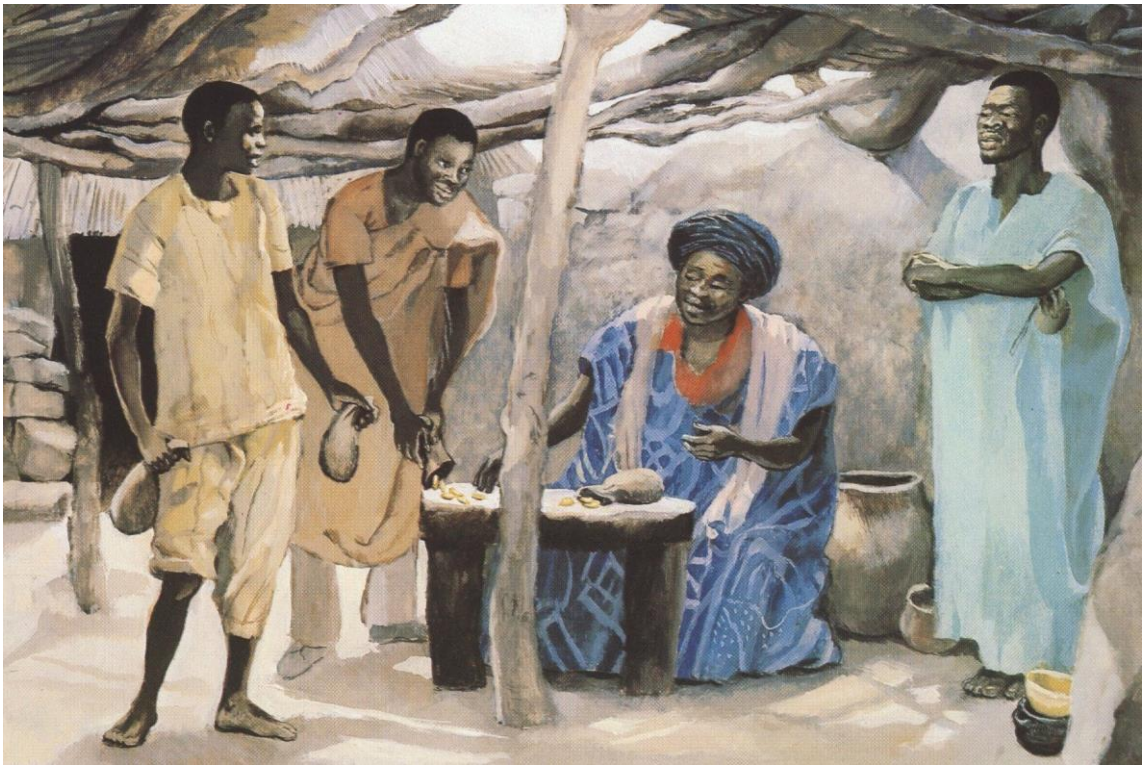
First Presbyterian Church
Portsmouth, Ohio

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



***Parable of the Three Servants, or Talents,* JESUS MAFA, 1973**
from Art in the Christian Tradition,
a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN
JESUS MAFA is a response to the parable in Matthew 25:14-30
by a Christian Community in Cameroon, Africa

November 15, 2026
25th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering Around the Word

Welcoming the Community Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Announcements & Celebrations Deacon Ginny Sturgill

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 (responsively)** from Psalm 90:1-8, 12* Deacon Sturgill

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.
From everlasting to everlasting you are God.
A thousand ages in your sight are like yesterday.
You sweep them away like a dream.
All our days pass away; our years come to an end like a sigh.
Teach us to count our days, that we may have wise hearts.

