

*First Presbyterian Church*  
*Baptism of Our Lord*  
*January 11, 2026*



**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](http://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! Today, we welcome the Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Bell to our pulpit and Nancy Frazier as our guest pianist.*

Prelude

Nancy Frazier

Hymn 619

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Responsive Litany

In the waters of baptism,  
**God marks us as kindred in His name.**  
In the waters of baptism,  
**The heavens open up and the Spirit pours out love.**  
In the waters of baptism,  
**God names us Beloved.**  
In the waters of baptism,  
**We are claimed as God's own.**

Corporate Prayer of Confession - followed by a time for silent confession

**Jesus, Beloved Son of God, all that You ask of us, You first did yourself.**  
**Help us to follow the way You first traveled:**  
**to serve others and to let ourselves be served;**  
**to love stranger and neighbor, enemy and friend.**  
**When we struggle, remind us of our baptism,**  
**the waters that slake the soul's deepest thirst,**  
**and unite our hearts as one,**  
**so that we can carry out Your work. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the word of the Lord, in the waters of baptism we have been washed clean!  
**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!  
They who have ears to hear the message, they who have ears, now let them hear!  
They who would learn the way of wisdom, let them hear God's word!  
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah! God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

Time with the Children

Hymn 475

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

*Words in bold print are spoken in unison. Please stand to sing if you are able.*

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Musical Offering

"Christ When for Us You Were Baptized"  
Michael Broadhurst, Flute

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 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.**

Reading

Matthew 3: 13-17

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Sermon

"Aha!"

The Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Bell

Hymn 265

"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Nancy Frazier

**Please join us in the Courtyard Lobby for snacks after worship!**

### **The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Bell**

**Education:** BA, Grove City College, 1978; M. Div, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, 1982; D. Min. (Marriage and Family Therapy), Eastern Baptist Seminary, 2000.

**Work:** Pastor, Southminster Presbyterian Church, Cumberland, MD, 1982-1986; Head of Staff, First Presbyterian Church, Horseheads, NY, 1986-2000; Head of Staff, Providence Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA, 2000-2022.

**Military:** Chaplain (Retired), LTC, US Army National Guard, 1989-2013, serving 204th Engineer Battalion, Binghampton, NY; Joint Task Force Civil Support, Ft. Monroe, VA; 40th Corp Support Group, Balad, Iraq; 29th Infantry Division, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

**Service to PEVA:** Chair, Committee on Preparation for Ministry; Commission on Ministry; Acting Head of Staff; Nominating Committee; Transitional General Presbyter Search Committee.

**Personal:** Married to Susan (Cook) Bell; two adult children: Christopher (Megan) Bell, grandchildren Nora & Sebastian (Johnson City, TN), Andrew (Ashley) Bell, Frasier Park, CA.

**Hobbies:** Stained Glass, Home Repair, Golf, Music (Choral, Handbells).

## **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	Alice Butler
Bobbie Stegall	Jim and Joan Plaatsman
Rose Layman	Kathy Goodrich
Skip Parker	

### **Church Staff**

Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music  
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

### **SESSION**

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

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

7 David Turner  
15 Beth Lutz  
17 Carl Rhodes, Jr.  
18 Brantley Aliff  
26 Sylvie Joyner  
27 Kay Kidd  
31 Kelsey Smith  
31 Abby Taylor

### **Sunday, January 4**

Total Offering \$ 529.00

Total Worship Attendance 29