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



***The Ten Young Women*, 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 of the Ten Bridesmaids in Matthew 25:1-11
by a Christian Community in Cameroon, Africa

November 8, 2026
24th 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)*** Deacon Sturgill

The Lord is coming. Whom will you serve?
As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.
What has God done for you?
Wondrous works. Unforgettable deeds. Strength in the wilderness; paths of liberation!
Say more.
We'll never stop telling our story. The next generation will hear it.
Children not yet born will know it.
Hope in God, whose story will never end.
Forever we will praise our faithful helper and deliverer!

****Prayer of the Day*** Deacon Sturgill

****Hymn #305*** *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!* **GTG**

****Call to Confession*** Deacon Sturgill

****Prayer of Confession (unison)***

Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good. In the name of Jesus 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 *Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25*

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

Scripture *Matthew 25:1-13*

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

Sermon *Keeping Awake in the In-Between* Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Responding to the Word

****Hymn #362*** *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers* **GTG**

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

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life. It is the will of God that his purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil banished from creation.

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

"Now to him 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 #606*** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* **GTG**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

****Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)*** Deacon Sturgill

Gracious God, receive our gifts, tokens of thanks for your extravagant blessings, signs of trust in your coming reign of justice, peace and love; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Following the Word into the World

***Hymn #819** *Be Still, My Soul* **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 #359 verse 1** *The Days Are Surely Coming* **GTG**

The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and we will be delivered by my almighty hand.

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

THANK YOU!!! We reached our 250 ACTS OF KINDNESS goal! Because of your kindness we have collected 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. Your gifts will make a difference!

The Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church ANNUAL MARZETTI SALE is Wednesday, November 11. The money raised will help us fulfill our annual pledge of $1200 to the Food Pantry. Orders can be picked up on Wednesday, November 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Delivery is available upon request.

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.

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! 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. Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Rachel Collingsworth or the Church Office to learn more about how you can help serve our neighbors.

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.

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
Wednesday, November 11: Marzetti pick up, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; and
Regular Session Meeting, 1:00 p.m. 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
Sunday, November 29: 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

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