

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



"Holy Ground" by Lauren Wright Pitman | A Sanctified Art LLC
sanctifiedart.org | inspired by Exodus 3:1-15

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.... God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses! And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." Exodus 3:2-5

August 30, 2026
14th 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 Psalm 105:1-6**

Ms. Imes

Give thanks to the Lord, and call upon God's name,
make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.

Sing to the Lord, sing praises, and speak of all God's marvelous works.

Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and the strength of the Lord; continually seek the face of God.

Remember the marvels God has done, the miracles, the wonders and the judgements of God's mouth,

O offspring of Abraham, God's servant, O children of Jacob, God's chosen.

***Prayer of the Day**

***Hymn #49**

"The God of Abraham Praise"

GTG

***Call to Confession**

Ms. Imes

***Prayer of Confession (unison)**

God of wonders, we confess that we God of wonders, we confess that we do not understand why you call us when we are scared, clumsy, busy or flawed. We confess that we think we know better than you do who is qualified to do your work. Forgive our fears and excuses and self-doubts. Lend us your fire and your strength, as we go about the work of serving our neighbors, building up your church, loving your children, and tending to the scorched places of our world. Help us to burn for you, without burning up or burning out. Give us a purpose and the courage to pursue it. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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

Romans 12:9-21

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

Scripture

Exodus 3:1-15

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

Sermon

"Calm Leadership in Anxious Times"

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Responding to the Word

**Hymn #727*

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

GTG

**Affirmation of Faith (unison)*

adapted from *The Confession of 1967*

Rev. Eye

We believe 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 God has the church are at the heart of the gospel in any age.

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds. We believe that God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, transcendence and awe-fulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

We believe that God has created us for a personal relationship in which we may respond to the love of the Creator. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Eye

...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

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

Holy God of holy ground, like Moses, we can question our fitness to serve your heavenly purpose on earth. Overcome our qualms with the assurance of your presence. Make us truly grateful for all the gifts you have given to us, and for the chance to give to others. Receive and bless what we offer to you. Build up your church through these offerings, that we might be a place where your goodness is seen, practiced, and shared. Amen.

Following the Word into the World

**Hymn #697*

Take My Life (verses 1, 2 & 6)

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 #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.

About Today's Scripture & Cover Art

The lectionary readings for today are: Exodus 3:1-15 (Moses meets the Lord in a burning bush, and learns God's name.); Psalm 1-5:1-6, 23-26, 45b (Give thanks to the Lord, who sent Moses to set the people free.); Romans 12:9-21 (Love one another; seek what is good; live peaceably with all.); Matthew 16:21-28 (Jesus says: If any wish to follow me, they must take up their cross.)

Artist Lauren Wright Pittman describes her painting "Holy Ground" (on the cover) inspired by the call of Moses in Exodus 3:1-15: *In this piece, I imagine the leaves and flames of the burning bush image of God's words for Moses. I have depicted God's message through symbols and imagery that start in the center and radiate out. The words in bold point to particular details I have rendered. I invite you to look for ways God's words might be translated visually: **God's eyes** have seen the misery of God's people. The Israelites **have cried out** in the midst of their oppression, and God knows their suffering. God's hope is for Moses to bring the Israelites to a land flowing with **milk and honey**, and Moses will know it is God who called him. When they are out of Egypt they shall worship God on this **mountain**.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for our 5th Sunday Fellowship Lunch TODAY! We're meeting at The Portsmouth Brewing Company, 224 Second St., for a Dutch treat lunch following worship. See you there!



Get Ready for Church School! A new Church School year begins on Sunday, 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.**

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, August 30: 5th Sunday Fellowship Lunch following worship at the Brewery
Wednesday, September 2: Ministry of Congregational Life (MCL) Meeting at 4:00 pm in the lounge
Thursday, September 3: Armbrust Student Loan Committee at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
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.

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

221 Court St., Portsmouth, OH 45662
(740) 353-4259 Church Office

Email: firstpresportsmouth@gmail.com

Website: www.firstpresportsmouthoh.com

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@firstconnections4806

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchportsmouthohio>

