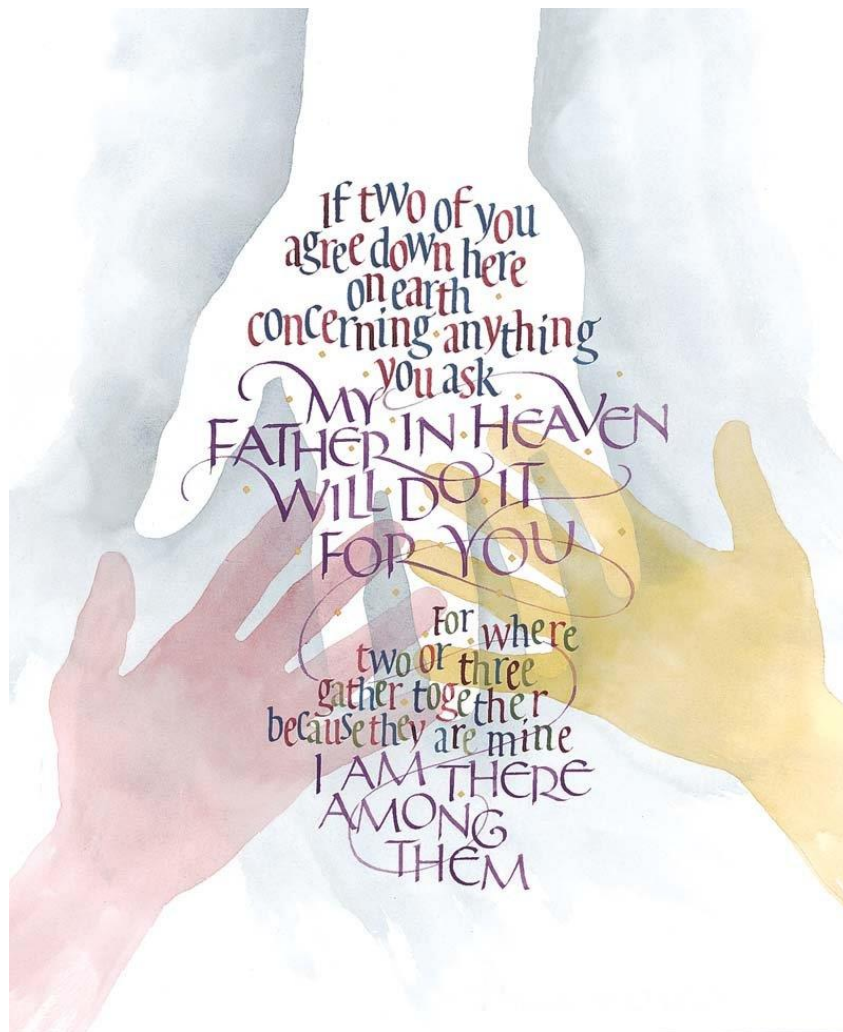


First Presbyterian Church

Portsmouth, Ohio

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



Matthew 18:19-20 Timothy R. Botts, 2016

September 6, 2026
15th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering Around the Word

Welcoming the Community

Ms. Michele Imes

Announcements & Celebrations

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**

Ms. Imes

Awake! Today is the day God has made.

Sing to God a new song and praise God's holy name.

We come with our songs of praise to our faithful God.

Where two or three are gathered in God's name, God is here among us.

Praise be to God!

***Prayer of the Day**

***Hymn #396**

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

GTG

***Call to Confession**

Ms. Imes

***Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Gracious God, in Jesus Christ, you have taught us to pray, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Yet even as we depend on your mercy, we fail to extend such mercy to others. We hold onto old grudges, count the sins of others, and seek to settle the score. Gracious God, forgive us, and open our hearts to forgive one another. Pour out your grace upon us and let it overflow into the lives of others. Let your church be a living sign of your reconciling love for all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

Presentation of Bibles to Children and Youth

Rev. Eye

What is the church?

We are the church: the people who believe the good news about Jesus, who are baptized, and who share in the Lord's Supper. Through these means of grace, the Spirit renews us so that we may serve God in love.

How do you know this good news?

Through reading the Bible and hearing it taught and preached. The Holy Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible and helps us rely on its promises today.

Hearing and Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Understanding

Rev. Eye

Scripture

Exodus 12:1-14

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

Scripture

Matthew 18:15-20

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

Sermon

“Called to Restoration”

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Responding to the Word

**Hymn #529*

Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether

GTG

**Affirmation of Faith (unison)*

from The Confession of 1967

Rev. Eye

The church confesses its faith when it bears a present witness to God’s grace in Jesus Christ. God’s reconciling work in Jesus Christ and the mission of reconciliation to which he has called the church are at the heart of the gospel in any age.

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as a reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God’s message of reconciliation and shares God’s labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from one another. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to God’s call.

Invitation to the Offering

Ms. Imes

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)*

Ms. Imes

God, these offerings seem insignificant in light of all that you have offered us. We give because you gave. We love because you first loved us. Receive our gifts and our lives, and use them, we pray for your reconciling work in the world you love. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Eye

The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is extended to all who seek to follow Jesus Christ, remembering that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a gift of grace given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. This is not a Presbyterian table, but the Lord’s Table. Members, friends, and guests are welcome to share in this feast our Lord has prepared!

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God.... Therefore, we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior.... Great is the mystery of faith we proclaim:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us.... As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray: **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.**

The Communion of the People

Elders will serve the communion elements of bread and juice to worshipers in their seats. Once everyone has been served, the pastor will lead the congregation in taking the elements together.

Prayer After Communion

Rev. Eye

Following the Word into the World

****Hymn #462***

I Love to Tell the Story

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 #757 v. 4***

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

GTG

***May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who call us all to be disciples of the Lord.***

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.

About Today's Scriptures and Artwork

The lectionary readings for today, the 15th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A are: Exodus 12:1-14 (Before the Exodus, the Lord gives instructions for the Passover.); Psalm 149 (Let the faithful praise the Lord with tambourine and dancing.); Romans 13:8-14 (Love is the fulfillment of the law; put on Christ; salvation is near.); Matthew 18:15-20 (Jesus says: seek reconciliation; when you gather, I am with you.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we are pleased to present new Bibles to our children and youth as they get ready for a new Church School year that begins next Sunday, September 13th. We hope all of them will bring their new Bibles back



next week. 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.**

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 will be away September 12-26 on study leave and vacation. We are pleased to welcome Rev. Allison Bauer, Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church of Portsmouth to lead worship on September 13 and 20. 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

Wednesday, September 9: Regular Session Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge

Thursday, September 10: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

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: 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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