



First Presbyterian Church
Portsmouth, Ohio

February 16, 2025
6th Sunday after Epiphany
11 o'clock Worship Service

Rev. Ronald Johnson, Minister of Word and Sacrament
Mr. Bruce MacDonald, Liturgist
Ms. Michele Imes, Director of Music
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Organist/Musician

We are glad you came...



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

GATHERING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ron Johnson

WELCOME

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

L. The Lord is with you.

P. And also with you.

L. Lift up your hearts.

P. We lift them to the Lord.

ALL. We come to worship the Living God.

PRELUDE

Dr. Phillip Roberts

**** CALL TO WORSHIP***

Mr. Bruce MacDonald

L. Though we may be inclined to brag,
let us come together with humility.

***P. How good a thing it is when all of God's people live
together in unity.***

L. Though we may be tempted to use harsh words,
let us come together with gentleness.

***P. How good a thing it is when all of God's people live
together in unity.***

L. Though we may want everything to happen quickly,
let us come together with patience.

***P. How good a thing it is when all of God's people live
together in unity.***

L. Though the world around often encourages hate,
let us come together in love.

***P. How good a thing it is when all of God's people live
together in unity.***

L. In humility, gentleness, patience, love, and unity,

All: Let us worship the God who has called us together.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Mr. MacDonald

***HYMN OF PRAISE** # 321 "The Church's One Foundation" **GTG**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Mr. MacDonald

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*spoken in unison*)

Mr. MacDonald

Lord Jesus, forgive us for not welcoming all people. It is easier to ignore people we don't know than to welcome them. We are quick to judge by appearances and often forget that all people are made in your image. Teach us to welcome all people, especially those that are different from us. Lord Jesus, forgive us for failing to love the people with whom we live in community. You have placed our church here to be a beacon of light and hope to our neighborhood. Open our eyes to see the needs around us. Open our hearts to share in the joys and pains of this community. Open our hands to humbly serve all God's people with love and care. Amen.

(Invitation to silent confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Johnson

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Rev. Johnson

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Ephesians 4:1-6 (New Testament for Everyone)

Live up to your calling!

4 ¹ So, then, this is my appeal to you—yes, it's me, the prisoner in the Lord! You must live up to the calling you received. ² Bear with one another in love; be humble, meek and patient in every way with one another. ³ Make every effort to guard the unity that the spirit gives, with your lives bound together in peace.

⁴ There is one body and one spirit; you were, after all, called to one hope which goes with your call. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and father of all, who is over all, through all and in all.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 NLT Mr. MacDonald

One Body with Many Parts

¹² The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³ Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

¹⁴ Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

¹⁸ But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. ¹⁹ How strange a body would be if it had only one part! ²⁰ Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. ²¹ The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

²² In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. ²³ And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, ²⁴ while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. ²⁵ This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

²⁷ All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. ²⁸ Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church:

first are apostles,
second are prophets,
third are teachers,
then those who do miracles,
those who have the gift of healing,

those who can help others,
those who have the gift of leadership,
those who speak in unknown languages.

²⁹ Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? ³⁰ Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not! ³¹ So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts.

But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ms. Michele Imes

THE MESSAGE

Unity is Both Gift and Obligation

Rev. Johnson

****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*** (*Belhar Confession, Article 2*)

Rev. Johnson

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. That unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another...and that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another.

HYMN

#316 *Where Charity and Love Prevail*” **GTG**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Johnson

The Lord's Prayer: (spoken in unison)

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Mr. MacDonald

OFFERTORY INSTRUMENTAL

Dr. Roberts

****The 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.**

****THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION*** (*spoken in unison*) Mr. MacDonald

God, you are the Source of our lives. From you, all loving-kindness, justice, and mercy flow. Bless these gifts so that acts of kindness, justice, and mercy may flow through them, too. And bless our lives so our words and actions show your Spirit at work in us and through us, in the name of Jesus Christ, our friend and Savior. Amen.

CALL TO MISSION

**** CLOSING HYMN*** #69 "Here I Am, Lord" **GTG**

****CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE AND BLESSING***

Rev. Johnson

ACOLYTE RECESSIONAL

****SENDING SONG*** #540 "Shalom, chaverim" **GTG**

POSTLUDE (*Please be seated for the postlude*)

Dr. Roberts

***The asterisk indicates when we rise to our feet in spirit,
as we are able in body.**



THE PRAYER LIST IS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE EDUCATION ANNEX

Our Church and Community Calendar, February - March 2025

The Food Pantry is closed every first Thurs. of the month. Open Thurs. 12-2P

Feb. 17: Federal Holiday (President's Day) Celebrated

Feb. 17: Pastor serves with Committee on Ministry (COM), 12:30P

Feb. 18: PSV meets, Hybrid, Grove City PC, 3:30P

Feb. 22: Faith and Finance Seminar, Broad St. PC, 10A

Feb. 22: Presby. Women Gathering by Zoom, (TBA)

Feb. 23: Deacons meet, 12:30P

Feb. 24: Pastor serves on COM, 1-3P

Feb. 25-Mar. 4: Pastor away

Mar. 1: PSV P.I.E. and Faith and Futures Seminar, Columbus, 9A

(Please Register-PSV)

Mar. 1: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training (see PSV Website for dates)

Mar. 2: FPC welcomes Rev. Allison Bauer to the pulpit, 11A

Mar. 5: Ash Wednesday Service, Pleasant Green Baptist Ch., 5:30P

(FPC + 2PC + Pleasant Green Baptist)

In the event of inclement weather, up-to-date announcements will be sent to your email and FPC Facebook page

Church Contact Information

Pastor & Church Secretary's Office Hours for the Week

Sunday: Worship and office hours. Mondays:

Home office (worship planning, prep, and meetings)

Tuesday thru Thursday: 10 A - 4 P Fridays: Off

Email: rjohnson.fpc@gmail.com or rev.ron.johnson@gmail.com

Pas. Study: (740)529-7117 M: (434)770-1052

Virginia M. Stinnett, Admin. Aid/Church Secretary,

vstinnett.fpcport@gmail.com

Church Office: (740)353-4259 or (740)529-7117

Office Hrs. Sun., Tues -Thurs: 9A-3:35P

EMAIL: firstpresbyterian.portsmouth@gmail.com

<https://www.firstpresportsmouthoh.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/@firstconnections4806>

<https://facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchportsmouthohio>

SERMON NOTES

SERMON TITLE _____

SCRIPTURE VERSE(S) _____

WHAT DID I HEAR THAT RAISED QUESTIONS? _____

HOW CAN I APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE? _____

WHAT WOULD I LIKE TO STUDY FURTHER? _____

MY HEART-FELT PRAYER TO GOD FOR THOSE IN MY LIFE AND MYSELF