

First Presbyterian Church

Portsmouth, Ohio

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



October 25, 2026

22nd Sunday after Pentecost/ Reformation Sunday

The last Sunday in October is the day that Protestant churches across the world, including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), celebrate **Reformation Sunday**. It marks the significance of a German monk named Martin Luther nailing 95 Theses (or points) he thought the Roman Catholic Church should change on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517. His goal was not to split the church or begin a new one, but to call the church to reform its theology and practices in order to be consistent with Scripture. Luther was joined by many other Reformers whose teachings were eventually summarized in what we call the **Five Solas**, “sola” being a Latin word meaning “alone” or “only.”

*Sola Scriptura: Scripture alone; Solus Christus: Christ alone; Sola Fide: faith alone;
Sola Gratia: grace alone; Soli Deo Gloria: glory to God alone*

In honor of the celebration, much of this week’s liturgy is drawn from prayers and liturgy from some of these Reformers.

Gathering Around the Word

Welcoming the Community

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Announcements & Celebrations

Elder Diane Boster

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 Psalm 90:1-6, 14)

Elder Boster

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday

when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

***Prayer of the Day** (a prayer of preparation by John Calvin)

Elder Boster

***Hymn #687**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past (Psalm 90)

GTG

***Call to Confession**

Elder Boster

***Prayer of Confession** (a prayer by Martin Luther) (unison)

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.
(silent prayer)

***Assurance of Forgiveness** (from a prayer by John Calvin)

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

Scripture

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

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

Scripture

Matthew 22:34-46

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

Sermon

Reformed and Always Reforming According to the Word of God

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Responding to the Word

***Hymn #63**

The Lord Is God

GTG

Affirmation of Faith (responsive): A Litany for Reformation Sunday *Composed of excerpts from the creeds, confessions, catechisms of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), by Rev. Susan Carter Wiggins.*

One *(The Nicene Creed, 4th Century, Constantinople and The Apostles' Creed, 2nd-8th Century, Rome, North Africa, Gaul):*

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting

All *(The Scots Confession, Mid-16th Century, Scotland):*

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, distinct in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, to whom alone we must cleave, and in whom alone we put our trust.

One *(The Heidelberg Catechism, Mid-16th Century, Germany):*

We believe that, we belong—body and soul, in life and in death— not to ourselves but to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

All *(The Second Helvetic Confession, Mid-16th Century, Switzerland):*

We believe that, all things are governed by the Providence of God.

One *(The Westminster Confession of Faith, Mid-17th Century, England):*

We believe that, the Lord our God was pleased to make a second covenant of grace, wherein he freely offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ.

All *(The Shorter Catechism, Mid-17th Century, England):*

We believe that, the chief end of humankind is to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever.

One *(The Larger Catechism, Mid-17th Century, England):*

We believe that there is but one only, the living and true God. God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness and perfection, all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wide, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

All *(The Theological Declaration of Barmen, Early 20th Century, Germany):*

The church's communion, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ's stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.

One *(The Confession of 1967, Mid-20th Century, USA):*

We believe that, the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.

All *(The Confession of Belhar, Late 20th Century, South Africa):*

We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. Through the work of God's Spirit, unity is a binding force. At the same time, unity must be earnestly pursued and sought. Our unity must become visible to the world.

One *(The Confession of Belhar, Late 20th Century, South Africa):*

We believe that separation and hatred between people and groups is sin, already conquered by Christ. Anything threatening our unity has no place in the church.

All (A Brief Statement of Faith, Late 20th Century, USA):

With believers in every time and place we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to 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 Boster

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) (a prayer by Martin Luther)*

Elder Boster

O Lord, come to us and use our bread, silver and gold. How very well they are spent if we spend them in your service. Amen.

Following the Word into the World

**Hymn #275*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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 or 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.

Next Sunday, November 1st, we will celebrate ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY. In our Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition, saints are not only famous people who have done extraordinary things, but also those who have faithfully served the Lord and shown others how to know and love God. As we share in the Lord's Supper we will celebrate all of the saints we have known, and especially those known to this congregation who have died in the past year. Their families are receiving a special invitation to join us in worship as we give thanks for their lives and witness.

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. We are grateful that our custodian, Kenny Coffey, has agreed to bring his gifts to serve as “project manager” to coordinate the many details such as restoration requires. 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.

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.

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
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.
Friday, October 30: PIPESCREAMS Concert at Second Presbyterian, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 1: All Saints' Day Worship & Communion
Monday, November 2: Marzetti order deadline
Wednesday, November 4: Ministry of Congregational Life Meeting, 4:00 p.m. in the Lounge**

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.



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