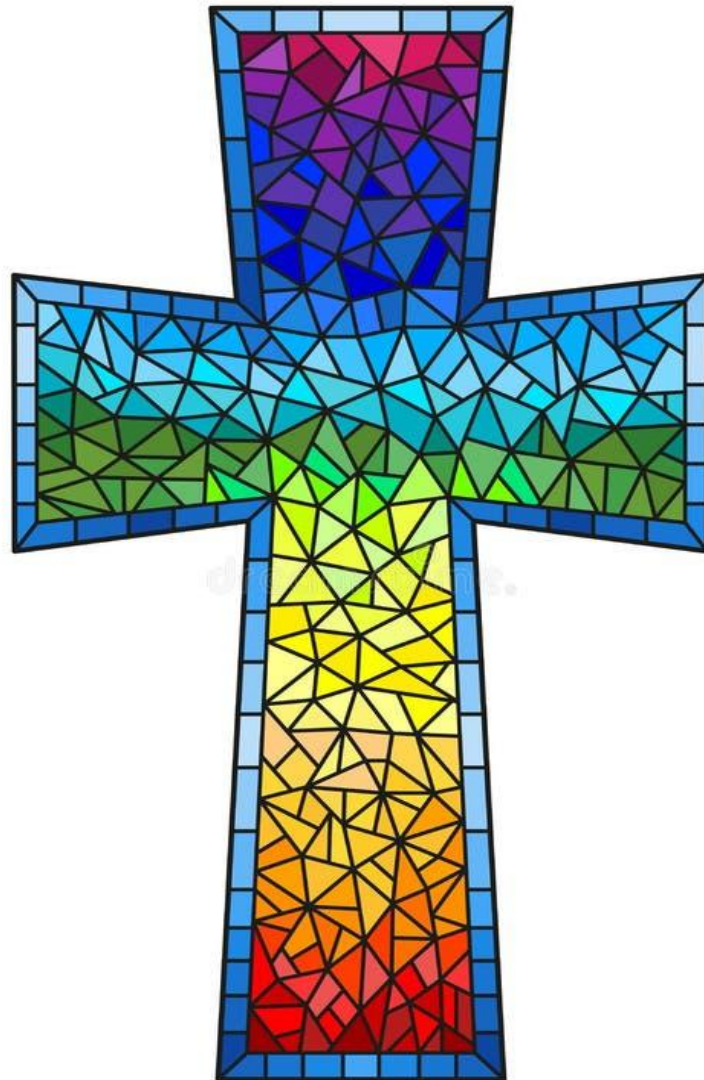


*First Presbyterian Church
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026*



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! Today we welcome our friend, the Reverend Dr Skip Baker-Smith to our pulpit and Janet Phelps to our organ pit. Thank you!

Prelude "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" D. Wagner

A Time of Silence

Choral Call to Worship

Hymn 331 "God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"

Prayer of Confession—first in a time of silent confession and then together

**O Gracious God, it is not just the mistakes that we have made again,
or the sores we have rubbed open and salted.
It is not only this week's new resentments or the new crop of grudges that we have raised.
Those things are only our symptoms.
We are SO tired of trying to patch up our lives.
We try over and over again to be whole - apart from the Whole.
To be real, apart from the Real.
You know what we long for - and you know how to help us. PLEASE.
We ask this from You, in the name of Your Son, our Redeemer, Jesus. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Grace

**...Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

Passing of the Peace

**The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!
And also with you.**

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 19 "God of Great and God of Small"

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Prayer of Dedication

Offertory "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" Gordon Young

*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.*

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.**

The Scripture Lesson

Matthew 20: 1-16

Sermon

“Envy”

Our Friend Skip Baker-Smith

Affirmation of Faith

**This is the Good News which we have received, in which we stand,
and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:
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 first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end:
He is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer concluding with 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.**

Hymn 539

“We Will Go Out with Joy”

Benediction

Postlude

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

D. Wagner

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

Session will meet immediately following worship TODAY.

Remember our Church Picnic Plans-- coming up on Saturday October 10.

Contingent upon Session's approval today-----We will be participating in World Communion Sunday on October 4. Check out our bulletin inserts each week and consider a special offering in October for this ecumenical, world-wide, Christian ministry.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

David Stuart, Mary’s brother
Lane Pittman
Peggy Norfleet

Kevin and Lynda Lee Lunday
The family of Kathy Goolsby
Everest Goodrich

Monica Manley
Joseph Cain, Ann's uncle
Gus and Clara Spanos
Jeff Baker, Norma's brother-in-law
Bobbie Stegall
Rose Layman
Karen Hoy, Ann's mother
Evie Goodrich, Matt's uncle
Nancy Grant
Carrie Norfleet and family
Skip and Betsy Baker-Smith

Pat Sparks
Cecilia Fry and children Alfred and Teresa
Mary Ann Taylor
Trish Ballentine-Terry, friend of Todd and Jerry
Joan Plaatsman
Matthew Goodrich
Jennifer Patgorski
Carol Conklin-Collins, Mary Ann's sister
Kristin Finnerman
Skip Parker

Church Staff

Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

SESSION

Norma Halterman (2026)
Cameron McCormick (2026)
Todd Taylor (2026)
Sue Fay (2027)
Mary Leming (2027)
Pat Sparks (2027)
Michael Broadhurst (2028)
Diane Griffin (2028)
Dan Swanson (2028)

TRUSTEES

Kim McCormick (2026)
Gail Pittman (2027)
Earl Griffin (2028)

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Lyra Furman
10 Bentley Breeden
10 Collin Taylor
18 Rebecca Tanner
18 Frankey Austin
20 Karen Diggs
24 C. C. Smith
25 Oralie Wilhite
28 Brian Patgorski
29 Roberta Stegall
30 Toni Rutsch

Sunday, Sept 13: Total Offering \$ 3,722.00 Total In-Person Worship Attendance 35

Special Offerings: Friendship Class, Jerry Freeman and Todd Taylor; Diane and Earl Griffin, Norma Halterman - in memory of Kathy Goolsby; Jerry Freeman and Todd Taylor - in memory of Robert Norfleet