

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, May 7, 2023 – 10:30 AM

Order of Worship

Church Staff

Steve Frazier – Covenant Pastor
Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

Week of May 7- Prayers of the People

- Family of Rachel Elizabeth Silver
- Deb Hardie
- Gene Dawson and Family
- Jennifer Edinger
- Frances Hasty
- Paul Butler
- Greg Graupmann
- Lane Pittman
- Robert Norfleet
- Emily Bond
- Monica Manley

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Jean Byers
8 David Culpepper
12 Yolanda Faas
12 Charlie McCormick
18 Elizabeth Turner
20 Corey McCormick
21 Bob Graupmann
26 Diana Taylor
30 Scott Taylor
31 Monica Manley

- Our Ladies' Circle (a Presbyterian Women Group) meets on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Location to be determined. ALL are welcome. Our Prayer Group, led by Nancy Grant, will meet beforehand at 10:30.
- **The Presbyterian Women celebrate their birthday on Mother's Day. The special offering taken each year will go to mission projects that benefit families. Special envelopes will be available. Please make checks payable to "Presbyterian Women"**
- The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia's (PEVA) Hunger Ministry Team is grateful for the 160 cans of protein that were collected by our congregation for their initiative that supports the hunger missions of churches that are hosting presbytery meetings. Over 250 cans of protein were collected at the meeting at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, April 25th, 2023.

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. Welcome!

Prelude "Communion Meditation" Benoit

Choral Call to Worship

Call to Worship

We come together as the church;
Not a building of wood or stone, but a special house.
We will be the living stones that shout praise even when others are silent.
God redeems us, joins us together, and builds us up.

Hymn 509 "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

Invitation to Confession

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

Jesus taught us mercy by praying for the forgiveness of those who killed him. This grace assures us that no matter what we have done, no matter the words we have left unspoken, we can come to Christ with our honest confession.

Christ, our way, our truth, our life, you have shown the way, so clearly and fully. You have not simply told us how to live, you have shown us. But we still don't get it. We do not believe all you have said to us, we do not trust the way you have shown us. Help us, O God. Forgive us. Open our ears to your truth, open our eyes to your way, and lead us into new life.

Assurance of God's Grace

Beloved, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Christ prepares a place for us, brings us close to him. He answers us even in our unbelief.

We are God's own people. Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Response "Gloria Patri" Hymn 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Calvin Hampton

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given. There is welcome for the sinner and a promised grace made good; there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood. There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this; there is room for fresh creations in the upper room of bliss. For the love of God is broader than the measure of our minds; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own; and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own. 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all: greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word, and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

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.

Time with Children

Hymn 504

“We Come as Guests Invited”

Moment for Peace

First Lesson

Acts 7: 55-60

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Second Lesson

1 Peter 2: 2-10

Like newborn babies crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone

the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Sermon

“Stone Stumbling”

Dr. Steve Frazier

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Table

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also, with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

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 238

“Thine Is the Glory”

Benediction

Postlude

“The Lone Wild Bird”

arr. W. Held

Please join us in the Courtyard Lobby for refreshments after worship!

We are in the process of updating our online directory. If you have any information you would like added, removed, or changed, please send an email to g.goodrich1203@gmail.com, with a subject heading reading “Directory Changes” by June 18th. Thank you for your help on this ongoing project!