

First Presbyterian Church

Portsmouth, Ohio

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



Sunday, September 20, 2026
The Twenty-Fifth 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 Kennedy

Leader: For God alone our souls wait in silence,

People: From God comes our hope and our salvation.

Leader: Trust in the Lord at all times, O people; pour out your heart before God.

People: Power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to the Lord.

Leader: Let us worship God, who is our rock and refuge!

**Prayer of the Day*

**Hymn #275*

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

GTG

**Call to Confession*

Elder Kennedy

**Prayer of Confession (unison)*

Merciful God, we confess that we are often anxious and fearful, placing our trust in wealth, status, or control rather than resting in you alone. You call us to be faithful stewards, yet we are tempted to serve our bank accounts. You invite us to use all we have for your kingdom, yet too often we serve ourselves. Forgive us, Lord. Teach us wisdom to use our resources with justice and mercy, and guide us to place our trust in you, our rock and redeemer. *(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 Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Rev. Bauer

Scripture Psalm 62:5-12

⁵ For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

⁷ On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion;

in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰ Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery;

if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

¹¹ Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

¹² and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Scripture Luke 16:1-13 from “The Message” (The Story of the Crooked Manager)

16 ¹⁻² Jesus said to his disciples, “There was once a rich man who had a manager. He got reports that the manager had been taking advantage of his position by running up huge personal expenses. So, he called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? You’re fired. And I want a complete audit of your books.’”

³⁻⁴ “The manager said to himself, ‘What am I going to do? I’ve lost my job as manager. I’m not strong enough for a laboring job, and I’m too proud to beg. Ah, I’ve got a plan. Here’s what I’ll do, then when I’m turned out into the street, people will take me into their houses.’”

⁵ “Then he went at it. One after another, he called in the people who were in debt to his master. He said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ “He replied, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ “The manager said, ‘Here, take your bill, sit down here—quick now—write fifty.’”

⁷ “To the next he said, ‘And you, what do you owe?’ “He answered, ‘A hundred sacks of wheat.’ “He said, ‘Take your bill, write in eighty.’”

⁸⁻⁹ “Now here’s a surprise: The master praised the crooked manager! And why? Because he knew how to look after himself. Streetwise people are smarter in this regard than law-abiding citizens. They are on constant alert, looking for angles, surviving by their wits. I want you to be smart in the same way— but for what is right— using every adversity to stimulate you to creative survival, to concentrate your attention on the bare essentials, so you’ll live, really live, and not complacently just get by on good behavior.”

¹⁰⁻¹³ Jesus went on to make these comments: If you’re honest in small things, you’ll be honest in big things; If you’re a crook in small things, you’ll be a crook in big things. If you’re not honest in small jobs, who will put you in charge of the store? No worker can serve two bosses: He’ll either hate the first and love the second or adore the first and despise the second. You can’t serve both God and the Bank.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Responding to the Word

****Hymn #299***

“Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

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

Faithful God, receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you alone. Use them to serve your people, to proclaim your good news, and to build your kingdom on earth. Amen.

Following the Word into the World

**Hymn #438*

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

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 from 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

We are pleased to present new Bibles to our children and youth as they get ready for a new Church School year. Church School class meets on the 3rd floor of the education building at 10 A.M. 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 that caring for creation is an act of loving our neighbor. **The presentation of Bibles to our children and youth has been rescheduled to the September 27th Worship Service.**



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.

Pastor Lisa Eye is away through September 26th on study leave and vacation. We are pleased to welcome Rev. Allison Bauer, Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church of Portsmouth, to lead worship today. Should you experience a pastoral emergency while Pastor Lisa is away, please call the church office or Clerk of Session Betty Kennedy.

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.

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.

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 the beginning of October. 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. 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. 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 10 A.M. on the 3rd floor of the Education Building
Sunday Worship begins at 11 A.M. in the Mary Elizabeth Shwartz Fellowship Hall
(Please use the ramp entrance on Third Street to enter on Sundays.)

Wednesday, September 23: The dedication of the Wisniewski Oak on the SSU campus, 4:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, September 27th: Pastor Lisa returns to lead the worship service

Sunday, September 27th: Bible Presentation to our children and youth during worship

Sunday, September 27th: Deacons Meeting following worship

Sunday, October 4: World Communion Offering: this is one of the three Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Wednesday, October 7: MCL Meeting, 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge (*****new time*****)

Thursday, October 8: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 8: Armbrust Student Loan Committee, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

Wednesday, October 14: Session Reg. scheduled meeting, 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge

Thursday, October 15: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 22: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Monday, October 26: Special Session Meeting, 9:00-noon in the Lounge

Thursday, October 29: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

You Are Invited



The dedication of the Wisniewski Oak
on the SSU campus

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

Park in the west portion of
the Waller and 3rd parking lot.

Follow the cross-campus path to Massie Hall.

A Tree Campus USA: There are more than a hundred tree species
on the Shawnee campus. For info about the Deal Arboretum:

<https://www.shawnee.edu/deal-arboretum>.

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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The Synod of the Covenant
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