

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

Alice Lerp	Jean Byers
Nancy Ward	Tammy Gillman
Cathi Mullins, Norma's sister	Judy Hedgepeth
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
Jackie LaPonte	Barbara Owens
Mae and Chreston Holoman	Maria Rhodes
Chianne Hackley, friend of Tanner and Alyssa	Bobbi Stegall
Wayne Braswell	

Church Staff

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

SESSION

Steve Frazier – Moderator of Session
Cameron McCormick
Norma Halterman
Todd Taylor
Oralie Wilhite
Linda Audet
Michelle Graupmann
Diane Griffin
Mary Ann Taylor
Michael Broadhurst

TRUSTEES

Earl Griffin
John Hackworth
Pat Sparks

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Edna Broadhurst
12 Burma Smith
13 Penny Brangan
13 Mary Fitzwater
21 Mallory James Smith
22 Jennifer Patgorski
24 Nancy Frazier
26 Mike McCormick
28 Nancy Grant

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 10, 2024 – 10:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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 "Meditation" Dubois

Choral Call to Worship

**Call to Worship

We enter into worship together, reflections of God's glory.

Inspired by God's presence, we gather to join in praise.

In joy, we lift our voices.

With adoration, we express our gratitude.

*Hymn 634 "To God Be the Glory"

Invitation to Confession

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

Guided by your revelation, we are compelled to seek your wisdom as we continue the Lenten journey. We are filled with awesome wonder that you would love us so, trust us so, and move within us. Now fill our spirits with hope, humility, and resolve, that we might be your will in the world. Open our hearts to accept this call upon our lives. May our sacred service be pleasing in your sight. Amen.

**Assurance of God's Grace

It is written:

By the gift of God's grace, we are saved through faith.

Thank you, Lord. 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 Hallelujah!

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Anthem "Jesus Died on Calvary's Mountain" K. Lee Scott

Jesus died on Calvary's mountain long time ago, and salvation's rolling fountain now freely flows. Once his voice in tones of pity melted in woe, and he wept over Judah's city long time ago. On his head the dews of midnight fell long ago. Now a crown of dazzling sunlight sits on his brow. Jesus died yet lives forever, no more to die. Bleeding Jesus, Bleeding savior now reigns on high. Children, let your lights be burning in dawn of heaven, waiting for the Lord's returning at dawn or evening. When he comes, a voice from heaven shall pierce the tomb. Come, ye blessed of my father, children, come home. Children, come home.

**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.**

Apostles' Creed

****I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, 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 thence he will come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, 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**

March Birthday Blessing – All with a March birthday are invited to come forward to receive a special blessing.

Time with Children – Gail Pittman

Hymn 366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

First Lesson

Ephesians 2: 1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Second Lesson

John 3: 14-21

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Sermon

“Turning on the Light”

Pastor Steve Frazier

*Hymn 377

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Benediction

*Benediction Response

“As the Deer”

Hymn 626

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Peace of Christ be with you.

****And also with you.**

Greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Postlude

“Voluntary”

Benoit

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

March Liturgist – Pat Sparks

12:00 – The stated session meeting will be held in the Mary Rice Conference Room following the service of worship.

