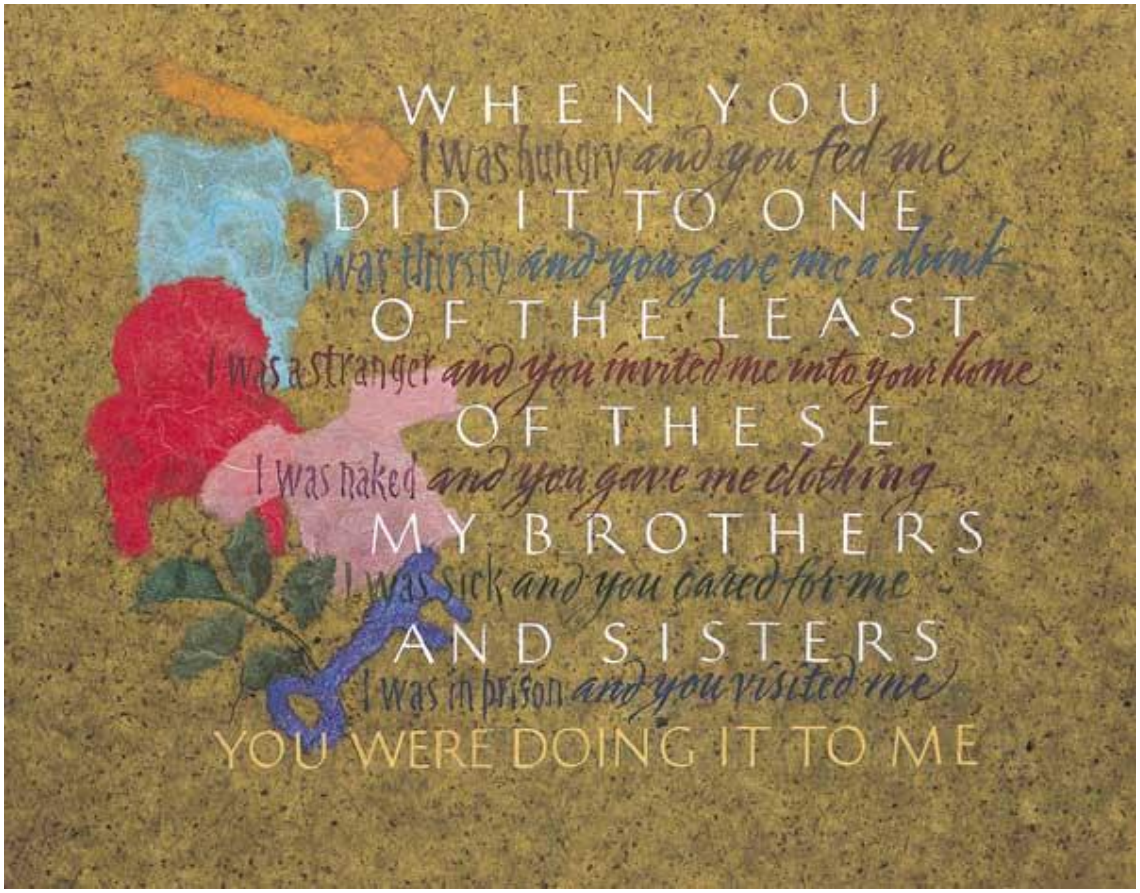
First Presbyterian Church
Portsmouth, Ohio

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



Matthew 25, **Timothy R. Botts, 2016 (EYE)**

November 22, 2026
Reign of Christ Sunday

Gathering Around the Word

Welcoming the Community Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Announcements & Celebrations

Prelude Dr. Phillip Roberts

***Call to Worship (responsively)** from Psalm 100* Dr. Roberts

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God.
The Lord made us and we belong to our Creator;
we are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.
Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and the courts of the Lord with praise.
Give thanks to God; bless God's name.
For the Lord is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever
and God's faithfulness is from generation to generation.
Come, let us worship God!

Prayer of the Day Dr. Roberts

Hymn #336 *We Gather Together* **GTG**

Call to Confession Dr. Roberts

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Sovereign God, we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm. You guide us toward right paths, but we refuse to follow where you lead. You love and feed and care for us, but we fail to love and serve others. Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your fold and rejoice in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Lamb upon the throne. 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 *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*

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

Scripture *Matthew 25:31-46*

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

Sermon *Shepherds, Kings and New Year's Resolutions* Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Responding to the Word

****Hymn #803*** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* **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

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)***

Generous God, we bless your name because you have called us and claimed us and sent us into the world to do your will. Receive what we offer you this day, our gifts and our lives. Through them may the hungry be fed, the thirsty quenched, the naked clothed, and the stranger welcomed. May our lives be a continuous expression of thanksgiving for provision and promise you offer to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Following the Word into the World

***Hymn #367** | ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come** | **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 3** | *The Days Are Surely Coming* | **GTG**

The days are surely coming when we will know at last
the fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass.
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.

Acolyte Recessional

***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.

Reflecting on the Theme for the Day

As we prepare to celebrate a national day of Thanksgiving this week, we also celebrate the **Reign of Christ** or Christ the King Sunday. Today marks the last Sunday, or "New Year's Eve" of the Christian year. We end the year giving thanks that Christ is the beginning and end of all life and remembering his story. We began in **Advent** with the anticipation of Christ coming into the darkness of a broken and hurting world; we rejoiced at Christ's coming to us in the flesh as the baby born at **Christmas**; and we continued the celebration through **Epiphany** giving thanks for God's revealing light in Christ and the ways Christ's life has shed light on how we are to live. Then came **Lent**, a time of spiritual discipline and preparation and even grief at our Lord's crucifixion and death. But grief gave way to rejoicing once again as we celebrated Christ's resurrection on **Easter**. The Easter season was a time of rejoicing in Christ's ministry beyond the grave until his **Ascension** into heaven, and continued through the Day of **Pentecost** when we celebrated the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church. Since Pentecost, we have heard and reflected upon how the Church is called and empowered to continue Christ's ministry on earth, proclaiming the good news of the coming of God's kingdom in its fullness and making disciples to carry out this work. ***As we prepare to begin again with Advent next Sunday, this is a good time to ask ourselves: For what do I give thanks? How have I/we grown in discipleship in the past year? What resolutions do I/we make to continue or increase that growth in the new year? What actions am I or we called to take?***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Session has called a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING for TODAY, 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.

Mark your calendars for the next 5th Sunday Fellowship Lunch on Sunday, November 29 after worship at Maestros Mexican Grill 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. 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
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
Wednesday, December 2: Ministry of Congregational Life (MCL) Meeting, 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge;
Decorating for Advent, 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 5: Armbrust Student Loan Committee, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
Wednesday, December 9: Regular Session Meeting, 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge
Thursday, December 10: Food Pantry, noon to 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 17: Food Pantry, noon to 2:00 p.m.
Monday, December 21: Service of Lessons & Carols, 7:30 p.m. at Second Presbyterian Church
Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve Worship, 6:00 p.m. at Second Presbyterian Church

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

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