



First Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2017

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| 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 St. Portsmouth, VA 23704 www.fpcPorts.org | | |

Coming Events

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent
9:00 Breakfast fellowship
9:20 Children's music
9:30 Sunday school
**10:30 Worship, including
the cantata *Appalachian
Winter***

Wednesday, December 20

6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:00 Breakfast fellowship
9:20 Children's music
9:30 Sunday school
**10:30 Worship, with
liturgist Sylvia Hutson
"Got It All Wrong"**

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

6:45 p.m. Special music

7:00 p.m. Worship

**Please invite your family
and friends to join us.**

Wednesday, December 27

6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Sunday, December 31

First Sunday of Christmas
9:00 Breakfast fellowship
9:20 Children's music
9:30 Sunday school
**10:30 Worship "Lights on
Kensington Corner"**

Tuesday, January 2

10:30 Ladies' circle

Wednesday, January 3

6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Sunday, January 7

Baptism of the Lord
9:00 Breakfast fellowship
9:20 Children's music
9:30 Sunday school
**10:30 Worship "Let It
Shine"**

**Reminder: During worship,
please enter through the
Court Street sanctuary doors.**



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

Made One by Christ

Welcome

News for the Good of the Church

Prelude "Prelude" J. M. Martin
from *Appalachian Winter*
Edna Broadhurst – Organ
Nancy Frazier – Piano
John Hackworth – Trumpet
Amanda McCormick - Flute

Call to Worship

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

Third Sunday – *The Promise of Joy*

Readers and Advent candle lighters –
Monica & Arriana Manley

***The congregation is asked to join the
choir in singing the refrain.***

Refrain – Congregation and Choir



Responsive Litany

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

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

In the darkness, we long to see the light.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

In the silence, we long for a comforting
word.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

In hardship, we long for an act of love.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

In Christ, we celebrate and rejoice in the
promise of joy.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

Candle Lighting and Reading

Today we light three candles. The **first candle** radiates the hope given through Jesus Christ. The **second candle** calls us to embrace and extend Christ's peace to an unsettled world. The **third candle** extends the promise of joy to restless souls. Though darkness is present and earthly trials weigh heavy, the promise of Advent offers true **joy** that sustains a weary people.

Refrain – Congregation and Choir

Opening Prayer

* Hymn #133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Clothed by Christ

Moment of Silence

Corporate Prayer of Confession

We have all sinned; not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet You. You send Your spirit to release us, yet we remain captivated by sin. You stand among us in Christ Jesus, yet we claim we do not know You. Forgive us, God of grace. Make us holy; make us whole. Keep us safe and sound until the day of Your coming, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Sharing of Christ's Peace

* Song of Praise, Hymn #390 "Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!"

Sharing God's Blessings and Compassion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Musical Offering "Pastoral Symphony" from *The Messiah* Handel

*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

Appalachian Winter

A Cantata for Christmas

by Joseph M. Martin

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|--------------------|--|
| Narrator | Steve Frazier |
| Piano | Edna Broadhurst |
| Saxophone | Sofia Calicchio |
| Bass/Guitar | John Hackworth |
| Flute | Amanda McCormick |
| Soprano | Jean Byers Sofia Calicchio Nancy Grant Diane Griffin Kara McCormick Kim McCormick |
| Alto | Oralie Wilhite Grace Bryant Gabrielle Goodrich Sylvia Hutson Gail Pittman |
| Tenor | Bobbie Stegall Robert Cooper John Hackworth Todd Taylor |
| Bass | Michael Broadhurst Matthew Goodrich Raymond Rodrigues |

Movements

"Appalachian Winter"
"Tis a Season for Singing"
"Long Time Ago"
"Hope and Expectation"
"Carol of the Winter Wind"
"Mountain Carol"
"Gentle Carols of Bethlehem"
"While the Shepherds Watched"
"A Rustic Carol"
"Children, Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Taking Christ's Blessing to the World

Charge

* Benediction (sung) "Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

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.

A gift, in honor of Freddie & Duff G. Porter, was received from the estate of Virginia Murden.

Please join us and invite your family and friends to our Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24, at 7:00 PM.

