



**First Presbyterian Church
Portsmouth, Ohio**

June 29, 2025
11 o'clock Worship Service

Rev. Ronald Johnson, Minister of Word and Sacrament
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Liturgist
Ms. Michele Imes, Choir Director
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Organist

We are glad you came...



Welcome to Worship

GATHERING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

WELCOMING THE COMMUNITY

Rev. Ronald Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS TO GATHER BY

Dr. Phillip Roberts

L. God –

P. we gather in your *presence*.

L. *Father* –

P. we long for more of you.

L. *Jesus* –

P. we place you at the center.

L. *Holy Spirit* –

P. come and fill us with your power.

**ALL: *Help us to be fully present here,
to your word, to one another,
and to the world you love. Amen.***

A PRELUDE TO BEGIN WORSHIP

Dr. Roberts

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*call and response*)

Dr. Roberts

L. We have not come to a frightening mountain or a scary place.

P. We have no fear or trembling.

L. This is a heavenly place where angels dwell.

P. We have come to be the church.

L. We have come to the mediator between God
and humankind: Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL: We come with reverence and awe.

***PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Dr. Roberts

***HYMN OF PRAISE** #346 "*For the Healing of the Nations*" **GTG**

***A CALL TO CONFESSION**

Dr. Roberts

***A PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(spoken in unison)* Dr. Roberts

Eternal God, you claimed us as your own in our baptisms and called us to be your covenant people. We confess we do not live as people created in your image, nor do we lead lives worthy of the calling to which we have been called. Jesus still calls, "Follow me," and we offer excuses because we feel unable to do so. Jesus calls us to new life in the Spirit, and we cling to our old habits and tired traditions. Gracious God, forgive our sins. Open our ears and hearts to hear Jesus's call and give us grace and strength to respond in faith and love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*(PLEASE, TAKE TIME TO SILENTLY CONFESS SIN
AND REFLECT ON GOD'S LOVE AND CALL ON YOUR LIFE)*

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** Rev. Johnson

***GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING Rev. Johnson

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 7:24-27 NLT

²⁴ "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Hebrews 12:18-29 NLT Dr. Roberts

¹⁸ You have not come to a physical mountain, to a place of flaming fire, darkness, gloom, and whirlwind, as the Israelites did at Mount Sinai. ¹⁹ For they heard an awesome trumpet blast and a voice so terrible that they

begged God to stop speaking. ²⁰ They staggered back under God's command: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." ²¹ Moses himself was so frightened at the sight that he said, "I am terrified and trembling."

²² No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. ²³ You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. You have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect. ²⁴ You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.

²⁵ Be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven! ²⁶ When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: "Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also." ²⁷ This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain.

²⁸ Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. ²⁹ For our God is a devouring fire.

L. The Word of the Lord.

P. Praise be to God!

THE MESSAGE

An Unshakable Faith

Rev. Johnson

HYMN OF RESPONSE

#840 "It Is Well with My Soul" **GTG**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Johnson

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallow 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 our sins as we forgive those who

sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

****OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (spoken in unison)***

We believe in one God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One, confessing him as Lord to the glory of God the Father. In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, We acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the church, the Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation.

We acknowledge that we live and work between the time of Christ's death and resurrection and the final consummation of all things which he will bring.

We are a pilgrim people, always on the way towards the promised goal; on the way, Christ feeds us with word and sacrament, and we have the gift of the Spirit in order that we may not lose the way. We affirm that every member of the church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified. Together with all the people of God, we will serve the world for which Christ died, and we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.

~ adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Dr. Roberts

OFFERTORY INSTRUMENTAL

Dr. Roberts

****The Doxology***

**Praise God,
from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION** *(spoken in unison)* Dr. Roberts
O God, we know you to be kind and generous, so we bring our gifts in gratitude and joy. Pour out your Spirit on these gifts and on our lives, so that we may bear the fruit of your Spirit in every situation and relationship, through Christ, our Living Lord. Amen.

A CALL TO MISSION

*** CLOSING HYMN** #656 "We've Come This Far By Faith" **GTG**

***CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Johnson

GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE

***SENDING SONG** #541 "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" **GTG**

ACOLYTE RECESSIONAL

POSTLUDE

Dr. Roberts

***The asterisk indicates when we rise to our feet in spirit,
as we are able in body.**

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<p>In the event of worship being postponed due to inclement weather conditions, an announcement will be sent to your email and the FPC's Facebook page</p>

**AN UPDATED PRAYER LIST IS LOCATED ON
THE EDUCATION ANNEX BULLETIN BOARD**

Our Church and Community Calendar July-August 2025

The Food Pantry is closed every first Thurs. of the month. Open Thurs. 12-2P

July 1: Secty./Admin. away Wedding Anniv.

July 2: No MCL Cmte. gathering

July 3: Office Closed for Independence Day

July 6: Communion Sunday

July 9: Board of Session meets, 1P (Tentative)

July 10: Clergy Breakfast, BV, 9A

July 10: Hanging Rock Regional Churches meet, Sonora Grill, Waverly, 11A

July 11-12: Pastor to Wedding in Pittsburgh

July 13-19: Study Leave for Pastor, Healthy Congregations Conf.

July 20: Pastor returns for worship

July 16: Armbrust Student Loan Cmte. meets, Zoom, 5:30P

July 24: Community Group meets at FPC, 10A – 12:45P

July 29: Pastor out of the office (one day only)

July 30: Summer Bible Study, N.T. Survey begins, Grill Out Night, 5:30P

Aug. 6: MCL Cmte. does not meet

Aug. 6: Summer Bible Study, N.T. Survey, with a light dinner, 5:30P

Aug. 12: Community Group meets at FPC Conf. Rm., 5P-7P

Aug. 13: Summer Bible Study, N.T. Survey, with Grill Out night, 5:30P

Aug. 19: PSV meets, 3:30 PM, Hybrid

Aug. 20: Director of Armbrust Stud. Loan Program in.

Aug. 21: Armbrust S.L. attends New Student Event, Shawnee St. U., 9A-3P

Aug. 22: Armbrust S.L. attends Community Fair, Shawnee St. U., 6-7:30P

Church Contact Information

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SERMON NOTES

SERMON TITLE _____

SCRIPTURE VERSE(S) _____

WHAT DID I HEAR THAT RAISED QUESTIONS? _____

HOW CAN I APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE? _____

WHAT WOULD I LIKE TO STUDY FURTHER? _____

MY HEART-FELT PRAYER TO GOD FOR THOSE IN MY LIFE AND MYSELF