.

Last Sunday, we celebrated Christ’s resurrection which is completely counterintuitive for those of us who are used to seeing first, then believing!

But Jesus tells us: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Let’s worship God together!

Hymn 273

“He Is King of Kings”

Invitation to Confession

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

Gracious God, we confess that at times we are skeptics.

At times, we doubt that You exist and it’s hard to see your love and light.

Help us to see Your goodness in this world. Help us to know Your love.

Fill us with Your love and goodness, so that we might love one another, and lift up one another in faith.

Assurance of God’s Grace

The psalmist tells us, “I am sure I shall see the goodness of our God in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart be courageous; wait for the Lord!”

Know that we do not wait alone! God has given us one another for this journey of faith, to help one another. Know that we do not wait alone; Christ is with us.

Be encouraged, and encourage one another.

We are forgiven! Go and share the Good News. 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

“He Ain’t Comin’ Here to Die”

Spiritual arr. Ryder

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.

First Lesson

Ezra 7: 10-17

For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. This is a copy of the letter King Artaxerxes had given to Ezra the priest, a teacher of the Law, a man learned in matters concerning the commands and decrees of the LORD for Israel: Artaxerxes, king of kings, To Ezra the priest, teacher of the Law of the God of heaven: Greetings. Now I decree that any of the Israelites in my kingdom, including priests and Levites, who volunteer to go to Jerusalem with you, may go. You are sent by the king and his seven advisers to inquire about Judah and Jerusalem with regard to the Law of your God, which is in your hand. Moreover, you are to take with you the silver and gold that the king and his advisers have freely given to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, together with all the silver and gold you may obtain from the province of Babylon, as well as the freewill offerings of the people and priests for the temple of their God in Jerusalem. With this money be sure to buy bulls, rams and male lambs, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and sacrifice them on the altar of the temple of your God in Jerusalem.

Second Lesson

Malachi 3: 6-12

"I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?' "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.

Sermon

"Rebuilding the Walls"

Hymn 268

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Benediction

Postlude/Prayers for the Journey

"Meditation"

Dubois

All who welcome prayer for themselves or others are invited to come forward, during the postlude, to pray with one of our pastors or an elder.



The beautiful flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given by Pat Sparks; in loving memory of parents Frazier and Ruth Byrd, and dear family friend Frances Copeland. All of whom had birthdays in April. Thank you, Pat, for enriching our service with the beautiful flowers!

Matthew 7:20 asserts that "by their fruits ye shall know them." Many examples of kindness in recent weeks show that the members of First Presbyterian Church produce positive "fruits" in a time of need. Words can not convey the depth of gratitude my family and I feel to everyone who helped assuage our grief at Lanier's passing. All of you who sent cards, made memorial gifts, or helped with the service and post-event gathering at the church have added stars to your crown in Heaven. Your caring acts will be remembered. Thank you all.

Norma Halterman

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 April 24 - Prayers of the People

- Brian Patgorski
- Lane Pittman
- Rose Layman
- Emily Bond
- Linda Thompson
- Monica Manley
- AT Mayo
- Lettema
- Bobbi Stegall
- Those who have COVID
- Schools and educators
- Bill Westbrook

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

11 Norma Halterman
14 Lane Pittman
17 Estelle Englund
18 A.T. Mayo
19 Jerry Freeman
19 Sofia Calicchio
21 Benjamin Dawson Kenrick (Ben)
24 Bill Westbrook
25 Raymond Rodrigues
28 Sharon Conklin
29 Alice Butler

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 2022

Sue Fay
Kim McCormick
Todd Taylor

Class of 2023

Mary Leming
Gail Pittman
Dan Swanson

Class of 2024

Linda Audet
Mary Ann Taylor
Oralie Wilhite