



First Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2016

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, December 18
Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:00 Breakfast fellowship
9:20 Children's music
9:30 Sunday school
10:30 Worship,
"Adoption"

Wednesday, December 21
6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Saturday, December 24
Christmas Eve
6:00 Worship, with the
Lord's supper, "Christmas
Pastries"

Sunday, December 25
Christmas Day
9:00 Breakfast fellowship
9:20 Children's music
9:30 Sunday school
10:30 Worship, with the
Lord's supper, "Shepherd
– Yuck!"

Sunday, January 1
9:00 Breakfast fellowship
9:20 Children's music
9:30 Sunday school
10:30 Worship, "Hope and
Fratricide"

Wednesday, January 4
6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Sunday, January 8
9:00 Breakfast fellowship
9:20 Children's music
9:30 Sunday school
10:30 Worship

**Reminder: During
worship, please enter
through the Court Street
sanctuary doors. All other
doors will be locked.**



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

Made One by Christ

Welcome

News for the Good of the Church

Prelude "Huron Carol" arr. Waugh

* Choral Call to Worship

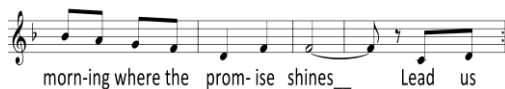
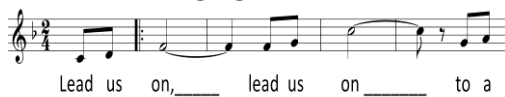
"Where the Promise Shines" Joel Raney
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Fourth Sunday – *The Promise of Love*

Reader/Advent candle lighters:

Gail Pittman and the Elementary
Sunday school class (Mary Fitzwater,
Emma Joyner, Rebecca Tanner, &
Arriana Templeton)

Refrain – Congregation and Choir



Responsive Litany

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

**God so loved the world that He gave His
one and only Son.**

When we longed for the silence to be
broken,

**God so loved the world that He gave His
one and only Son.**

When we longed for the light that shines
in the darkness,

**God so loved the world that He gave His
one and only Son.**

When we longed for the peace that
surpasses understanding,

**God so loved the world that He gave His
one and only Son.**

Candle Lighting and Reading

Refrain – Congregation and Choir

Opening Prayer

***Hymn #121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

Clothed by Christ

Moment of Silence

Corporate Prayer of Confession

A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in Your light. We hurt and destroy one another and neglect the poor and hungry. We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us, God of grace. Awaken us to Your Word, so that we may be ready to welcome You with joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Sharing of Christ's Peace

***Song of Praise, "We Are Singing"**

We are singing for the Lord is our Light; we are singing for the Lord is our Light. (Repeat once)

We are singing, singing; we are singing, Oh, we are singing for the Lord is our Light. (Repeat once)

Repeat the above substituting the word praying for singing.

Sharing God's Blessings and Compassion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Choral Musical Offering "Keep Your Lamps!" Andre Thomas

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

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

Hearing God's Word of Hope and Power

Time with the Children

*** Hymn #98 "To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"**

Prayer of Illumination

First Lesson Isaiah 7:10-16 pages 591-592

Gospel Lesson Matthew 1:18-25 page 835

Sermon "Adoption" The Rev. Steve Frazier

Taking Christ's Blessing to the World

*** Hymn # "Hark! The Harold Angels Sing"**

Charge

A Blessing in Music "The Shepherds" Held

*** Benediction "Gloria In Excelsis Deo"**

Keep Your Lamps!

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning;
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning;
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning;
The time is drawing nigh.*

*Children, don't get weary;
Children, don't get weary;
Children, don't get weary
'Till your work is done.*

*Christian, journey soon be over;
Christian, journey soon be over;
Christian, journey soon be over;
The time is drawing nigh.*

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning;
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning;
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning;
The time is drawing nigh.*

The Vision of the Congregation: We see ourselves as the embracing arms of Jesus Christ for each other, for the community, and for the world.

Welcome to our friends and visitors!

We hope that you find our congregation a welcoming one.

Your presence enriches our worship of God

Please join us after worship for refreshments and fellowship in our courtyard lobby.

The flowers in the sanctuary today, given by Edna Broadhurst, are in honor of Michael Broadhurst's birthday

Please note that the Christmas Eve worship service will begin at 6pm and that there will be no breakfast on Christmas day.

The Scriptures are read from the pulpit Bible. The pew Bibles are a slightly different translation. To follow the exact text, use your smart phone/tablet, go to biblegateway.com and select the NRSV version.

Prayer List

Ronald Curry (Grace Yingling's son), Karen Diggs,
Jackie and Tyler Forsythe, Stephanie Green,
Linda Harrell (friend of Alice Butler),
Mary Alice Jarman (friend of Bob and Judy Powell),
Christy Mattern, Carl Rhodes, the Winkler and Powell families,
Dorothy Wooldridge (friend of Carl Rhodes)

Everyone suffering with cancer and facing surgery

Our friends at home, especially

Margaret Glynn, Lanier Halterman, Frances Hardy,
AT & Nancy Mayo, Ann Michaluk, Sue Parker,
Lane Pittman, Harvey Spiers, Patrice & Phil Winkler,
Joyce Wright, Grace Yingling

Leading in worship today

The Rev. Steve Frazier

Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries

Ushers: David Culpepper, Dan Swanson

Counters: David Culpepper, Norma Halterman

December Offerings

12/4 \$ 4,915.60 12/18
12/11 \$ 4,008.00 12/25
MTD \$ 8,923.60

December Attendance

12/4 Worship 49 Sunday school 16
12/11 Worship 61 Sunday school 17
12/18 Worship Sunday school
12/25 Worship Sunday school

The church office will be open on Wednesdays only, from 1:00 – 4:00.

In order to prepare the bulletin in a timely manner, all notices should be sent to (pastor@fpcports.org) and/or the bulletin editor (bulletin@fpcports.org) no later than 6pm Tuesday.

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Session

The Rev. Steve Frazier, Moderator of Session
Gail Pittman, Clerk of Session
Administration - Paul Butler | Fellowship - Oralie Wilhite
Finance - Diane Griffin | Mission/Outreach - Jennifer Patgorski
Property - Michael Broadhurst
Worship - Agnes McFadden and David Culpepper

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

Church Staff

The Rev. Steve Frazier, Covenant Pastor 397-3622 ext. 202
Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries 397-3622 ext. 203

<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Ministries</u>
12/2 Kathy Goolsby	12/4 BF Todd Taylor
12/3 Frances Spires	SS Chreston Holoman
12/12 Margaret Glynn, Jay James, Viki Goolsby	PWF Oralie Wilhite
12/18 Michael Broadhurst Corbin Taylor	12/11 BF Barbara & Sylvia
12/21 Pat Sparks	SS Chreston Holoman
12/22 Earl Griffin	PWF Lou Wilhite
12/28 Elizabeth (Pond) Gerlach Riley Winkler	12/18 BF Oralie & Raymond
12/30 Ian Taylor	SS Chreston Holoman
Missing a birthday?	PWF Kelsey & Nancy
Please contact:	12/24 PWF Oralie Wilhite
Church pastor@fpcports.org 397-3622	12/25 BF No Breakfast
Bulletin Editor bulletin@fpcports.org	SS Chreston Holoman
Newsletter Editor slp149@aol.com	PWF Jennifer Patgorski