

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 19, 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!

Prelude "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"
Benjamin McCormick, Pianist

Choral Call to Worship

****Call to Worship**

To you, O God of the heavens, we lift our eyes.

Have mercy on us!

God has been our dwelling place from generation to generation.

Hear us when we call!

From everlasting to everlasting, God is with us.

We will magnify your holy name!

*Hymn 367 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Invitation to Confession

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

As Children of God, we come to God in our joys, in our sorrows, in our fears and in our guilt. Knowing that God loves us and embraces us, let us bring our confessions to God.

****God of abundance, you have given us so many gifts. You bless us with talents, resources, skills, and knowledge, and yet we hide them under a bushel. We hoard these gifts, instead of following you and sharing with those in need. We have been poor stewards of all you have given. Forgive us and help us grow what we are given, so that it might be returned in service to you.**

****Assurance of God's Grace**

God has destined us not for wrath, but for salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that we may live with him.

Praise be to Christ! Alleluia!

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 Halleluia!

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem "Thank the Lord" Rene Clausen

Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell everyone what He has done. Let every man who loves the lord rejoice and gladly bear His name. He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of Thanksgiving. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**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.**

November Birthday Blessing – All with November birthdays are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

Time with Children – Rev. Skip Baker-Smith

*Hymn 336 “We Gather Together”

First Lesson Psalm 90: 1-8; 12

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.” A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death – they are like the new grass of the morning: In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered.

We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Second Lesson Matthew 25: 1-13

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Sermon “Sleeping in Church” Rev. Steve Frazier

*Hymn 611 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

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 “Ashokan Farewell” Arr. Hackworth

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

Guest Musician – Benjamin McCormick
This Morning’s Liturgist – Michele Graupman



Prayers of the People

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| 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 |

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