

First Presbyterian Church

Portsmouth, Ohio

The Rev. Lisa R. Eye, Pastor
Elder Bruce MacDonal, Liturgist
Ms. Michele Imes, Director of Music
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Organist/Musician
Ms. Stephanie Scaggs, Media Specialist



The Party by James B. Janknegt, 2002

October 11, 2026
20th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering Around the Word

Welcoming the Community

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Announcements & Celebrations

Elder Bruce MacDonald

Minute for Mission – 250 Acts of Kindness

Elder Betty Kennedy

Prelude

Dr. Phillip Roberts

From the beginning, Christians have met to worship on the first day of the week, the day God began creation, bringing light out of darkness, and the day Christ rose from the dead. In worship we gather to praise God, confess our sin and seek God's grace. We hear the good news of the Gospel, and respond in gratitude as we celebrate the inward signs of God's grace through the sacraments, offer our prayers and gifts, and are sent forth to glorify God through the service of daily living. We light the Christ candle as a reminder that we are called together as the body of Christ and that Christ, the light of the world, is present with us as we worship.

***Call to Worship** Psalm 106:1-5

Elder MacDonald

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

for the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all God's praise?

Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people;

help us when you deliver them;

that we may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,

that we may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,

that we may glory in your heritage.

Let us worship God.

***Prayer of the Day**

Elder MacDonald

***Hymn #39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

GTG

***Call to Confession**

Elder MacDonald

***Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Holy God, you are the Lord our God, who brought us out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. And yet our trust in you is fragile. **We have not built a golden calf, but we have worshiped idols. We have put our trust in what we build with our own hands. We find security in what we can hoard instead of trusting your provision. We listen to lies that spread hatred and division instead of the radical truth of your word. Forgive us. Melt down our idols until we see only you and fix our sight on your way alone. Lord have mercy on us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**
(silent prayer)

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Rev. Eye

***Response: Hymn# 447**

We Are Forgiven

GTG

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.***

***Sharing the Peace**

The peace of the Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Rev. Eye

Scripture

Exodus 32:1-14

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture

Matthew 22:1-14

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“An Unusual Party Invitation”

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Responding to the Word

**Hymn #503 verses 1 & 3*

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

GTG

**Affirmation of Faith (unison)*

adapted from the Confession of 1967

Rev. Eye

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

...Receive all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, as together as the Body of Christ and your covenant community, we pray as Jesus taught us, saying, **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 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Elder MacDonald

Offering Instrumental

Dr. Roberts

**Doxology #717*

For the Life That You Have Given

GTG

***For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own;
here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.***

***Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)**

Elder MacDonald

Bountiful God, all that we can offer comes from your generosity. May these gifts that we return to you become a blessing for your whole community, enriching and empowering us for the work to which you call us. We thank you in the name of Jesus Christ, your indescribable gift to us and the world. Amen.

Following the Word into the World

***Hymn #60**

Your Endless Love, Your Mighty Acts

GTG

***Congregational Charge**

Rev. Eye

Who are you?

We are the church! People who believe the good news about Jesus.

Who are you?

We are the church! Gathered by the Holy Spirit, built up in faith, hope, and love.

Who are you?

We are the church! Sent out by God's Spirit to proclaim the gospel in word and deed.

***Benediction**

***Sending Song #546**

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

GTG

Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;

let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.

O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

Acolyte Recessional

The Christ candle is extinguished as we are sent back into the world, but the light of Christ remains and goes before us to guide and strengthen us in our service in Christ's name.

Postlude

(Please be seated for the postlude.)

Dr. Roberts

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We are glad you are here and want you to feel welcome as you share in worship!

*The asterisk indicates that worshippers are invited to rise in body or in spirit, as able.

Bold text indicates that the congregation is invited to speak.

GTG refers to ***Glory to God***, the hymnal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Visitors are encouraged to sign the guest book near the entrance to the worship space.

If you are looking for a church home, we would love to share more about the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Lectionary Readings for today:

- **Exodus 32:1-14**—When Moses is delayed on Mt. Sinai, Aaron makes a golden calf; Moses intercedes with the Lord.
- **Psalms 106: 1-6. 19-23**—We have sinned, exchanging the glory of God for graven images.
- **Philippians 4:1-9**—Rejoice in the Lord; do not worry; God's peace will be with you.
- **Matthew 22:1-14**—The kingdom is like a banquet given by a king; many are called, few are chosen.

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

Let us pray for our ability to be faithful disciples, family, and friends; our church, pastor, the session, deacons, committees, lay leadership, our ministry, outreach, and stewardship; the Boney Fiddle community and its churches, schools, the city of Portsmouth and its leadership, state and national leadership, and those who are incarcerated.

