



First Presbyterian Church
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2015

SHARE the amazing love of God	REFLECT the light of Jesus Christ	LIVE and serve joyfully in the Spirit's power
757.397.3622	515 COURT STREET, PORTSMOUTH, VA 23704	WWW.FPCPORTS.ORG

Coming Events

Sunday, Nov. 29
9:30 Breakfast
9:50 Children's music
10:00 Sunday school
11:00 Worship
12:00 Decoration of the sanctuary

Wednesday, Dec. 2
6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Sunday, Dec. 6
9:30 Breakfast
9:50 Children's music
10:00 Sunday school
11:00 Worship with the Lord's Supper

Wednesday, Dec. 9
6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Saturday, Dec. 12
10:30 Women's Circle at the Sparks home

Sunday, Dec. 13
Stewardship Sunday
9:30 Breakfast
9:50 Children's music
10:00 Sunday school
11:00 Worship, including receiving gifts for \$6 a back pack
12:00 Round table discussion

Wednesday, Dec. 16
6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Saturday, Dec. 19
5:00 Christmas gathering

Reminder: The Court St. and King St. doors will be locked during worship. Please enter through the sanctuary during worship.



****Please rise in body and spirit.***

Made One by Christ

Welcome

News for the Good of the Church

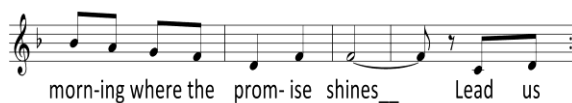
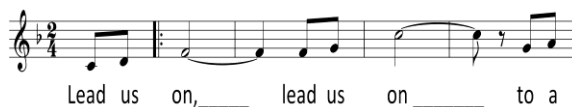
Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Held

* Choral Call to Worship

"Where the Promise Shines" Joel Raney
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

First Sunday – *The Promise of Hope*

Refrain – Congregation and Choir



Responsive Litany

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every hurt to be healed.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every tear to be dried.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every injustice to be made right.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We celebrate God's promises and long for those yet to unfold.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

Candle Lighting and Reading

Refrain – Congregation and Choir

*Hymn #364 "Lift Up the Gates Eternal"

Clothed by Christ

Listening for the silence of God followed by the "Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Surely God is our salvation. Have faith, and do not be afraid. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins.

Eternal God, we confess that we resist Your holy realm. You seek justice and righteousness, but we pursue selfish agendas. You promise us salvation, but we trust in our own strength. Forgive us, God of grace. Lead us in Your way of truth so that we may be ready to see You face to face, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Sharing of Christ's Peace

*** Song of Praise, Hymn #453 "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"**

Sharing Christ's Promise

Time with the Children

Prayer of Illumination

First Reading Jeremiah 33: 14-16 page 683

*** Hymn #82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

Gospel Reading Luke 21: 25-36 pages 915-916

Sermon "Here's Your Sign" The Rev. Vernon Murray

A Life of Blessing

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Musical Offering "Prepare the Royal Highway" arr. Bradley Ellingboe

*** Doxology Hymn #606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

*** Affirmation of Faith – the 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, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**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.**

A Life of Blessedness

* Hymn #625 "How Great Thou Art"

* Charge and Benediction

* Hymn #611 (3rd verse) "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

A Blessing in Music

"Joyeux"

Benoit

Prepare the Royal Highway

*Prepare the royal highway;
The King of Kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
Foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!*

*Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised King!
Your King, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before Him;
Their voices join your singing:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!*

*His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God's Word!*

Welcome to our visitors!

We hope that you find our congregation a welcoming one.
Your presence enriches our worship of God.

The Spiers family wishes that any memorial donations for Frances be made to First Presbyterian Church.

Agnus McFadden wishes to thank everyone who helped prepare the sanctuary for the Christmas season and worship.

Operation Santa Claus: The Church Women United's annual Christmas service will be held on Friday, December 4, at 10:30 AM at Green Acres Presbyterian Church. Our church's Presbyterian Women's Circle will be gifting two foster children.