Prayer of the Day Deacon Sturgill

Hymn #687 *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* **GTG**

Call to Confession Deacon Sturgill

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Loving God, you are generous in the many ways you have gifted us. We have so many blessings be grateful for. Yet we are often motivated by fear, rather than our trust in you. We hold onto what we have, afraid we will never have enough. We become focused on protection rather than your call to welcome and love others. We see our blessings as our own, rather than seeing your care in each gift. Forgive us, God of grace. Forgive us and restore us to your vision for the world we pray. 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 *I Thessalonians 5:1-11*

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

Scripture *Matthew 25:14-30*

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

Sermon *Faithfulness in a Time of Waiting* Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Responding to the Word

****Hymn #716*** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* **GTG**

****Affirmation of Faith (unison): from the Confession of 1967*** Rev. Eye

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus God has already demonstrated his judging and saving work. We are warned that rejecting God's love and not caring for others whom God loves results in eternal separation from him and them. Yet we are also told that God loves the whole world and wills the salvation of all humankind in Christ. We live in tension between God's warnings and promises. Knowing the righteous judgment of God in Christ, we urge all people to be reconciled to God, not exempting ourselves from the warnings. Constrained by God's love in Christ, we have good hope for all people, not exempting the most unlikely from the promises. Judgment belongs to God and not to us. We are sure that God's future for every person will be both merciful and just.

"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 God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Prayers of the People and 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 Deacon Sturgill

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)*** Deacon Sturgill

God of grace and God of glory, we dedicate these gifts given this day to your work in the world. May these gifts bring hope and light to all who need it. Amen.

Following the Word into the World

***Hymn #384** *Soon and Very Soon* **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 #357 verse 2** *The Days Are Surely Coming* **GTG**

The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.

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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(see permission/license on file)

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

The Nominating Committee is meeting TODAY, immediately after worship in the lounge.

Desserts and drinks are needed for a Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the New Boston Community Center on Sunday, November 22nd from noon to 4:00 p.m. These items can be dropped off here by Thursday, November 19th and they will be delivered. See Diane Boster if you can help.

The Session has called a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING for next Sunday, November 22, immediately following worship for the purpose of electing officers and at-large members of the 2027 Nominating Committee and presenting the proposed 2027 Budget. All active members of the congregation are eligible to vote and are encouraged to participate.

The Scioto County Hearts & Minds initiative (connecting churches who want to support their members' mental health) is sponsoring a conversation about grief (especially around the holidays) with Elaine Conrad (LISW, Shawnee Family Health Center) tomorrow evening, Monday, November 16 at 6:00 p.m. at Portsmouth First Nazarene Church, 456 Brown Street. Whether you are experiencing grief or simply want to better understand ow to walk alongside others, you are welcome to join this time of reflection and conversation.

Mark your calendars for the next 5th Sunday Fellowship Lunch on Sunday, November 29 after worship at Maestros Mexican Restaurant at 836 Fourth St. Parking is available in the Fourth St. lot across from the restaurant.



Advent is just around the corner! If you would like to purchase a **poinsettia** to add to the beauty of our worship space during the season in memory or honor of someone special, there are order forms available on the table in Fellowship Hall. Poinsettias are $8.00 each and orders are due by November 29. You are also invited to come help us **decorate** for the season on Wednesday, December 2 at 2:00 p.m.



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 a 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.

The FPC Food Pantry is open on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Thursdays from 12 to 2 p.m. (except Thanksgiving Day). New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Deacon's Chair, Rachel Collingsworth, or the Church Office to learn more about how you can help serve our neighbors.

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.

Help spread the word about the Armbrust Student Loan Program! First Presbyterian Church is anxious to provide more low-interest loans to help students 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 such as transportation or computers for traditional and non-traditional students beyond high school. Membership at 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.***

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
TODAY: Nominating Committee meeting, following worship in the Lounge
Tuesday, November 17: Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley,
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Columbus
Wednesday, November 18: Website Committee, 4:00 p.m. in the Lounge
Thursday, November 19: Food Pantry, noon-2:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 22: Christ the King Sunday; Congregational Meeting immediately following worship
Thursday, November 26: OFFICE CLOSED for Thanksgiving Holiday, No Food Pantry
Sunday, November 29: 1st Sunday of Advent; 5th Sunday Fellowship Lunch,
following worship at Maestros Mexican Restaurant

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: bevphipps1stpres@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

221 Court St., Portsmouth, OH 45662
(740) 353-4259 Church Office
Email: firstpresbyteran.portsmouth@gmail.com
Website: www.firstpresportsmouthoh.com
YouTube: www.youtube.com@firstconnections4806
Facebook: https://facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchportsmouthohio

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SERVING CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN OHIO
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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
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