

*First Presbyterian Church
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 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 friends the Reverend Dr. Skip Baker-Smith and Carol Downing. Thank you both!

Prelude

"Brethren We Have Met to Worship"
Carol Downing, Violin

Choral Call to Worship

Call to Worship

When the path leads nowhere, we become disoriented, and skies darken.
How do we find peace, O God?
When farewells are too many, tears won't stop, and strength is gone,
How do we rest, O God?
When hope is hard, love is lost, and light is dim,
You give us one more breath.

Hymn 386

"Come, Worship God"

Invitation to Confession

Today we offer to God-- an old, traditional, time-worn prayer from many years gone by. May its familiarity invite us to lean into our depth and passion as we seek God's Grace in this moment together.

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

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults, restore those who are penitent, according to Your promise declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for His sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life for the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rejoice in the Lord; do not worry.
God's peace will be with us.

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! (repeat)

*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.*

Time with the Children – Skip Baker-Smith

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings – Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

“The Stranger’s Guise”
Carol Downing, violin

Karen Marroli

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.**

Hymn 317

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

Affirmation of Faith – Taken from Romans 8: 1, 28; 38-39

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; and we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things, to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

A Time of Prayer (A Bidding Prayer) – individual prayer followed by the Lord’s Prayer

We pray to the Lord

Hear our prayer, O Lord. 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.

The Scripture

Matthew 22: 15-22

Sermon

“Who’s in Charge? THE MONEY TRAP”

Our Friend Skip Baker-Smith

Hymn 626

“As the Deer”

Benediction

Postlude

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

Last Saturday's church picnic was a huge success. The heavens held off the rain, and the 41 people in attendance enjoyed delicious food, lots of hugs and great fellowship. Thanks are due to many of folks who helped to make this event happen, first and foremost to Diane and Earl Griffin for inviting us to their beautiful home, the perfect site for a picnic. Special thanks to Earl for using his golf cart to help folks with mobility issues. Thank you to Mike McCormick and Mike Grant, who transported tables and chairs from the church, and to Mike McCormick and Wayne Rutsch for loading them onto the truck for transport back to the church. Thank you to Todd Taylor for shopping and lending yard games. Thank you to Sofia Callichio for running errands and picking up the chicken. Thank you to Betty Bartlett for donating the brand new giant Jenga game to the church. Thank you to Megan Hawley for lending us her cornhole game. Thank you to Raymond Rodrigues and Gabbi Goodrich for advertising the event and last but not least, thank you to the members of the fellowship committee who planned and coordinated everything—Alice Butler, Mary Leming, Carrie Norfleet, Toni Rutsch and Pat Sparks.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PORTSMOUTH

Prayers of the People

David Stuart, Mary's brother	Kevin and Lynda Lee Lunday
Lane Pittman	The family of Kathy Goolsby
Peggy Norfleet	Everest Goodrich
Monica Manley	Pat Sparks
Joseph Cain, Ann's uncle	Cecilia Fry and children Alfred and Teresa
Gus and Clara Spanos	Mary Ann Taylor
Jeff Baker, Norma's brother-in-law	Trish Ballentine-Terry, friend of Todd and Jerry
Bobbie Stegall	Joan Plaatsman
Rose Layman	Matthew Goodrich
Karen Hoy, Ann's mother	Jennifer Patgorski
Evie Goodrich, Matt's uncle	Carol Conklin-Collins, Mary Ann's sister
Nancy Grant	Kristin Finnerman
Carrie Norfleet and family	Skip Parker
Skip and Betsy Baker-Smith	

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)

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 11:

Total Offering \$ 282.00

Total In-Person Worship Attendance 30