



First Presbyterian Church
Portsmouth, Ohio

March 30, 2025
11 o'clock Worship Service

Rev. Ronald Johnson, Pastor, Minister of Word and Sacrament
Elder Elizabeth Kennedy, 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

PRELUDE

Dr. Phillip Roberts

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Elder Elizabeth Kennedy

L: Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

**P. Happy are those who keep God's decrees,
who seek God with their whole heart.**

L. Make us understand the way of your precepts, O God,
and we will meditate on your wondrous works.

**All: Put false ways far from us, O God,
and graciously teach us your law.**

***PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Elder Kennedy

***HYMN OF PRAISE #263 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" GTG**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Elder Boster

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(spoken in unison)*

Holy God, we confess we have failed to live as your holy people. We have cared for ourselves at others' expense. We have not answered your calls for justice and peace. We have harmed the creation you entrusted to our care, and have ignored your image in our neighbors. In your mercy, forgive us. By your Holy Spirit, empower us to live as loyal subjects of your realm and as more faithful followers of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Invitation to silent confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Johnson

***GLORIA PATRI** (*all sing*)

**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Rev. Johnson

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON John 6:35; 8:12; 10:7-10 NIV Rev. Johnson

John 6:35

³⁵ Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 8:12

¹² Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 10:7-10

⁷ so he explained it to them: "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. ¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON John 10:7-10; 14:5-7; 15:1-5 NIV

Elder Kennedy

John 10:7-10

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John 14:5-7

⁵ "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!"

John 15:1-5

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³ You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

⁵ "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC

Dr. Roberts

THE MESSAGE

Who Do YOU Say that I Am?

Rev. Ron Johnson

****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH***

***We believe Jesus Christ brought God's Kingdom near,
calling all people to repent and believe the good news.***

***We believe his death on the cross
exposes both the reality of human sin
and the depths of God's selfless, sacrificial love.***

***We believe his resurrection
is God's ultimate victory over sin, hate, evil, and death.***

***We believe that through the Holy Spirit,
Jesus still calls us and all to repent and believe the gospel,
yielding our hearts to God alone,***

***embodying in our lives
the justice, mercy, and love of God's rule.***

HYMN #630 "Fairest Lord Jesus" **GTG**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...encouraging each other by the commitment we see in Jesus Christ,
who taught us to pray together:

The Lord's Prayer: (spoken in unison)

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on the 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

Elder Kennedy

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)*** Elder Kennedy

We place these gifts into your hands, O God. Bless them with your transforming grace so that they may become seeds springing up with new life in the world you love. Fill our hearts with that same grace so we can bring hope to weary and worried lives in Jesus' name. Amen.

CALL TO MISSION

*** CLOSING HYMN** #187 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" **GTG**

***CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Rev. Johnson

ACOLYTE RECESSIONAL

***SENDING SONG** #543 "O Christ, Surround Me" v. 1 only **GTG**

POSTLUDE (Please be seated for the postlude) Dr. Robert

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

**In the event of worship being postponed due to inclement weather conditions
an announcement will be sent to your email and the FPC's Facebook page**



Will you lend a hand? There is an urgent need for hygiene products for the disadvantaged and unhoused individuals in Portsmouth. The church is working to collect as many bottles of 3-in-1 shampoo, conditioner, and body wash liquid soap as possible,* which can be found at great prices in any town. You can contribute to this initiative by dropping off your donation at First Presbyterian Church (FPC) or by making a special contribution to the deacons for purchasing supplies. First Presbyterian Church operates a Food Pantry that relies entirely on the generosity of its members and friends and serves as a hub for emergency assistance and weekly food distributions. Together, we can make a meaningful impact! **We recommend shopping at the Dollar Store.*



AN UPDATED PRAYER LIST IS LOCATED ON THE EDUCATION ANNEX BULLETIN BOARD

Our Church and Community Calendar April 2025

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

- Apr. 2: MCL meets, 4P
- Apr. 2: Lenten Bible Study and dinner, 5:30 P
- Apr. 3: Capital Campaign Steering Cmte. meets, 2P
- Apr. 4: Lenten Lunch, Waverly, UMC, 12N
- Apr. 6: Communion Sunday, 11A
- Apr. 9: Board of Session Meets, 1P
- Apr. Lenten Bible Study and dinner ends, 5:30P
- Apr. 10: Pastor gathers with PSV Mediation Team, 2P
- Apr. 12: Palm tying, all are welcome, 10A
- Apr. 13: Palm Sunday (First Day of Passover), 11A
- Apr. 13: Lilly orders are being placed for Easter (*see insert or call Office*)
- Apr. 17: FPC hosts Maundy Thursday worship w/2PC, 5:30P
- Apr. 18: Good Friday
- Apr. 20 Easter Sunday Worship, 11A
- Apr. 23: Community group SCM in FPC Conf. Rm.
- Apr. 27: Guest Speaker, Retired Missionary, Rev. Dudley Bolser, 11A

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