

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Church Staff

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

SESSION

Steve Frazier – Moderator of Session
Mary Lemming
Gail Pittman
Dan Swanson
Oralie Wilhite
Linda Audet
Michelle Graupmann
Diane Griffin
Mary Ann Taylor
Michael Broadhurst

TRUSTEES

Earl Griffin
John Hackworth
Pat Sparks

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 12, 2023 – 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. Welcome! **Today, we have Reverend Skip Baker-Smith filling our pulpit. Thank you!***

Prelude "We Pray Now" Buxtehude

Choral Call to Worship

Call to Worship

Together, we choose to serve God, which means:

****We choose love. We choose hope. We choose peace. We choose kindness. We choose welcome. We choose justice. We choose to serve God. Let us worship.**

*Hymn 633 "Praise Ye the Lord"

Invitation to Confession

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

Our God is a God of glorious deeds, of wondrous works. Our hope is in God. But we do not always keep God's commandments. Let us confess our sins before our merciful and mighty God.

****Everlasting God, we say we want to see you, to know you, to serve you, but we also do not want to put in the work. We do not want to prepare for your coming by working for you kin-dom on this earth. We do not keep alert for signs of you among us, so we schedule you in for an hour or so on Sundays. Forgive us. Inspire us to put our faith to action. Surprise us with your presence so we might learn to always be ready for you to arrive.**

Assurance of God's Grace

All who seek God will rejoice and be glad. We proclaim that God is great because of this good news: We are forgiven! Be at peace.

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!**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

"In the Shadow of Your Wings"

Leavitt

Gracious God be merciful. O my God be merciful. My soul is crying out to you. My only refuge Lord is you, God most high. In the shadow of your wings, 'neath the shadow of your wings, My soul finds rest from my deep distress. My heart hides there till this darkness passes by. I cry to God on high whose purpose is fulfilled for me. He reaches down to save and reproaches him who threatens me. Gracious God, be merciful. O my God be merciful. My soul finds love and truth in you. No other place of safety Lord but you... In the shadow of you wings, I hide O my God, most high.

**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 - Gail Pittman

*Hymn 177

“I Will Come to You”

First Lesson

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Second Lesson

Matthew 25: 14-30

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’

““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Sermon

“Use It or Lose It”

Rev. Skip Baker-Smith

*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.

Postlude

“Gabriel’s Oboe”

Morricone

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

Guest Preacher – Rev. Skip Baker-Smith

This Morning’s Liturgist – Michael Broadhurst



Prayers of the People

The Family of Dianne Moorefield	Sylvia Simpson
Connie, Friend of Oralie	Bev Smith, Mallory’s Mother-In-Law
Josh Bennett	Skip Parker
Nancy Ward	David Stuart
Paul and Alice Butler	Lane Pittman
Robert Norfleet	Monica Manley

November Birthday Sunday will be celebrated on November 19, 2023.

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 19, following the Service of Worship to elect a member to serve on the Elder Nominating Committee.