

First Presbyterian Church

Portsmouth, Ohio

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



Taxing Questions, Jan L. Richardson
Inspired by Matthew 22:15-22

October 18, 2026
21st Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering Around the Word

Welcoming the Community

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Announcements & Celebrations

Elder Bruce MacDonald

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** from Exodus 33:12, 14, 19

Elder MacDonald

Lord, you have welcomed us, saying,

"I know you by name, and you have found favor with me."

Lord, you have promised us,

"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Lord, you have blessed us, saying,

"I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you."

Lord, you have humbled us, saying,

"I will proclaim my holy name in your presence."

O Lord, show us your glory!

We have come to worship you!

***Prayer of the Day**

Elder MacDonald

***Hymn #12**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

GTG

***Call to Confession**

Elder MacDonald

***Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Almighty God, we confess that we have not been the faithful disciples you call us to be. We have not remembered who we are. We are distracted by glittering gold. We are mesmerized by fame and fortune. We turn a blind eye to systems that perpetuate injustice. We fail to hear the cries for mercy of those who bear unfair burdens. We close our hearts and imagine empathy to be weakness. Forgive us Lord. Remind us that we are yours, citizens of the kingdom of God. Give us courage to be kingdom builders here and now, showing mercy and grace in a world in deep need. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. 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 33:12-23

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

Scripture

Matthew 22:15-22

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

Sermon

"The Coinage of God's Kingdom"

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Responding to the Word

*Hymn

"Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes?"

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2014

Beach Spring, attr. B. F. White;
harm. Christopher Gage

1. "Is it law - ful to pay tax - es when they prop up Cae-sar's rule?"
2. "Find a tax coin in your trea-sure; see the im - age that it bears.
3. Lord of all, in ev - ery na - tion, may your word be un - der - stood—
4. Still, we al - so hear your teach-ing: "Give to God what God is due."

So some peo - ple asked of Je - sus, want-ing him to seem a fool.
Give to Cae - sar what is Cae - sar's. (Give to ru - lers what is theirs.)"
That we have an ob - li - ga - tion to sup-port the com-mon good.
May no ru - ler—ov - er - reach-ing—try to take the place of you.

Say-ing "no" would be se - di - tion; say-ing "yes" would be a sin.
Yet he pressed on with his mes-sage; "Give to God what is God's own."
May our tax - es, all to - geth - er, fund our work-ing hand in hand
May we lis - ten to your mes-sage, may we hon - or what is yours;

Je - sus changed the con-ver - sa - tion, call-ing them to look with - in.
We who bear our Ma-ker's im - age wor-ship God and God a - lone.
So that life will be made bet - ter for all peo - ple in this land.
May we, liv - ing in your im - age, seek your king - dom that en - dures.

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New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com | Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com

***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. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit. 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

Generous God, all that we have comes from you. We give back in gratitude. May our gifts become beacons of hope and doors of justice and open arms of love until your kingdom comes in all its fulness. Amen.

Following the Word into the World

***Hymn #694**

Great God of Every Blessing

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.

**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.

PIPESCREAMS returns to Second Presbyterian Church on Fri, Oct 30 (7 pm) for an evening of spooky, spectacular music featuring five organists, including the return of "Hollywood Organist" Aaron Shows and performances by Dr. Jerry Martin, Patrick Torsell, and Justin Wiget in a Portsmouth premiere of a unique organ-and-human duet composed by SSU Professor Michael Barnhart. Dr. Stanley Workman, Jr. and the Second Pres Choral Scholars will bring Broadway to the organ, and the Portsmouth Youth Ballet, directed by Summer Logan, will once again join the spooktacular festivities. This concert is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome.

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 Pantry 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

Sunday, October 18: Nominating Committee Meeting, immediately following worship

Wednesday, October 21: Budget Committee Meeting, 11:00 a.m. in the Lounge, Website Committee at 4p.m.

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 25: Deacons Meeting, immediately following worship

Thursday, October 29: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Friday, October 30: PIPESCREAMS Concert at Second Presbyterian, 7:00 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: ystinnett.fpc@gmail.com; Phone: (740) 353-4259

Bev Phipps, Treasurer—Email: bevphipps1stpres@gmail.com; Phone: (740) 353-4259

Rev. Lisa R. Eye, Pastor—Email: levfirstpresportsmouth@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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