

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

Alice Lerp	Jean Byers
Nancy Ward	Wayne Braswell
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	Gus Spanos
Angela Calicchio, Sofia's mother	Mike Mike Taylor

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

6 Donald Hal
11 Norma Halterman
14 Lane Pittman
17 Estelle England
19 Jerry Freeman
21 Grady Kenrick
25 Raymond Rodrigues
28 Sharon Conklin
29 Alice Butler
30 Diana Harvey

The FPC Book Club will meet today, in the fellowship hall immediately following Post Worship Fellowship. Pat Sparks will lead the discussion of the book *Hamnet*, by Maggie O' Farrell.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 21, 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.

Prelude "Pastorale" C. Franck

Choral Call to Worship

**Call to Worship

We come to God, our holy shepherd, as we come to a green meadow.
God prepares a place for us, and we give glory in God's presence.
How excellent is this dwelling place under the eyes of God's care.
We turn to God in joy. Our good shepherd provides for all our needs.

*Hymn 1 "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

Invitation to Confession

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

Providing God, in our journey of faithfulness, we graze in the pastures you lead us to each day. As we move along, our steps may seem aimless, yet you keep watch and never leave. When we are tired, you prepare for us a table. When we are thirsty, your cup of goodness and mercy overflows. When we are lost, you seek us out. And oh, how our hearts leap when you call to us, for we know your voice and feel your love. Dearest God, we are so grateful that your staff of righteousness leads us home. Amen.

**Assurance of God's Grace

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
May the God of mercy, who forgives you all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
This is the Good News of the Gospel, therefore let us sing to the glory of God.

Response "Sing A New Song" Hymn 276

****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

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

Offertory Anthem "He Ain't Coming Here to Die No More" arr. Ryder

My Lord ain't comin' here to die no more. He ain't comin' here to die no more. Virgin Mary had a son, wicked people had Him hung. Halleluiah to the Lamb, Jesus died for every man, but He ain't coming here to die no more. He died for the rich, He died for the poor, but He ain't comin here to die no more. He died for the blind, he died for the lame, He bore the pain and all the blame, but he ain't comin here to die no more.

*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**

Time with Children – Skip Baker-Smith

*Hymn 630 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

First Lesson Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me to lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me. You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Second Lesson 1 John 3: 16-24

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything

we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Sermon "Abide" The Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier

Hymn 836 "Abide with Me"

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 "In the Spirit" Benoit

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

April Liturgist – Elder Todd Taylor

