

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
Ms. Stephanie Scaggs, Media Specialist



Hagar in the Wilderness, Camille Corot, 1835

June 21, 2026
4th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering Around the Word

Welcoming the Community

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Announcements & Celebrations

Elder Betty Kennedy

Prelude

Dr. Phillip Roberts

***Call to Worship**

Not one sparrow will fall to the ground apart from their Creator.

God tells us we are of more value than many sparrows.

God knows us and loves us. Even the hairs of our head are all counted.

We praise you, O God! Grateful are we for your love and care!

***Prayer of the Day**

***Hymn #39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

GTG

***Call to Confession**

Elder Kennedy

***Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Loving God, while we were sinners you sent Christ to die for us that we might be justified by grace though faith and have peace with you. Yet we continue to live in sin. We know what is good and right, but too often we do what is hateful and evil. We live according to the flesh and resist the work of the Spirit. We resist and deny your calling. We fail to love our neighbors and thereby fail to fulfill your law. We are slow to contribute to those in need or extend hospitality to strangers. We ignore the groaning of creation and forget the hope of the gospel. Forgive us, loving God. Pour your Spirit into our hearts, that we may learn to live as those who are dead to sin and alive to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 21:8-21

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Scripture

Matthew 10:24-39

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

Sermon

Do Not Be Afraid

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Responding to the Word

***Hymn #718**

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

GTG

***Affirmation of Faith**

from A Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

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 Kenney

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)**

Elder Kennedy

Holy God, maker of heaven and earth, all things come from you and to you all things belong. We thank you for making us in your image and claiming us as your beloved people. With gratitude for your grace, we dedicate these gifts to you. Take them along with our hearts and our hands. Mold us, shape us, send us, so that we might be Christ's body in the world you so love. Amen.

Following the Word into the World

**Hymn #819*

Be Still, My Soul

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

*Go with us Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.*

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.).

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.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

We give thanks for fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, mentors
and all who have offered steady love, protection, guidance and blessing.

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP THEMES

The lectionary readings appointed for today are: Genesis 21:8-21, Hagar and Ishmael are sent away, but God remains with them; **Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17**, Be gracious to me, O God; save the child of your servant; **Romans 6:1-11**, Crucified with Jesus, we are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ; and **Matthew 10:24-39**, Jesus says: Do not fear for your life; take up your cross and follow.

In last week's reading from Genesis, we heard that God kept the promise made to Abraham and Sarah that they would have a child despite their old age. They had a son and named him Isaac. However, before Isaac's birth, when it seemed as if God would not come through the promise, Sarah sent her maid, Hagar, into Abraham in hopes of producing an heir through her. Hagar did have a son, whom Abraham named, Ishmael. (Gen. 16) After Isaac was born, Sarah, worried that Ishmael might inherit over Isaac, convinced Abraham to cast out both Hagar and her son. Today we hear, that "this matter was very distressing to Abraham." (Gen. 21:11), but God promised to not only preserve the promise made to Abraham and Sarah, but to preserve Hagar and Ishmael's lives as well.

This week's Matthew passage is also a continuation from last week's reading. As Jesus commissions his disciples, he warns them of adversity to come even as he calls on them to trust in God's presence and care along with way. Both passages call on disciples not to lose hope—even when despair seems to be the most tempting response. In our lowest moments, God comes alongside us with loving kindness, asking, "What troubles you?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our neighbors at Second Presbyterian Church have invited us to an Independence Day worship and lunch celebration on Sunday, July 5th 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 250th 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.***



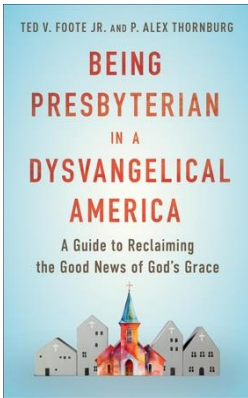
The 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA) begins tomorrow, June 22nd as commissioners, advisory delegates, and GA leaders gather online for the opening plenary session and committee meetings that will continue through Thursday, June 24. GA participants will then travel to Milwaukee, WI for the in-person portion of the Assembly that will continue through Thursday, July 2nd. Attending from the Presbytery of Scioto Valley are: Ruling Elder Commissioners, Susan Dietz and Tina Johnson; Teaching Elder Commissioners, Jason Link and Todd Tracy; Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Addy Tracy; along with Presbyter for Congregational Life and Transitions, Emily Krause Corsine, and Stated Clerk, Bill Gause. To follow GA business and news, go to www.pcusa.org and follow the GA links.

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 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th 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 new book study begins on Wednesday, July 1st. 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 226th General Assembly (2024) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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

Church & Community Calendar

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

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; 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>

