



First Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

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 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 "It's
All Wrong"**

**Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve**
**6:45 p.m. Special music by
guest string quartet**
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"**

Wednesday, January 10

6:45 Bells
7:15 Choir

Sunday, January 14

9:00 Breakfast fellowship
9:20 Children's music
9:30 Sunday school
**10:30 Worship "Always
Baptist"**

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



***Please rise in body and**

Made One by Christ

Welcome

News for the Good of the Church

Prelude Selections by guest quartet

Heejin Weisbrod, violin

Sarah Umlauf, violin

Satoko Rickenbaker, viola

Carter Melin, cello

Call to Worship

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

Fourth Sunday – *The Promise of Arrival*

Readers and Advent candle lighters –
Amanda McCormick and family

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

Refrain – Congregation and Choir

LEAD US ON, LEAD US ON TO A
MORN-ING WHERE THE PROM-ISE SHINES LEAD US

Responsive Litany

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

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to worship the newborn
King.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to hear the good news
proclaimed by the angels.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to receive the promise
foretold.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Candle Lighting and Reading

Today we light all the candles. The **first candle** ignites the thrill of hope in the hearts of weary people. The **second candle** shines peace that surpasses understanding into a conflicted and confused world. The **third candle** expresses the joy of fulfilled promises and the anticipation of those yet to come. The **fourth candle** shines with grace and new life in God's unconditional love. Tonight we light the **Christ candle** in celebration of our Messiah's birth. As God's promises continue to shine, we echo the word shared through the ages – Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Refrain – Congregation and Choir

Opening Prayer

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

Clothed by Christ

Moment of Silence

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Like a great light in a land of deep darkness, the mercy of the Lord shines upon us. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

God our Savior, we confess that we fail to live in Your light. We pursue worldly passions and revere false idols. We cherish our possessions and spurn Your good gifts. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us to live as Your people, following Your holy way and rejoicing in Your saving love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God, sought out, not forsaken. 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

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**

Offering for the Joy Fund

Choral Anthem "Before the Marvel of This Night " Carl Schalk

Hearing God's Word of Hope and Power

* Hymn #115 "Away in a Manger"

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7 page 593

Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-20 page 889

Sermon "A Stubborn Sweetness" Steve Frazier

Taking Christ's Blessing to the World

* Candle Lighting

Hymn #122 "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

During the singing of "Silent Night," acolytes will light their candles from the Christ candle and pass the light to the congregation. The congregation will pass the light from the front of the sanctuary to the back until all candles are lit.

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm; all is bright, 'round yon virgin mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia: Christ, the Savior, is born; Christ, the Savior, is born!"

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

* Charge and Benediction

Please leave the sanctuary in silence.

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.

EdMarc Christmas Dinner project update: Two tubs of staples, a box of frozen items, and a box of refrigerated items were delivered this past Tuesday to EdMarc. Specific items were requested to go with menus and recipes furnished to the large family that was chosen, and FPC members pitched in generously. Of course, the temptation to put in additional items like gingerbread cookies for the children could not be resisted.

Thank you, Alice & Paul Butler, for spearheading this mission!

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!

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)

To the church triumphant - Ann Rogers Michaluk

Everyone suffering with cancer and facing surgery

Our friends at home, especially

Ronald Curry (Grace Yingling's son), Lanier Halterman, Frances Hardy, 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

Greeter: Nancy Frazier

Ushers: Jerry Freeman, Earl Griffin, Monica Manley

Counters: David Culpepper, TBA

December Offerings

12/3	\$ 2,873.01	12/24	
12/10	\$29,344.00	12/31	
12/17	\$ 3,497.00	MTD	\$35,714.01

December Attendance

12/3	Worship	102	Sunday school	23
12/10	Worship	66	Sunday school	19
12/17	Worship	77	Sunday school	19
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

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
12/12 Jay James	SS Diane Griffin
Vicki Goolsby	PWF Betty Bartlett
12/18 Mike Broadhurst	12/10 BF
12/21 Pat Sparks	SS Diane Griffin
12/22 Earl Griffin	PWF Betty Bartlett
12/28 Elizabeth [Pond]	12/17 BF
Gerlach	SS Diane Griffin
Malakai Goodrich	PWF Jean Byers
Riley Winkler	12/24 (Morning service)
12/30 Ian Taylor	BF
	SS Diane Griffin
	PWF
	12/31 BF Raymond Rodrigues
	SS Diane Griffin
	PWF Lou & Oralie Wilhite

Missing a birthday?
Please contact:
 Church pastor@fpcports.org
 397-3622
 Bulletin Editor
bulletin@fpcports.org