



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**  
**December 31, 2017**

<b>SHARE</b> the amazing love of God	<b>REFLECT</b> the light of Jesus Christ	<b>LIVE</b> and serve joyfully in the Spirit's power
757-397-3622 515 Court St. Portsmouth, VA 23704 <a href="http://www.fpcPorts.org">www.fpcPorts.org</a>		

## Coming Events

Sunday, December 31  
**First Sunday of Christmas**  
9:00 Breakfast fellowship  
9:20 Children's music  
9:30 Sunday school  
**10:30 Worship, with The Rev. Frank Drake**

Tuesday, January 2  
**Ladies' circle rescheduled to January 9**

Wednesday, January 3  
No bells or 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"**

**Tuesday, January 9**  
**10:30 Ladies' circle**

Wednesday, January 10  
6:45 Bells  
7:15 Choir

Saturday, January 13  
Beginning of shelter week

Sunday, January 14  
9:00 Breakfast fellowship  
9:20 Children's music  
9:30 Sunday school  
**10:30 Worship "Always Baptist"**

Wednesday, January 17  
6:45 Bells  
7:15 Choir

Friday, January 19  
End of shelter week

Sunday, January 21  
9:00 Breakfast fellowship  
9:20 Children's music  
9:30 Sunday school  
**10:30 Worship**

Wednesday, January 24  
6:45 Bells  
7:15 Choir

**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 "The Christ Child"

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

**\* Hymn #143**  
**"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"**

## *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. You reveal Your saving love, but we hide Your love from others. You claim us as Your children, but we do not claim You as our God. Forgive us, God of grace. Let Your will be done in our lives so that we may live in peace according to Your word, 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!"**



Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho-ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise God's ho-ly name. Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God's ho-ly name. Al-le-lu-ia!

*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**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Choral Musical Offering "A Tiny Little Baby" Don Besig

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

*Hearing God's Word of Hope and Power*

Time with the children

**\* Hymn #146 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"**

First Reading Galatians 4:4-7 page 1014

Gospel Reading Luke 2:22-40 pages 889-890

Sermon "The Spirit of God for 2018"

The Rev. Frank Drake

## *Taking Christ's Blessing to the World*

Hymn #134

"Joy to the World"

Charge

A Blessing in Music

"Noel"

D'Aquin

\* **Benediction**



The grace of our Lord, Je-sus Christ, and the love of God and the



fel - low-ship of the Ho - ly Spir-it, be with us for ev - er - more.

### *A Tiny Little Baby*

*There's a wonderful story that I love to tell,  
'bout a tiny little baby named Jesus.  
So gather around me now and listen well,  
'bout a tiny little baby named Jesus.*

*It happened, oh, so long ago,  
amid the cold of the winter snow.  
He came from heav'n to the earth below,  
this tiny little baby named Jesus.  
And the angels sang: "Glory to God!"  
And the angels sang: "Glory to God!"  
And the angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace and good will!"*

*There were shepherds who came from the hills afar  
to see the tiny little baby named Jesus.  
Led by the light of the shining star,  
to see the tiny little baby named Jesus.  
They entered in that lowly place  
and saw the smile on the mother's face,  
and they all were filled with the holy grace  
of the tiny little baby named Jesus.  
And the angels sang: "Glory to God!"  
And the angels sang: "Glory to God!"  
And the angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace and good will!"*

*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 following donations were made:**

Bob & Judy Powell – IMO Ann Michaluk

Sonia Powell – IMO Ann Michaluk

Joyce Wright – IHO Earl Wright

**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,  
Eddie McCormick (Mike McCormick's father)

**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](mailto:bulletin@fpcports.org), cell: 757-319-5019) or the church office (757-397-3622) by Tuesday evening.*

### **Leading in worship today**

The Rev. Frank Drake

Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries

Ushers: David Culpepper, Deb Hardie

Counters: David Culpepper, TBA

### December Offerings

12/3	\$ 2,873.01	12/24	\$ 3,951.00
12/10	\$29,344.00	12/31	
12/17	\$ 3,497.00	MTD	\$39,665.01

### 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	66/115	Sunday school	n/a
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](mailto:pastor@fpcports.org)) and/or the bulletin editor ([bulletin@fpcports.org](mailto: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 <a href="mailto:pastor@fpcports.org">pastor@fpcports.org</a>
Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries	397-3622 ext. 203 <a href="mailto:ednafpc@aol.com">ednafpc@aol.com</a>
Gabbi Goodrich, Secretary	397-3622 <a href="mailto:g.furman121@hotmail.com">g.furman121@hotmail.com</a>

#### Birthdays

12/2 Kathy Goolsby  
12/12 Jay James  
Vicki Goolsby  
12/18 Mike Broadhurst  
12/21 Pat Sparks  
12/22 Earl Griffin  
12/28 Elizabeth [Pond]  
Gerlach  
Malakai Goodrich  
Riley Winkler  
12/30 Ian Taylor

#### ***Missing a birthday?***

#### ***Please contact:***

Church [pastor@fpcports.org](mailto:pastor@fpcports.org)  
397-3622  
Bulletin Editor  
[bulletin@fpcports.org](mailto:bulletin@fpcports.org)

#### Ministries

12/3 BF Nancy Grant  
SS Diane Griffin  
PWF Betty Bartlett  
12/10 BF  
SS Diane Griffin  
PWF Betty Bartlett  
12/17 BF  
SS Diane Griffin  
PWF Jean Byers  
12/24 (Morning service)  
BF  
SS Diane Griffin  
PWF Bartlett a.m. / Holoman p.m.  
12/31 BF Raymond Rodrigues  
SS Diane Griffin  
PWF Lou & Oralie Wilhite

[www.FPCports.org](http://www.FPCports.org)



[pastor@FPCports.org](mailto:pastor@FPCports.org)