

“Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.” John 10:7

# Christ is Risen!

April 26, 2026 / 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

*Wilderness*

## First Presbyterian Church Portsmouth, Ohio

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

### *Gathering Around the Word*

*Welcoming the Community*

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

*Announcements & Celebrations*

*Prelude*

Dr. Phillip Roberts

*The Prelude marks the beginning of worship. It offers us a way to enter into God's presence, setting aside all that competes for our attention in our busy world, and making way for the Spirit to gather us in and move among us. Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.*

*\*Call to Worship*

Dr. Roberts

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

**Behold! The Savior of the world is risen!**

Fling wide the portals of your hearts.

**Let us feel the presence of God's grace and love!**

O Holy Spirit, lead us on in worship.

**Call us each by name, that we may give God glory!**

*\*Prayer of the Day*

Dr. Roberts

*\*Hymn#83*

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

**GTG**

*\*Call to Confession*

Dr. Roberts

*\*Prayer of Confession (unison)*

Gracious God, from before the foundation of the world, you called us by name and pledged your steadfast love. But like sheep, we stray from the fold. You offer to lead us, but we prefer to lead ourselves. Christ laid down his life, yet we refuse to lay down our ambitions, our plans, and our pride. Forgive us, O God. Call us back to the open gate of Christ's redeeming love that we might enter your beloved community and find restoration for our souls, reconciliation with our enemies, and the glory of abiding with you forevermore. Amen. (*Silent prayer*)

*\*Assurance of Forgiveness*

Rev. Eye

*\*Response: Hymn# 240 Refrain*

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

**GTG**

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord!  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

*\*Sharing the Peace*

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## ***Hearing and Proclaiming the Word***

*Prayer for Understanding*

Dr. Roberts

*Scripture*

Acts 2:42-47

Dr. Roberts

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

*Scripture*

John 10:1-10

Rev. Eye

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

*Sermon*

*I Am the Gate*

The Rev. Lisa R. Eye

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

*\*Hymn #803*

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

**GTG**

*\*Affirmation of Faith*

*Psalms 23*

Rev. Eye

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;**

your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

*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*

Rev. Eye

*Offering Instrumental*

Dr. Roberts

*\*Doxology# 232*

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, verse 4*

**GTG**

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!*

*\*Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)*

Rev. Eye

Shepherding God, you lead us, guard us, prepare us and preserve us. We have responded by giving back to you what has come from your hand. Bless these gifts, and multiply them in the life of your church, so that the gates of salvation may be flung wide, and all your children may know the love and peace that is ours in Christ Jesus. Amen.

## *Following the Word into the World*

*\*Hymn #187*

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**GTG**

*\*Congregational Charge & Benediction*

Rev. Eye

*\*Sending Song #541, verse 1*

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

**GTG**

*God be with you till we meet again;  
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.*

*Acolyte Recessional*

*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.).

**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.

**Building Update:** The first phase of the sanctuary work – the structural repair – has been completed! Worship will continue to be held in the Fellowship Hall while the second phase – ceiling restoration, painting, and cleaning – takes place. Thank you to all who have made financial gifts to support this work! Please stay tuned for more updates.

**Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Annual Yard Sale a success!**



**You are invited to the SSU Spring Semester Choir Concert, directed by Dr. Stanley Workman, TODAY at 6 pm at Second Presbyterian Church.** Repertoire will feature works of Bach, Hayden, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Faure, Copland, and Rutter. You might even see a couple of familiar faces from First Presbyterian Church in the choir loft!

**Armbrust Student Program Applications Are Open!** The Armbrust Student Loan Program is gearing up for a new school term, and applications are now available! 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 will reopen beginning Thursday, May 14 from 12 to 2 p.m.** Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Rachel Collingsworth or the Church Office to learn more.

## **Church & Community Calendar**

**Sunday, May 3: Worship with Communion in Fellowship Hall**

**Wednesday, May 6: MCL meeting in Lounge**

**Saturday, May 9-Saturday, May 16: Pastor Lisa Eye away for study leave**

**Thursday, May 14: Food Pantry from 12:00-2:00 p.m.; Armbrust Student Loan Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m. (Zoom)**

**Tuesday, May 19: Presbytery of Scioto Valley Meeting at Circleville Presbyterian Church at 3:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, May 20: Regular Session meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Lounge**

**Thursday, May 21: Food Pantry from 12:00-2:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 24: Pentecost Sunday; Regular Deacons' meeting following worship in Lounge**

**Monday, May 25: Memorial Day, Church office closed**

**Thursday, May 28: Food Pantry from 12:00-2:00 p.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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