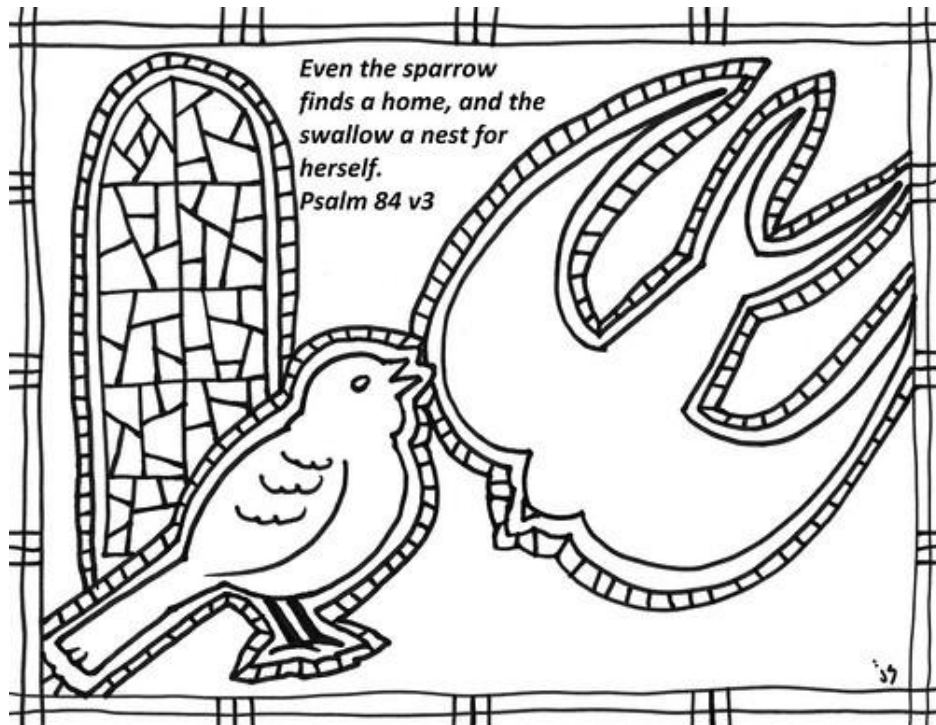


*First Presbyterian Church
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 26, 2025*



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		

We see ourselves as the embracing arms of Jesus Christ
for each other, for the community, and for the world.

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 at the back of most pews. We would be pleased to add you to our email list. Welcome! A special thank you to the Rev. Dr. Skip Baker-Smith for filling our pulpit today.

Prelude

"Lord, Revive Us"

arr. Gilbert Martin

Choral Call to Worship

Spoken Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

God's love is everlasting.

Come, let us joyfully praise the creator of life.

We are ready – indeed, we are yearning – for God's word to fill us with hope and joy and love.

Let us worship God!

Hymn 402

"How Lovely, Lord"

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

Almighty God, You love us, but we often have not loved You;

You call, but often we don't listen.

**More than not, we walk away from our neighbors in need,
wrapped up on our own thoughts.**

We have accepted evil, prejudice, warfare and greed as

"just the way the world is" without lifting a finger or even a prayer!

God of Mercy, help us to face up to ourselves,

so that as You move toward us in love—

we may repent, turn to You, and receive forgiveness.

We offer ourselves, as your children—

in the name of your Son—

our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

You create our inmost being, forming us together.

We praise You because we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

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 435

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Anthem

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Rhonda Woodward

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.**

Our Confession of Faith

**This is the Good News which we receive, in which we stand, and by which we are saved:
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared to many faithful witnesses.
We believe He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end. He is our Lord and our God. 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

A responsive reading of Psalm 84: 1-7

Second Lesson

Luke 18: 9-14

Sermon

"The Reversal Sayings of Jesus in an Upside-Down World"

The Rev. Skip Baker-Smith

Hymn 839

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

Benediction

Postlude

"Toccata in D Minor"

J. S. Bach

We often associate the Toccata in D Minor with haunted houses and spooky scenes. This was not the composer's intent at all. In the early 1700's when JS Bach wrote this masterpiece, he inscribed these words at the bottom of the piece. "To the Glory of God." This beautiful piece belongs in the church and not so much in your favorite haunted mansion. So, as with all postludes, "May God be Praised!"

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



Pastor
Nominating
Committee



A big thank you to all who participated in our Visioning Day. This is a first step toward our congregation discovering who will be our next pastor. In the days and weeks ahead, the information shared will be used to develop a Mission Statement which is foundational document used to introduce us to prospective pastors. It will be approved by the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry and then posted to the PC(USA) website which matches churches with pastors seeking a new church.

All of this will happen in the coming months. But for now, if you participated Sunday and have additional thought, please add them to the posted sheets in the Fellowship Hall. If you couldn't attend, please take the time to read what is posted and add your thoughts. We want everyone to be a part of this journey.

Thanks, from Oralie, Wayne, and Gail

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	Edna Broadhurst
Karen Propst, Norma's sister	

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)
Kim McCormick (2026)
Gail Pittman (2027)

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Kyle McCormick
2	Mary Ann Taylor
3	Michele Graupmann
3	Barbara Bond
11	Robby Pond
14	Merle Gootee, III
16	Amanda McCormick
21	Todd Taylor
21	Gail Pittman
24	John Fay
30	Tom Goolsby
31	Matthew Goodrich

Sunday, October 19: Total Offering \$ 3,766.00 | Total Worship Attendance