

# First Presbyterian Church

## Portsmouth, Ohio

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



Abraham and the Three Angels (c. 1670-1674) by Bartolome Esteban Murillo

**June 14, 2026**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

# *Gathering Around the Word*

*Welcoming the Community*

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

*Announcements & Celebrations*

Elder Diane Boster

*Prelude*

Dr. Phillip Roberts

*\*Call to Worship from Psalm 116*

The Lord hears us when we cry out.

**Praise the Lord!**

The Lord showers us with blessings.

**Praise the Lord!**

Let us lift up the name of Lord for all to hear!

**Praise the Lord!**

Let us sing of God's endless grace and compassion!

**Let us worship God!**

*\*Prayer of the Day*

*\*Hymn #385*

*All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

**GTG**

*\*Call to Confession*

Elder Boster

*\*Prayer of Confession (unison)*

**Lord, we come to you boldly, trusting your love for us as we recognize that while we are still sinners, Christ died for us. If it were not so, how could we ever be brave enough to share the burdens of our heart and speak aloud the guilt that weighs heavy on our conscience? For too long we have not loved you with our whole hearts, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to see your image in every human being, and we've torn apart instead of built up the one body of which we are a part. We plead for mercy. We cry out for grace. Make of us a new creation that we may be enlivened for service and love. 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*

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

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

*Scripture*

Matthew 9:35-10:8

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

*Sermon*

*Is Anything Too Wonderful?*

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

## ***Responding to the Word***

**\*Hymn #726**

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

**GTG**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*Question 21 of the Heidelberg Catechism*

Q. What is true faith?

**A. True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace granted solely by Christ's merit. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

***Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer***

Rev. Eye

...Receive all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, as together we pray as Jesus taught his disciples to pray, 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 Boster

***Offering Instrumental***

Dr. Roberts

**\*Doxology #717**

*For the Life That You Have Given*

**GTG**

**\*Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)**

Elder Boster

**Generous God, how can we thank you for all that you have given us? We give back but a tiny portion in hopes that it may bless the world as you have blessed us. Use the gifts we have gathered and use us to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

## ***Following the Word into the World***

**\*Hymn #838**

*Standing on the Promises*

**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 #748**

*Go With Us, Lord*

**GTG**

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(see permission/license on file)

**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.

**ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP THEMES**

**The lectionary readings appointed for today are: Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7)**, Three visitors promise Abraham and Sarah they will have a son; **Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**, What shall I return to the Lord? I will lift up the cup of salvation; **Romans 5:1-8**, We are justified by faith; while we were sinners, Christ died for us; and **Matthew 9:35-18 (9-23)**, The harvest is plentiful; Jesus instructs and sends the twelve apostles.

This week's story from Genesis is a turning point in the story of Abraham and Sarah. God has promised to make them ancestors "of a multitude of nations," even as Sarah is childless and ninety years old (Gen. 17:4, 19). Abraham initially finds this unimaginable, even laughable—and in this week's story, so does Sarah.

The Gospel of Matthew is organized around five discourses or teaching sessions – probably a poetic reference to the five books of the Torah traditionally attributed to Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), thereby casting Jesus as a Moses-like figure. The first of these discourses is the "Sermon on the Mount," and this week's reading comes from the second, sometimes called the "Missionary Discourse." Jesus has been healing and preaching and teaching great crowds whom he finds "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" – a predicament that moves him with "compassion" (Matt. 9:36). So, we might expect Jesus, the caring and capable "shepherd" to care for them. Instead, Jesus commissions the disciples to take on his shepherding role. As he sends them out, he gives them the authority to carry out his work and gives them instructions.

These two stories point toward one of God's signature moves: gracefully making possible what initially seems impossible, and doing so through unexpected, even unlikely suspects. What hope does that give us when we face difficulty in carrying out our mission?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

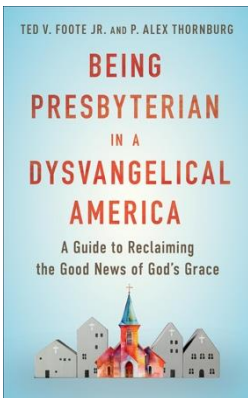
**Did you know that there's a simple way you can help spread the word about First Presbyterian Church?** Be sure to "like" and "follow" us on Facebook: <https://facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchportsmouthohio>. It only takes a minute and will also help you keep up with our latest news.

**Building Update:** The second phase of the sanctuary work – ceiling restoration, painting, and cleaning – is in process. The old ceiling has been removed, and a new ceiling is being installed before plaster work begins. Thank you to all who have made financial gifts to support this work! Please stay tuned for more updates.

**Armbrust Student 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. Loans can support academic and technical education expenses. Persons interested may download the application from the church website and get ready for an exciting year of learning and growth. If you have any questions, please let us know.

**The FPC Food Bank is open of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays has reopened from 12 to 2 p.m.** Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Rachel Collingsworth or the Church Office to learn more.

**A memorial service for Dr. Eugene John Valentine**, husband of Anne Nickerson, will be held at Noon on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Christ Community Church with Rev. Lisa Eye officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. A fellowship gathering and refreshments will take place following the service at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Community Center.



**A new book study begins on Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>.** Join us for a simple supper at 5:00 pm followed by a discussion led by Pastor Lisa Eye of *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America: A Guide to Reclaiming the Good News of God's Grace* written by Ted Foote and Alex Thornburg, led by Pastor Lisa Eye.

*"Ted and Alex have written a very readable guide that, in a spirit of humility and with touches of humor, articulates why Presbyterians sometimes feel out of sync with many prominent and loud Christian voices in America. It is a wonderful reminder of our theological heritage and an honest examination of our PC(USA) history that makes clear the importance of our distinct witness as Presbyterians."* – Cece Armstrong and Tony Larson, Co-Moderators of the 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2024) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Copies of the book are available on the table as you enter Fellowship Hall.

**Our neighbors at Second Presbyterian Church have invited us to an Independence Day worship and lunch celebration on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.** Please join us for this time of shared witness as we pray for our nation on the occasion of its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Members of First Presbyterian will join Dr. Stan Workman and the Second Presbyterian Choir in presenting special music, Pastor Lisa Eye will join Pastor Allison Bauer in leading worship, and we are providing a "birthday cake" for the fellowship lunch following worship. ***There will not be a service at First on this day, so we hope that you can attend in person or participate in the livestream on YouTube: Second Presbyterian Church Portsmouth, OH.***

## Church & Community Calendar

Wednesday, June 10: Regular Session Meeting – 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge  
Thursday, June 11: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.  
Thursday, June 18: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.  
Thursday, June 25: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.  
Sunday, June 28: Regular Deacons Meeting following worship  
Wednesday, July 1: Ministry of Congregational Life Meeting, 3:30 p.m. in the Lounge  
(Time change for July MCL Meeting)  
Wednesday, July 1: Dinner, 5:00 p.m. & Book study, 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
Sunday, July 5: Joint Independence Day Worship & Lunch at Second Presbyterian Church, 9:30 a.m.

## 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](mailto:vstinnett.fpc@gmail.com); Phone: (740) 353-4259

Bev Phipps, Treasurer—Email: [bevphipps1stpres@gmail.com](mailto:bevphipps1stpres@gmail.com); Phone: (740) 353-4259

Rev. Lisa R. Eye, Pastor—Email: [leyefirstpresportsmouth@gmail.com](mailto: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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