FPC will host the Winter Shelter on Jan., 13 – 19, in partnership with Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless and Green Acres PC. There are many opportunities to help with this critical mission such as: greeters, chaperones, prayer teams, muscles to unload mats and bedding, or with donations of supplies and warm clothing. Please see the signup sheet in the fellowship hall for more information on how you can get involved!

We would like to fill the sanctuary with poinsettias on Christmas Eve. The plants are \$9.00 each. Just fill out the order form found inside your bulletin and place it in the offering plate along with your payment by Sunday, Dec.17.

Calling for Coats! As you are preparing for the wintry weather, please consider **donating your gently used coats, jackets, or rain gear** to the homeless in our city. Please bring donations to the fellowship hall and place them in the donation box.

Prayer List

Jackie & Tyler Forsythe, Rosco & Betty Graham,
Michele Graupman (recovering from surgery), Lanier Halterman,
Mae Harmon (recovering from surgery),
Mary Alice Jarman (friend of Bob & Judy Powell),
A. T. Mayo (recovering from surgery),
Mary McFadden, Brian Mills, Joan & Jim Plaatsman,
Carl Rhodes, Dorothy Wooldridge (friend of Carl Rhodes)

Everyone suffering with cancer and facing surgery

Our friends at home, especially

Ronald Curry (Grace Yingling's son), Lanier Halterman, Frances Hardy,
Ann Michaluk, Sue Parker, Lane Pittman,
Harvey Spiers, Joyce Wright, Grace Yingling

Our bulletin is printed on Wednesday. We are pleased to include any you wish to be added to the prayer list. You may contact Raymond (email: bulletin@fpcports.org, cell: 757-319-5019) or the church office (757-397-3622) by Tuesday evening.

Leading in worship today

The Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier
Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries
Ushers: David Culpepper, Deb Hardie
Counters: David Culpepper, TBA

December Offerings

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| 12/3 | \$ 2,873.01 | 12/24 | |
| 12/10 | \$29,344.00 | 12/31 | |
| 12/17 | | MTD | \$32,217.01 |

December Attendance

| | | | | |
|-------|---------|-----|---------------|----|
| 12/3 | Worship | 102 | Sunday school | 23 |
| 12/10 | Worship | 66 | Sunday school | 19 |
| 12/17 | Worship | | Sunday school | |
| 12/24 | Worship | | Sunday school | |
| 12/31 | 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 6 pm Tuesday.

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Session

The Rev. Dr. Steve Frazier, Moderator of Session
 Gail Pittman (17), Clerk of Session
 Administration/Property – Michael Broadhurst (17)
 Christian Formation/Fellowship – Betty Bartlett (19)
 Finance - Diane Griffin (18) | Mission/Outreach – Oralie Wilhite (17)
 Worship - Agnes McFadden (17) and David Culpepper (17)

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

Church Staff

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|---|---|
| The Rev. Steve Frazier, Covenant Pastor | 397-3622 ext. 202 pastor@fpcports.org |
| Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries | 397-3622 ext. 203 ednafpc@aol.com |
| Gabbi Goodrich, Secretary | 397-3622 g.furman121@hotmail.com |

| <u>Birthdays</u> | <u>Ministries</u> |
|---|----------------------------|
| 12/2 Kathy Goolsby | 12/3 BF Nancy Grant |
| 12/3 Frances Spires | SS Diane Griffin |
| 12/12 Margaret Glynn | PWF Betty Bartlett |
| Jay James | 12/10 BF |
| Vicki Goolsby | SS Diane Griffin |
| 12/18 Mike Broadhurst | PWF Betty Bartlett |
| 12/21 Pat Sparks | 12/17 BF |
| 12/22 Earl Griffin | SS Diane Griffin |
| 12/28 Elizabeth [Pond] | PWF Jean Byers |
| Gerlach | 12/24 (Morning service) |
| Malakai Goodrich | BF |
| Riley Winkler | SS Diane Griffin |
| 12/30 Ian Taylor | PWF |
| <i>Missing a birthday?</i> | 12/31 BF Raymond Rodrigues |
| <i>Please contact:</i> | SS Diane Griffin |
| Church pastor@fpcports.org | PWF Lou & Oralie Wilhite |
| 397-3622 | |
| Bulletin Editor | |
| bulletin@fpcports.org | |