

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.”

John 20:1

Christ is Risen!  
April 5, 2026 / Easter Sunday

*Wilderness*

## First Presbyterian Church Portsmouth, Ohio

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

*On Friday, the world was cast into darkness as Jesus, our Lord, who had been unjustly convicted and sentenced to death by crucifixion, hung in agony on his cross and cried, “Father, into your hands I commend by spirit.” and breathed his last. Because the sabbath was about to begin, his body was hastily placed in a rock-hewn tomb and sealed with a stone until it could be properly prepared after the sabbath. On Friday it looked as if we would be wandering in the wilderness of our grief for all eternity—as if all hope was lost, as if sin and death truly had the last word, and that only darkness would prevail. But, today, on the first day of the week, we come to witness a new truth, to proclaim a new word—*

***The tomb is empty!  
Christ is risen!  
The light of Christ rises in glory,  
overcoming the darkness of sin and death!  
Alleluia!***

# *Gathering Around the Word*

*Welcoming the Community*

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

*Announcements & Celebrations*

Elder Kennedy

*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. As we prepare to go to the tomb with Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the other disciples this Easter morning, let us prepare our hearts and minds for what we will find.*

*\*Call to Worship*

Elder Kennedy

O church, behold the victory of our God:

Jesus, our Lord has conquered the grave.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Sin and death shall reign no more.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Let the earth resound with joy.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

*\*Prayer of the Day*

Elder Kennedy

*\*Hymn# 232*

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, verses 1-3*

**GTG**

*\*Call to Confession*

Elder Kennedy

*\*Prayer of Confession*

**Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been raised from the waters of baptism to share in your glorious resurrection. Yet we have not lived as your joyous Easter people. Our mourning is deep and our joy too long absent. Our wilderness journey has been long and chaotic, punctuated with fear and marked with confusion. We confess that we have doubted your promises of peace, justice, and abundant life. We have capitulated to the evil all around us, unable to imagine that you could be doing a good, new thing in the midst of suffering. Forgive us for dwelling in the grief and silence of Holy Saturday when we should have run to the tomb to discover that Easter Sunday will not be stopped. Dispel our fear, embolden our witness, and show us the way to Galilee where the Risen Christ will meet us. *(Silent prayer)* Amen.**

*\*Assurance of Forgiveness*

*\*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*

*Scripture*

John 20:1-18

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

*Special Music*

*Long Ago, within A Garden*  
Words by DEVAN JENSEN Music by DANIEL CARTER

Michele Imes

*Sermon*

*Choosing to Stay and See the Risen Lord*

The Rev. Lisa R. Eye

***Responding to the Word***

**\*Hymn #248**

*Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

**GTG**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; and the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Invitation to the Offering*

Elder Kennedy

*Offering Instrumental*

**\*Doxology# 223**

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, verse 4*

**GTG**

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

**God of the empty tomb, your grace astounds, your generosity fills to overflowing. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ's spirit. Amen.**

***The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper***

***Invitation to the Table***

*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***

**Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed.**

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

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

**It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise.... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the eternal chorus who forever sing to the glory of your name:**

Hymn #552

Holy, Holy, Holy

GTG

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
Hosanna in the highest.*

You are holy, O God of majesty.... Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen:

Hymn #553

Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

GTG

*Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.  
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.*

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts.... As 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**

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

\*Hymn #238

Thine Is the Glory

GTG

\*Congregational Charge & Benediction

Rev. Eye

\*Sending Song #236, verse 1

The Strife Is O're

GTG

**Acolyte Recessional**

Postlude

*(Please be seated for the postlude.)*

Dr. Roberts

All music is used by permission.  
FFPC CCLI Copyright License: 21474063  
Streaming License: 21474070  
FPC is a Licensed Copyright User, Glory to God, All music  
(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.).

## 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.



**Help us decorate the East flower cross.** This is a Christian Easter tradition, dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century, where a barren wooden cross is covered with flowers to symbolize the transformation from Good Friday's death to the new life of the Resurrection.



**Today we are receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.**

Presbyterians have been participating in this offering since it began in 1949 following World War II, when leaders of several denominations made appeals for relief and reconstruction in areas devastated by the war. Today, OGHS is the largest of the three church-wide special offerings in the PC(U.S.A.). As we celebrate the seasons of Lent and Easter, Presbyterians respond to Christ's call

to ministries of compassion for the most vulnerable around the world who suffer due to disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration. The offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need by providing them with safety, sustenance and hope. You can find "fish" coin boxes to collect your gifts, offering envelopes, and more information about how the gifts will be used on the table as you enter. Thank you for prayerfully considering how we can *do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God*

**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.

**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.

**The Annual Yard Sale is April 23, 24 & 25.** Table set up will take place after worship on Sunday, April 19 with organization of donations on April 20, 21 & 22 beginning at 9:00 am. Come when you can and work as long as you can. Lunch provided.



**The FPC Food Bank will reopen beginning Thursday, May 14 from 12 to 2 p.m.!**

## Church & Community Calendar

Wednesday, April 8: Regular Session meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Lounge  
Thursday, April 9: Armbrust Student Loan Committee Meeting via Zoom at 5:00 p.m.  
Thursday, April 23 – Saturday, April 25: Annual Yard Sale in Fellowship Hall  
Sunday, April 26: Regular Deacons' meeting following worship in Lounge  
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  
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: [bevphippstpres@gmail.com](mailto:bevphippstpres@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**

221 Court St., Portsmouth, OH 45662

(740) 353-4259 Church Office

Email: [firstpresportsmouth@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresportsmouth@gmail.com)

Website: [www.firstpresportsmouthoh.com](http://www.firstpresportsmouthoh.com)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@firstconnections4806](https://www.youtube.com/@firstconnections4806)

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



## 2026 Easter Lilly

### Memorials and Dedications

\*Denotes Donor

\*Beth & Betty Kennedy,  
In Memory of Patrick and Jim Kennedy.

\*Boster's/Scaggs, In Memory of,  
Melvin & Pauline Doeringer and  
Chester & Beulah Boster.

\*Izzie, Maggie, Michael and William  
Sturgill, In Memory of,  
Addie Jo Wisniewski.

\*Ginny, John, Taylor and William  
Wisniewski, In Memory of,  
Dad Ralph Wisniewski.

\*Mildred Russell, In Memory of,  
Nancy Russell, Martha Adkins, and  
James Russell.

\*Carolyn McKinnon, In Memory of,  
Ted Sutton, and Avanelle & George Erwin.

We Thank you for beautifying our Worship service with lilies in remembrance of Love Ones. You make take your lilly with you following the Worship service today. **Please Note**, the larger potted lilies are to remain For future use. Thank you & Have a Blessed Easter!



\*Rev. Lisa Eye,  
In Memory of William Bowman Eye.

\*Melissa & David Stinnnett,  
In Honor of Pastor Ron Johnson.

\*Julia S. Wisniewski, In Memory of,  
Granddaughter; Addison  
Wisniewski, Husband; Ralph Wisniewski,  
Parents; Virginia and John Smith.

\*Pat & Ray Arnold, In Memory of,  
Grandchildren; Daniel and Scott.

\*Ruthann Noel,  
In Memory of, Roy Noel.

\*Rachel Collingsworth and Girls,  
In Memory of Dean Collingsworth.

