

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 17, 2023 – 10:30 AM

Order of Worship

Church Staff

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

Week of Sept 10 - Prayers of the People

John Hackworth
Bev Smith, Mallory's Mother-in-law
Josh Bennett
Skip Parker
Nancy Ward
Jackie Lapointe
David Stuart
Deb Hardie

Frances Hasty
Paul and Alice Butler
Lane Pittman
Robert Norfleet
Emily Bond
Monica Manley
Kathryn Duck

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Lyra Furman
8 Sonia Powell
10 Bentley Breeden
10 Collin Taylor
18 Rebecca Tanner
20 Karen Diggs
23 Patrice Walker

24 C. C. Smith
25 Oralie Wilhite
28 Dee Dee Straus
28 Brian Patgorski
28 Charlie Sykes, Jr.
29 Roberta Stegall
30 Toni Rutsch



Calling on willing hands! Member gifts have been made to paint and re-carpet the three offices across from the Fellowship Hall. **Please mark your calendars for September 23, 9 AM and come help paint these three rooms.** Bring your favorite brush, roller, and or roller extension and join in some fellowship and laughter as we "getter done". If you can't paint, you can tape, or pull off toe molding, or move chairs. Many hands make light work.

Email Gail Pittman at gailtu@aol.com to sign up.



The First Presbyterian Book Club will hold a post-Covid reorganizational meeting in the fellowship hall on Sunday, September 17 immediately following worship. Surely all of you book lovers have read lots of good books since we last met, pre-covid. Bring your suggestions for the group to read and discuss in the coming months. A light snack and beverage will be provided. See you then!



The Presbytery of Eastern Virginia (PEVA) Hunger Ministry Team's next food drive to support the Hunger Ministries of PEVA Churches hosting PEVA meetings is for **Bayside PC**. They are asking for breakfast offerings such as **cereal** (for adults and children), **pancake/waffle mix**, **syrup**, **oatmeal**, **grits**, and **breakfast bars**. Offerings can be dropped off at the PEVA office (10:00 - 4:00) until October 19 or they may be brought to the PEVA meeting on October 24

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 "Prelude" Mendelssohn

Choral Call to Worship

****Call to Worship**

We observe this day as the Lord's Day, giving thanks to God, who gives justice to the oppressed, who forgives us and redeems us, and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy. Let us worship the One who is worthy of our praise!

*Hymn 409 "God Is Here"

Invitation to Confession

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

We are not here to pass judgment on each other: all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Therefore, let us go before God as we offer our confession.

****God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us.**

Assurance of God's Grace

People of God, hear and believe: God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to God's own steadfast love for us.

****As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us. Thanks be to God!**

Response "Sing A New Song"

****Sing a new song unto the Lord. Let your song be sung from mountains high. Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing Halleluiah! (repeat)**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" Ippditof-Ivanoff

Bless the Lord, O my soul, blessed art Thou, O Lord. Bless the Lord and forget not all His benefits. Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. He is gracious and plenteous in mercy. He crowneth thee with loving kindness. He will not always chide, nor keep His wrath forever. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name.

**Please rise in body or Spirit. | **Words in bold print are spoken aloud or sung in unison.*

*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.**

Time with Children

*Hymn 458

“Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet”

First Lesson

Romans 14: 1-12

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. It is written: “‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’”

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Second Lesson

Matthew 18: 21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Sermon

“Forgive or Else”

Dr. Steven Frazier

*Hymn 749

“Come! Live in the Light!”

Benediction

*Benediction Response

“Jesus Be with Us”

Gambrell

Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to follow the Gospel and live as we pray. Send us your Spirit and show us your way Jesus be with us today. Where there is hunger and thirst in the land, scatter the systems of greed. Jesus be with us, make use of our hands. Lift up your people in need.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Peace of Christ be with you.

****And also with you.**

Greet one another with the peace of Christ.

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

