



First Presbyterian Church

Portsmouth, Ohio

The Rev. Allison Bauer, Pastor
Elder Betty Kennedy, Liturgist
Ms. Michele Imes, Director of Music
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Organist/Musician
Ms. Stephanie Scaggs, Media Specialist

September 13, 2026

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time (Year A)

Gathering Around the Word

Welcoming the Community

Elder Betty Kennedy

Announcements & Celebrations

Prelude

Dr. Phillip Roberts

(Take a deep breath.) Holy One, we come to worship aware of our wandering, our brokenness, and our need for grace. (Take a deep breath.) Open our hearts to your presence. Still our minds. Breathe your Spirit upon us. (Take a deep breath.) Make us ready to hear your Word and be found in your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

****Call to Worship***

Elder Betty Kennedy

Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

Yet the Holy One looks upon all humankind with steadfast love.

All have turned aside; there is no one who does good.

And still, our Shepherd searches until the lost are found.

Come, beloved of God, let us rejoice!

For God is with the righteous, restoring the fortunes of the people.

Let us worship the God who seeks, saves, and rejoices.

****Prayer of the Day***

Elder Kennedy

****Hymn #802***

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

GTG

****Call to Confession***

Elder Kennedy

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

Merciful God, we confess that we wander far from you. We turn aside, chasing our own ways; we deny your presence in our thoughts and deeds. "No, not one" is righteous. We are all in need of your mercy. Forgive us, we pray, for you are the God who searches and finds. Lift us onto your shoulders in grace and bring us home with joy. (Silent prayer)

****Assurance of Forgiveness***

Rev. Bauer

****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. Bauer

Scripture

Psalm 14:1-7

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

Scripture

Luke 15:1-10

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

Sermon

“The One”

Rev. Allison Bauer

Responding to the Word

****Hymn #418***

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

GTG

****Affirmation of Faith (unison) “The Apostles Creed”***

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Bauer

...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 Kennedy

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 Kennedy

Holy God, you have sought us, found us, and brought us home. We offer these gifts in gratitude and trust. Use them to reach the lost, to restore hope, and to bring joy where it is absent. Let these gifts be instruments of your mercy, that your church may be a reflection of your relentless love. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Following the Word into the World

***Hymn #39**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

GTG

***Congregational Charge**

Rev. Bauer

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 #543 v. 4**

O Christ Surround Me

GTG

***Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ surround me.***

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



Get Ready for Church School! A new Church School year began today, September 13 for children and youth. Diane Boster is leading the first unit called, "Care for Creation," part of the PC(USA) curriculum, Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living. Together students will discover that when we care for creation, we love, support, and advocate for the earth as God loves, supports, and advocates for us and how caring for creation is an act of loving our neighbor. **The class meets on the 3rd floor of the education building at 10:00 a.m. Sunday's. The presentation of**

Bibles to our children and youth has been rescheduled to September 27th.

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 gearing up for a new school term, and applications are now available. The low-interest loans 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 and get ready for an exciting year of learning and growth. ***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 Bank 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 and expected to be completed by mid- to late-September. The next phase will include painting, cleaning and restoring flooring, reinstallation of the organ pipes, and cleaning and reinstallation of pews and sanctuary furniture. Plans are also underway to repair and clean the walls and trim of upper and lower narthex to provide a welcoming and safe entrance into the sanctuary. 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

Sunday Church School begins at 10A.M. on the 3rd floor of the Education Building

Sunday Worship begins at 11A.M. in the Mary Elizabeth Shwartz Fellowship Hall

(Please use the ramp entrance on Third street to enter on Sunday's)

Sunday, September 13 & 20th: We are pleased to welcome **Rev. Allison Bauer**, Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church of Portsmouth to lead worship as Pastor Lisa Eye will be away on study leave. Should you experience a pastoral emergency while Pastor Lisa is away, please call the church office or Clerk of Session, Betty Kennedy.

Sunday, September 13: Church School Resumes, 10:00 a.m. on the 3rd floor

Thursday, September 17: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 24: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 27: Deacons Meeting following Worship

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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