

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, June 30, 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 "Choral Prelude on America" Peeters

**Call to Worship

The steadfast love of God never ceases.

God's mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning.

Great is your faithfulness, O God.

Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning,
for you hear us when we cry.

So we will praise you and will not be silent.

Sing praises, O you faithful ones,
and give thanks to God's holy name.

*Hymn 610 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Invitation to Confession

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

Merciful God, you listen to all our prayers— cries of joy and cries for help, shouts of frustration and speechless awe, wordless weeping and lengthy lament. Some of us wait decades for your response; others sense it immediately. May we come to know your presence, even when you seem absent, and seek your unexpected responses. Embolden us to keep praying through dismay and disappointment, for the Holy Spirit speaks for us when we are unable to pray. Amen.

**Assurance of God's Grace

While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death, when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

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

Offertory Anthem "Great Is the Lord" Haydn

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness. We have thought of Thy loving kindness, O God, in the midst of Thy temple. According to Thy name, O God, so is Thy praise, unto the ends of the earth. Great is the Lord!

**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.**

Time with Children – Skip Baker-Smith

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**

Hymn 59

“The Steadfast Love of the Lord”

First Lesson

Hosea 11: 1-12

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.

“Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent? A sword will flash in their cities; it will devour their false prophets and put an end to their plans. My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them.

“How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboiim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man— the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities. They will follow the Lord; he will roar like a lion.

When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. They will come from Egypt, trembling like sparrows, from Assyria, fluttering like doves. I will settle them in their homes,” declares the Lord. Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, Israel with deceit. And Judah is unruly against God, even against the faithful Holy One.

Second Lesson

Luke 15: 11-32

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Sermon

“Better Than Expected”

The Rev. Frank Drake

Hymn 621

“I Will Call upon the Lord”

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.

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

June Liturgist – Oralie Wilhite

Please join us in welcoming The Reverend Frank Drake. Frank was born in New York City, raised mostly in suburban New Jersey, and attended Wheaton College (IL) with a major in Math. Seeking the Lord's guidance on the direction of his life, he spent three years as a Presbyterian missionary in Sudan, teaching math, English, and Bible. Sensing God's call to marriage (he and Chris were married on leaving Sudan) and ministry, he attended Princeton Seminary and was ordained. His and Chris's first call was to Indonesia, where Frank taught New Testament and English at the Indonesian Christian University in Tomohon, preparing young Indonesian Christians for the ministry. After five years there, the Drakes, now 4, returned to the States, where Frank enrolled in the Ph.D. program in New Testament studies at Princeton. While working on his dissertation, he pastored in several churches, including for a year at First Church Portsmouth as an interim. Then he served 28 years as pastor at Willowood Presbyterian Church in Norfolk until his retirement in 2009. In retirement he has led seminars around the world, helping pastors and church leaders learn better how to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit. He and Chris continue to live in Norfolk.

Please see the announcements on the last page

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

Alice Lerp	Jean Byers
Nancy Ward	Wayne Braswell
Judy Hedgepeth	Bobbi Stegall
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
Cecilia Fry and children Alfred and Teresa Fry	Mary Raines, friend of Norma
Dana Arden	Wendy, Alyssa's aunt
Peggy Norfleet	Barbara Bond
Nancy Grant	Mary, friend of Bobbi Stegall

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

10 Cooper John Smith
14 Tommy Pennell
17 Gabrielle Goodrich
17 Dan Swanson
18 Frances Hardy
21 Cameron McCormick
25 Mason Winkler
26 Mackenzie Taylor
27 Betsy Baker-Smith
28 Barbara Livingston

JULY BIRTHDAYS

06 Megan Diggs
08 Arianna Templeton
10 Riley Jane Smith
18 Daniel McCormick
18 Melanie Lutz
23 Robert Carlisle
28 Regan Taylor Smith



Greetings to the folks at
Portsmouth First
Presbyterian.

Skip Baker-Smith is here with a summer invitation for each of you: on-line and in person.

The Session has asked me to lead worship on August 25. I want to offer something different for that hour and Pastor Steve is going to help! Here is my request.

Please prayerfully, call to your mind— a time in your life when you have felt God’s presence.

This might be anything!! (E.g. Happy or sad, joyful or scary, grateful or perplexing.) These thoughts might be: a prayer, a poem, some personal experience, perhaps a hymn or a special word from Scripture. YOU decide what that might be. You decide the details... don’t worry about length! Write that down.— (we might even use an audio version— if writing doesn’t work.)

Send those words to me at skipbakersmith@gmail.com.— OR— at 5704 W. Norfolk Road, Portsmouth, VA 23703— OR— put it into my choir cubby in the choir room.

Please do this ON or BEFORE Sunday August 4. You have a full month to create this!

Skip and Pastor Steve will then edit your offerings and prepare them to be used in worship. We will follow our usual “Presbyterian” format. We will be Praising, and Praying, and Singing, and Proclaiming and Sending Us out the doors.... all using the words which you have shared.

Think about this— The Session invites you into this adventure of worship together...

All submissions will be anonymous.

Grace and Peace,

Skip



First Presbyterian Church (515 Court St., Portsmouth, VA) invites you to the third installment of our 2024 Courtyard Concert Series in our courtyard on **Wed., July 3, 2024, with the Top Hats Orchestra.**

The Top Hats Orchestra is Hampton Road's premier swing and dance band. They are a 12-piece band that has been performing for more than 30 years. The band plays various types of swing and dance music from the 40's and 50's including names such as Count Basie, Glenn Miller, and Tommy Dorsey. The group also performs newer swing music including tunes by Brian Setzer, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, and many others.

The concert will be indoors in the event of inclement weather.