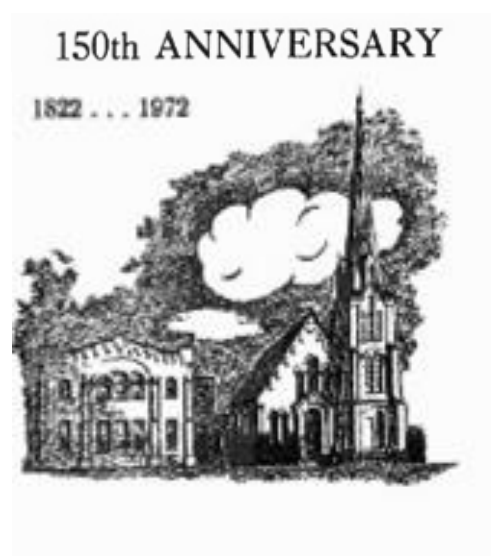


*FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CELEBRATING
OUR FIRST 200 YEARS OF MINISTRY
NOVEMBER 27, 2022*



200TH ANNIVERSARY



CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED AND
SEVENTY FIVE YEARS
1822 - 1997



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 27, 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. Welcome!

Prelude "A Lovely Rose is Blooming" Johannes Brahms

Call to Worship "Where the Promise Shines" Dunstan/Moore

(Please join choir on refrain printed in bulletin)

Advent Lighting by Bob and Michelle Graupmann

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every hurt to be healed.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every tear to be dried.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every injustice to be made right.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We celebrate God's promises and long for those yet to unfold.

Congregation:

Lead us on, lead us on to a morn-ing where the
prom - ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on
to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.

Hymn 93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Invitation to Confession

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

This is the time for us to wake from sleep; salvation is near to us. Let us then lay aside the tatters of sin, and put on the armor of righteousness, asking our Savior for forgiveness.

O God, we are steeped in a world of violence. War is one of the first things we learn, and we let it work its way into our lives. Your promises of peace sound like impossible dreams, and we become accustomed to cruelty. Forgive us. Wrest our weapons from our hands, and show us how beautiful life can be when you forge them into instruments of peace.

Assurance of God's Grace

Beloved, know this: The God of Presence, the God of Transformation, the God of Peace, hears our prayers and gives us power to love. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem "Fling Wide the Door" Yarrington

Fling wide the door, unbar the gate; the King of glory comes in state; The Lord of lords, the King of kings, the Savior of the world who brings His great salvation to the earth. So raise a shout of holy mirth, and praise our God and Lord, Creator, Spirit, Word. He is the rock of our belief, the heart of mercy's gentle self. His kingly crown is holiness, his scepter is his loveliness. He brings our sorrows to an end. Now gladly praise our king and friend, and worship him with song for saving us from wrong. Oh happy towns and blessed lands that live by their true King's commands and blessed be the hearts He rules, the humble places where he dwells. He is the rightful Son of

Bliss, Who fills our lives and makes us His; Creator of the world, our only strength for good. Fling wide the door, the King of Glory comes!

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.**

Prayers of the People

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

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling[a] together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Hymn 82

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Second Lesson

Matthew 3: 1-9

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

Sermon

“A Pandemic Repentance”

Rev. Skip Baker-Smith

Hymn 364

“Lift Up the Gates Eternal”

Benediction

Postlude

“Pour l'Advent”

Dom Paul Benoit



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. Please join us in welcoming the Rev. Skip Baker-Smith to our pulpit this morning. Skip is a retired Presbyterian clergyman who has been singing in our choir since June of last year. He and his wife Betsy co-pastored three rural churches in Eastern Washington State. Between pastorates, the Baker-Smith's volunteered for a year at Habitat for Humanity headquarters in Americus, Georgia and another year at The Campbell Farm, a working orchard and Presbyterian mission site in Wapato, Washington. He and Betsy moved to Portsmouth to be near their son and his family who live in Chesapeake.

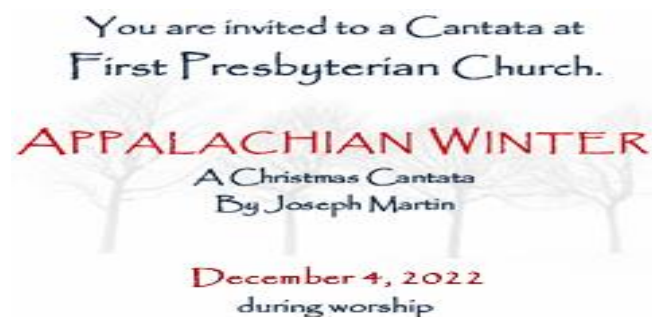
There is an urgent need for additional FPC volunteers to be on hand between 3:30-5:00 pm on Sundays. Most weeks, it simply requires someone willing to be on-site, greet the partner church volunteers who have prepared and will serve the meal, then locking up afterward (including the Courtyard). At least 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.

Week of November 27- Prayers of the People

- Mary Lemming
- Frances Hasty
- Paul Butler
- Lane Pittman
- Agnes McFadden
- Alice Simpson
- Karen Diggs
- Emily Bond
- Linda Thompson
- Monica Manley
- Those who have COVID

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Betsy Brown	19	Sue Fay
4	Toby Pennell	19	Corbin Taylor
9	Graham Fitzwater	20	Paul Butler
12	John Hackworth	23	Diane Turner
15	Tanner Furman	28	Connor McCormick



Brrrrr, winter is on its way!
We will be collecting **GLOVES, HATS, AND SCARVES** to distribute to our PLBC guests and others in need. Both women's and men's items are needed, especially large gloves for men. There will be a **collection box in the courtyard foyer** for the next several weeks.