

*First Presbyterian Church
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025*



SHARE

the amazing love
of God

REFLECT

the light of Jesus
Christ

LIVE

and serve joyfully
in the Spirit's
power

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements-Thank you for joining us for this morning's worship service. We are glad to have you here! If this is your first time visiting with us, please fill out a visitor's form, found in the back of most pews. We would be pleased to add you to our email list. Welcome! A special thank you to Randy Duvall for leading our worship service today.

Prelude

"Chorale Prelude"

Healey Williams

Choral Call to Worship

Spoken Call to Worship

Happy are those who fear the Lord,

Who delight in God's commandments.

They rise in darkness as a light for the upright.

Those who love God are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

They are generous, sharing freely what they have received.

It is well with those who live in justice.

Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid!

Let us praise the Lord.

Hymn 386

"Come, Worship God"

Prayer of Confession-followed by a time for silent personal confession and prayer

Lord of Hosts, King of Kings, You sit in the place of honor.

We pray that we might have a seat near You today,

not to boost our egos or build ourselves up,

but so that we might gain understanding of the kin-dom You desire,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

God is our rock and fortress! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Passing of the Peace – Let us greet one another with the "Peace of Christ."

Song of Praise

"Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"

Hymn 453

Open your ears, O faithful people; open your ears and hear God's word.

Open your hearts, O royal priesthood; God has come to you.

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah! God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah! God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

Time with the Children

Hymn 816

"If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee"

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Anthem

"Prayer of St. Francis"

Pote

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Bibles can be found in the back of the pew in front of you. Words in **bold print** are spoken aloud or sung in unison.*

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, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he will 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

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.

First Lesson	Matthew 12: 46-50	page 846
Second Lesson	Acts 8: 26-40	page 955
Sermon	"Look, Here Is Water"	Pastor Randy Duvall
Hymn 465	"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"	
Benediction		
Postlude		

Please join us in the Courtyard lobby after worship for a snack and fellowship!

After worship on September 7, there will be a congregational meeting to handle two tasks:

1. choosing a member at large to join Michele Graupmann and Diane Griffin (two outgoing elders) as the officer nominating committee
2. selecting three members for a pastoral search committee.

If you wish to nominate a member for either committee, please secure that person's permission before the congregational meeting. Please think and pray about our making wise choices for these responsibilities.

A SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL INVITATION TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COMMUNITY FROM SKIP BAKER-SMITH

For the past month, Skip has been fielding numerous questions from various church folk about his role during this transitional period in our church's life: that is: after Steve's retirement.

The Sunday school's guidebook's lesson this week is about Isaiah's call to ministry. It is an **individual call**. In early August, Skip wrote his "normal and routine" lesson notes. However, on Sunday evening, August 24, Skip felt a spiritual nudge to do something a little different with this week's Lesson.

To wit, Skip would like to extrapolate this lesson's theme from the individual call of Isaiah to **the corporate call from God to First Presbyterian Church**. Said simply: What is God calling to US to do now? Not me — NOT you — but **US**.

In our Presbyterian Tradition, such a question is handled by a group of Elders called the Session. The Session, through prayer, study, and conversation, seek God's will for the congregation. These folks are listed each week in your worship bulletin. They meet regularly and I am sure each of them welcomes your prayers and especially your thoughts as we proceed into the future.

I've asked our Clerk of Session, Elder Norma Halterman, and our General Presbyter, the Rev. Dr. Lissa Long, for permission to open this conversation with the Sunday school class as we begin with Isaiah's journey. Join us on September 7 at 9:30 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

David Stuart, Mary's brother	Kevin and Lynda Lee Lunday
Lane Pittman	Kathy Goolsby
Robert and Peggy Norfleet	Everest Goodrich
Monica Manley	Pat Sparks
Kim McCormick	Cecilia Fry and children Alfred and Teresa
Gus and Clara Spanos	Mary Leming
Jeff Baker, Norma's brother-in-law	Sotoko's Father
Bobbie Stegall	Jim and Joan Plaatsman

Church Staff

Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

SESSION

Michael Broadhurst (2025)
Michele Graupmann (2025)
Griffin (Class of 2025)
Norma Halterman (2026)
Cameron McCormick (2026)
Todd Taylor (2026)
Linda Audet (2027)
Sue Fay (2027)
Pat Sparks (2027)

TRUSTEES

Toni Rutsch (2025)
Gail Pittman (2027)

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

7 Makayla Winkler
10 Skip Baker-Smith
12 Nancy Mayo
16 Wayne Rutsch
17 Carrie Griffin
19 Grady Fitzwater
19 Linda Rodrigues
20 Art Kennis
20 Mason Furman
22 Emily Fay
23 Benjamin Kenrick
23 Richard Griffin
26 Kim McCormick
28 Linda Hackworth
29 Alice Simpson
29 Logan Aliff
31 Benjamin McCormick

Special Gifts

Alice Butler – in honor and memory of Paul Butler and thanksgiving for church family