*With confidence in God's love and mercy, we lift our prayers for those in need.
May God hold them and heal them in body, mind, or circumstance,
working in them by grace, wonders beyond all they may dream or hope. Amen.*

To add or remove a name or concern to the Prayer List, please fill out a prayer request form found on the table as you enter the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we celebrate our nation's 250th year, we want to respond with 250 ACTS OF KINDNESS. We will be collecting 250 hygiene items to assist our neighbors at The Counseling Center's Drop-In Center on Washington St. in Portsmouth. The TCC Drop-In Center, which recently celebrated its first year of operation, provides a safe space for unhoused individuals in the community, offering essentials, food, and support to those in need. The items we collect will help them meet an important need. Look for the baskets in Fellowship Hall with information about the items needed and to place collected items. If you are unable to shop for items, we will gladly accept monetary donations toward their purchase.

It is time for the Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church to offer you an opportunity for mission support through the ANNUAL MARZETTI SALE on November 11. The money raised will help us fulfill our annual pledge of \$1200 to the Food Pantry. Servings will be in a container of the following sizes: 10 ounces - \$7.00, 32 ounces - \$17.00, 64 ounces - \$32.00. Order slips are available in the Fellowship Hall and the Church Office or orders may be placed by calling Betty (740) 258-4548 or the Church Office (740) 353-4259. **Please place orders by November 2.** Orders can be picked up on Wednesday, November 11. Delivery is available upon request.

Did you know that there's a simple way you can help spread the word about First Presbyterian Church?

Be sure to "like" and "follow" us on Facebook: <https://facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchportsmouthohio>. It only takes a minute and will also help you keep up with our latest news.

Armbrust Student Loan Program Applications Are Open! Help spread the word. The Armbrust Student Loan Program is anxious to provide more low-interest loans to help student reach their learning goals. These loans made possible by a generous bequest, can support academic and technical education tuition, fees, books, and other related expenses for traditional and non-traditional students beyond high school. Persons interested may download the application from the church website. ***There are also copies of the new information brochure on the table in the Fellowship Hall to share.*** If you have any questions, please let us know.

The FPC Food Bank is open on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Thursdays from 12 to 2 p.m. Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Rachel Collingsworth or the Church Office to learn more about how you can help serve our neighbors.

Building Update: The careful repair and restoration of our historic sanctuary continues. While we long to return to worship in this beloved space, we are grateful to have the Mary Elizabeth Shwartz Fellowship Hall as an alternate worship and event space until repair work is completed. The second phase of the sanctuary repair – ceiling and plaster restoration, repair and updates to lighting, and preparation of the walls for painting is underway. The repair and repainting of the walls and trim of the upper and lower narthex are also underway to provide a welcoming and safe entrance into the sanctuary. The next phase will include painting, cleaning and restoring flooring, reinstallation of the organ pipes, cleaning and reinstallation of pews, sanctuary furniture, and sound and projection equipment. Once we have a firm completion date, we will share plans for celebrating the return of worship to the sanctuary and the rededication of this space to the glory of God. The Session is also engaging in a visioning process to discern ways that God may be leading this congregation and the resources entrusted to its care into future ministry. Stay tuned for opportunities for congregational participation in this process. Thank you to all who have supported this work through your prayers and financial gifts! Gifts to offset the cost of this project are still being accepted with gratitude. Please contact the church office if you would like more information about how to give.

Church & Community Calendar

Sundays: Church School, 10:00 a.m. on the 3rd floor of the Education Building;
Worship: 11:00 a.m. in the Mary Elizabeth Shwartz Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, October 14: Regular Session Meeting, 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge
Thursday, October 15: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 18: Nominating Committee Meeting, immediately following worship
Wednesday, October 21: Budget Committee Meeting, 11:00 a.m. in the Lounge
Thursday, October 22: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Monday, October 26: Special Session Meeting, 9:00-noon in the Lounge
Sunday October 29: Deacons Meeting, immediately following worship
Thursday, October 29: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 1: All Saints' Day Worship & Communion

Church Contact Information

Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm
Virginia M. Stinnett, Admin. Aid/Church Secretary—Email: vstinnett.fpc@gmail.com; Phone: (740) 353-4259
Bev Phipps, Treasurer—Email: bevhipps1stpres@gmail.com; Phone: (740) 353-4259
Rev. Lisa R. Eye, Pastor—Email: leyefirstpresportsmouth@gmail.com; Pastor's Study: (740) 529-7177
Rev. Eye ordinarily works from her home study on Mondays and observes Fridays as sabbath time.
In case of pastoral emergency, she may be reached at (859) 329-9026.



First Presbyterian Church

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