

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, August 7, 2022 – 10:30 AM

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements-Thank you for joining us for this morning's worship service. We are glad to have you here! If this is your first time visiting with us, please fill out a visitor's form, found in the back of most pews. We would be pleased to add you to our email list, too. Please use your discretion with masking. Again, welcome!

Prelude

"As Christ Breaks Bread"

arr. Martin

Call to Worship

There are so many mysteries in God's world:

We, so advanced, stand in awe of the wonders of the natural world.

We look at the tiniest seeds and wonder what will happen to them;

From the small seed can grow such a large plant.

Although we consider our gifts to be small and insignificant,

God can use our gifts in miraculous ways.

Praise the God of small seeds and mighty power.

Amen.

Hymn 393

"O Day of Rest and Gladness"

Invitation to Confession

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

Lord Jesus, we remember with gratitude those people who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our lives.

We recognize how you've blessed our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown.

We confess that sometimes we fail to involve ourselves in planting any seeds of faith in the lives of others;

There are times when our personal agendas become more important than yours;

There are times we've denied others the opportunity to expand their faith through our lack of interest or involvement;

We know that when we become disconnected from you, our lives become parched and unfruitful and our faith becomes stunted and dry.

Please renew our lives, so that we remain connected to you at all times, in all places, strengthening our faith to expand and, growing strongly, to bear the fruit of your mercy, your love, and your undying life.

Assurance of God's Grace

Fear not, for our creator, the loving maker of all reality, forgives us, and redeems us. God sows the good news in tiny seeds, inviting us to tend the soil of community, and marvel as they grow. In the name of Jesus, who is the Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

Friedell

Draw us in the spirit's tether for when humbly in thy name, two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them: Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now Thy garment's hem. As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup. Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit Thou our friendship up. All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of Thee, that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be. Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve Thee faithfully.

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.**

Today's Lessons

Revelations 21: 1-5

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Mark 4: 26-34

He also said "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain – first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

Again, he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Sermon

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Hymn 538

"Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"

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.

Distribution of the Elements and Communion of the People

Hymn 526

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Benediction

Postlude/Prayers for the Journey “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

arr. Burkardt

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.



First Presbyterian Church’s Peace, Love and a Bag of Chips is looking for **new/gently-used** t-shirts and sock donations. There will be a collection bin placed in the Courtyard Lobby. “And he would answer and say to them, “The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise.” -Luke 3:11 Also, there is an urgent need for additional FPC volunteers to be on hand between 3:30-5:00 pm on Sundays. Most weeks, it simply requires someone willing to be on-site, greet the partner church volunteers who have prepared and will serve the meal, then locking up afterward (including the Courtyard). At least 1 (and often 3) FPC veterans are there each week, too. We’re all in this together! Anyone interested in learning the (very minimal) ropes, please see Oralie Wilhite, Mary Ann Taylor or Sue Fay.

Church Staff

Steve Frazier – Covenant Pastor
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.

Week of August 7- Prayers of the People

- Diane Griffin and Family
- Paul Butler
- Brian Patgorski
- Lane Pittman
- Rose Layman
- Emily Bond
- Linda Thompson
- Monica Manley
- Those who have COVID

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

7 Makayla Winkler	22 Emily Fay
10 Mike Taylor	23 Ryan Grady Kenrick
11 Margaret Smith	23 Richard Griffin
12 Nancy Mayo	26 Margie Arambula
17 Carrie Griffin	26 Kim McCormick
19 Grady Fitzwater	28 Linda Hackworth
19 Linda Rodrigues	29 Alice Simpson
20 Art Kennis	29 Logan Aliff
21 Sylvia Stephenson	31 Benjamin 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 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