

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

Alice Lerp	Family of Agnes Mobley Fuller Wynne
Nancy Ward	John Hackworth
Cathi Mullins, Norma’s Sister	David Stuart
Connie, Friend of Oralie	Paul and Alice Butler
Bev Smith, Mallory’s Mother-In-Law	Lane Pittman
Josh Bennett	Robert Norfleet
Monica Manley	Kathy Goolsby
Donna Pierponte	Tammy Gillman
Mae & Chreston Holoman	

Church Staff

Steve Frazier – Covenant Pastor
 Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music
 Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary
 Skip Baker-Smith – Guest Preacher

SESSION

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

TRUSTEES

Earl Griffin
 John Hackworth
 Pat Sparks

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7 David Turner
 15 Beth Lutz
 17 Carl Rhodes, Jr
 18 Brantley Aliff
 26 Sylvie Joyner
 27 Kay Kidd
 31 Kelsey Smith
 31 Abbey Taylor

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Charles Bond
 3 Lauren Graupmann
 10 Logan Smith
 20 Diane Griffin
 20 Steve Frazier
 24 Judy Powell
 27 Betty Bartlett
 27 Bunky Joyner
 28 Grace Bryant

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 28, 2024 – 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! **have the Rev. Skip Baker-Smith filling in our pulpit. Thank you, Skip!**

We are here to express our praise and thanksgiving to God, to be nourished and fed with Word and Spirit, and to give witness to the world that we stand apart----ready to claim a faith which transforms the earth into the Kingdom of God. Let us attend to this Holy Call.

Prelude “Entrata” JS Bach

****Call to Worship**
 With our whole hearts, we give God thanks.
Great are the works of the Lord!
 We ascribe honor and majesty to God.
God’s righteousness endures forever.
 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
Let us worship God!

*Hymn 15 “All Creatures of Our God and King”

Invitation to Confession

****Prayer of Confession**-followed by a time for silent confession and prayer
****God of mercy, show compassion as we make our confession. You command us to tell of Your mighty deeds, yet we remain silent. You call us to act faithfully, yet we tarry. We claim to be wise, yet we know not your Word. Our allegiance is divided by many false gods. Help us, Lord God! By your grace renew us and cleanse us of our sin. In Christ, through Christ, we pray. Amen.**

****Assurance of God’s Grace**
 The grace of God is sure for each and for all. Be restored to right standing with God and with one another. Know that we are set free and empowered by God’s Spirit to create loving and just communities in our world. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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 “Cherubim Song” Bortniznski

*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.**

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

Apostles' Creed

****I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. 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 – Rev. Skip Baker-Smith

*Hymn 707 "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"

First Lesson 1 Cor. 8: 1-13

Now about food sacrificed to Idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God.

So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

Second Lesson Mark 1: 21-28

They went to Capernaum and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!"

"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" the impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of hi with a shriek.

The people were so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this" A new teaching – and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Sermon "Dealing with the Demons" Rev. Skip Baker-Smith

Hymn 712 "As Those of Old Their First Brought"

Benediction

*Benediction Response "Jesus Be with Us"
**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 "Bouree" JS Bach

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