Christmas Gathering: Join our church family for a Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 19, at 5:00 PM. Meat and beverages will be provided. Bring a veggie, salad, or dessert (6/8 servings). RSVP by using the "Count Me In" cards in the sanctuary or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Stewardship Sunday will be held on Sun., Dec. 13, during the worship service. Pledge cards will be sent out soon.

Please join the Session after church on Sun., Dec. 13, for a round table discussion about FPC's options for a new pastor. A "Potato Bar" lunch will be served.

Prayer List

Jeff Baker (Norma Halterman's brother-in-law), Betty Bartlett,
Richard Butler (Paul's cousin), Kyle Craig (Kerry's cousin),
Ronald Curry (Grace Yingling's son), Jackie and Tyler Forsythe,
Benjamin Gerlach (Pat Sparks' grandson),
the Goodwin family (neighbors of Cecilia and Alfred Fry),
Stephanie Green, Mildred Humphrey (Lane Pittman's mother),
Joe Jennings, Mark Leonard (Claudia Laughlin's brother),
Agnes McFadden, Bob Pomeroy, Jr. (Diane Griffin's brother),
Marina Reimann, Carl Rhodes, Georgie Stewart (David's mother),
the Winkler and Powell families,
Dorothy Wooldridge (friend of Carl Rhodes)

To the church triumphant: Frances Spiers

Everyone suffering with cancer and facing surgery

Our friends at home, especially

Margaret Glynn, Lanier Halterman, Frances Hardy,
AT and Nancy Mayo, Ann Michaluk, Sue Parker, Lane Pittman,
Burma and Leon Smith, Harvey Spiers, Robert Westbrook,
Patrice and Phil Winkler, Joyce Wright, Grace and Harold Yingling

Leading in worship today

The Rev. Vernon Murray

Mrs. Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries

Reader: Todd Taylor

Ushers: David Culpepper, Rudy Simpson

Counters: David Culpepper, Rudy Simpson

November Offerings

11/1	\$ 5,168.00	11/22	\$ 703.00
11/8	\$ 3,180.00	11/29	\$
11/15	\$ 2,291.00	MTD	\$11,342.00

November Attendance

11/1	Worship	31	Sunday school	15
11/8	Worship	34	Sunday school	17
11/15	Worship	36	Sunday school	14
11/22	Worship	23	Sunday school	13
11/29	Worship		Sunday school	

The church office will be open on Wednesdays only, from 2:00 – 4:00.

In order to prepare the bulletin in a timely manner, all notices should be sent to (church@fpcports.org) and the bulletin editor (rjrodriguesiii@yahoo.com) no later than noon Wednesday.

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Session

The Rev. Walter Hunting, Moderator of Session
Karen Diggs, Class of 2015, Clerk of Session
Worship, led by Agnes McFadden and David Culpepper
Congregational Fellowship, led by Oralie Wilhite
Administration, Property and Finance, led by Paul Butler
Mission and Outreach, led by Jennifer Patgorski
Christian Formation, led by Gail Pittman

Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to contact the appropriate elder with their comments and suggestions.

Church Staff

The Rev. Walter Hunting, Crisis Pastor 483-4721 Home, 615-2944 Cell
Mrs. Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries 397-3622 ext. 203

<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Ministries</u>	
11/09 Graham Fitzwater	11/1	Contact Us:
11/12 John Hackworth	Sun. Sch. The Butlers	757-397-3622
11/15 Tanner Furman	Brkfst. Diane Griffin	www.fpcports.org
11/19 Susan Fay	11/8	church@fpcports.org
Corbin Taylor	Sun. Sch. The Butlers	g
11/20 Paul Butler	Brkfst. Todd Taylor	
11/23 Diane Turner	Hospitality	
<i>Missing a birthday?</i>	11/15	 Find us on: facebook®
<i>Please contact:</i>	Sun. Sch. The Butlers	www.facebook.com/
Church churchr@fpcports.org	Brkfst. Pat Sparks	FPCPorts
397-3622	11/22	
Bulletin Editor	Sun. Sch. The Butlers	
rjrodriguesiii@yahoo.com	Brkfst. Bond/Stephenson	
Newsletter Editor	11/29	
slp149@aol.com	Sun. Sch. The Butlers	
	Brkfst. Rodrigues/Wilhite	