

*First Presbyterian Church
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 28, 2025*



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

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 the Reverend Skip Baker-Smith for filling our pulpit today.

Prelude

"Adagio from the Fantasia in C"

César Franck

Choral Call to Worship

Spoken Call to Worship

Holy and Merciful God, here we are again!

We have come from East and West and from North and South —

ready to hear Your Word, ready to receive Your blessing, and ready to get to work.

Lead us, Lord, into this hour so that we might be empty vessels yearning to be filled with

Your hope,

Your promise,

and Your guidance

for the moments ahead of us which will propel us into this world which You love so dearly.

We ask this prayer in the name of Your son, our brother and Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Hymn 49

"The God of Abraham Praise"

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

The Worship Leader will suggest a thought. After thinking about that topic, we will offer our own individual, silent prayer to God about that issue in our lives. The Worship Leader will close each section with:

O Good and Gracious God"

after which the people may respond

O Lord, have mercy; hear our prayer.

Assurance of God's Grace

As far as the East is from the West, the North from the South,

So great is the love of the Creator for those who come to the Redeemer.

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

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

*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.*

Hymn 299

"You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Anthem

"The Narrow Way"

K. Lee Scott

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 .**

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

1 Timothy 6: 6-10, 17-19

Second Lesson

Luke 16: 19-31

Sermon

"Luke's Perspective on Jesus (This isn't easy!)"

The Rev. Skip Baker-Smith

Hymn 772

"Live into Hope"

Benediction

Postlude

"Musette"

J. P. Rameau

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

There will be a **congregational meeting following worship today** to hear and act on the report of the officer nominating committee.

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION GATHERING LUNCHEON - Your recently formed Pastor Nominating Committee (Oralie Wilhite, Wayne Rutsch, and Gail Pittman) needs your help in creating a Mission Statement for First Presbyterian, Portsmouth. To do that, they are hosting a luncheon on October 19 immediately following worship. We will eat together and then break into smaller groups to discuss specific assigned questions about where you see us as a church now and where you dream we will be in the next five years. We will report as a group so that all can hear what others have said on the various assigned questions. With Session approval, this information will become the foundation for documents required by the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia and by Presbyterian Church USA as we move to finding new pastoral leadership.

We want as many as can attend to be there for this very important discussion. There will be childcare provided following lunch so parents can fully participate.

RSVP # _____ WILL ATTEND # _____ CHILDREN NEEDING CHILD CARE FOLLOWING LUNCH

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
Rose Layman	

Church Staff

Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

SESSION

Michael Broadhurst (2025)
Michele Graupmann (2025)
Diane 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)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Lyra Furman
8	Sonia Powell
10	Bentley Breeden
10	Collin Taylor
18	Rebecca Tanner
20	Karen Diggs
23	Patrice Winkler
24	C. C. Smith
25	Oralie Wilhite
28	Brian Patgorski
29	Roberta Stegall
30	Toni Rutsch

Sunday, September 21:

Total Offering \$

Total Worship Attendance 36

An Affirmation of Faith that was used in worship at the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia's gathering on July 22, 2025

From the Presbyterian Book of Confessions— "The Confession of Belhar— 10.7"

We believe that God has revealed God's self as the One who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people. God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged. God calls the church to follow God in this: for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly. For God, pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering. God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; the church must, therefore, stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

A brief overview of Luke's Gospel— (taken from the Oxford Annotated Bible page 1240)

The Gospel according to Luke sets forth the word and works of Jesus as the divine-human Savior, whose compassion and tenderness extended to all who were needy. The universal mission of Jesus is emphasized (a) by tracing his genealogy back to Adam, the father of the race; b.) by including references which commend members of a despised people—the Samaritans; (c) by indicating that women have a new place of importance among the followers of Jesus; and (d) by promising that the Gentiles would have an opportunity to accept the gospel.

Although the Gospel is anonymous and the evidence pertaining to the identity of its author is inconclusive, there are many considerations supporting the early Christian tradition that the author was the physician Luke, a Gentile convert and a friend of Paul. The Gospel appears to have been written during the last third of the first century although the precise date is unknown.

THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTERN VIRGINIA HAS CHOSEN TO BE A MATTHEW 25 PRESBYTERY...

What is Matthew 25?

This transformative initiative calls on mid councils, congregations, and groups to live out the church's mission through bold and compassionate discipleship. Rooted in Jesus' teachings in [Matthew 25](#):31-46.

Together, we can make a profound impact and bring the vision of a just and loving world to life.

Building congregational vitality empowers churches to be vibrant, engaging communities of faith. By fostering spiritual growth and community involvement, congregations create dynamic spaces for individuals to connect with God and each other in meaningful ways.

Dismantling structural racism is a call to acknowledge and address the deep-seated racial injustices that pervade our society. We strive to create inclusive, equitable communities by promoting awareness, understanding, and action to eliminate racism in all its forms.

Eradicating systemic poverty involves addressing the root causes of economic inequality and providing support to those in need. Through advocacy, service, and partnership, we work to create just systems and opportunities for all people to thrive.