

First Presbyterian Church

Portsmouth, Ohio

The Rev. Lisa R. Eye, Pastor
Elder Bruce MacDonald, Liturgist
Ms. Michele Imes, Director of Music
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Organist/Musician
Ms. Stephanie Scaggs, Media Specialist



May 24, 2026
Pentecost

Gathering Around the Word

Welcoming the Community

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Announcements & Celebrations

Elder Bruce MacDonald

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*

Elder MacDonald

Holy Spirit, Creator, in the beginning you moved over the waters.
From your breath all creation drew life. Without you, life turns to dust.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, Counselor, by your inspiration, the prophets spoke and acted in faith.
You clothed them in power to be bearers of your Word.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, Power, you came as fire to Jesus' disciples;
you gave them voice before the rulers of this world.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, Sanctifier, you created us children of God;
you make us the living temple of your presence;
you intercede within us with sighs too deep for words.

Come, Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit, Giver of life, you guide the church you create;
you give gifts—the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety, the spirit of the fear of the Lord,
that the whole creation may be transformed.

Come, Holy Spirit!

**Prayer of the Day*

Elder MacDonald

**Hymn #289*

On Pentecost They Gathered

GTG

**Call to Confession*

Elder MacDonald

**Prayer of Confession (unison)*

Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of grace, speak good news of your love, or live as a people made in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit, and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of 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

Acts 2:1-21

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

Sermon

As the Spirit Gave Them Utterance

Rev. Lisa R. Eye

Responding to the Word

**Hymn #291*

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

**Affirmation of Faith*

from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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 MacDonald

Offering Instrumental

Dr. Roberts

**Doxology #606*

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

GTG

*Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Thanksgiving and Dedication (unison)*

Elder MacDonald

Most generous God, you have blessed with gifts to serve and share. May the offerings we present today be used to further your kingdom and build your beloved community. Amen.

Following the Word into the World

**Hymn #280*

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

GTG

**Congregational Charge*

Rev. Eye

We are the church! **People who believe the good news about Jesus.**
We are the church! **Gathered by the Holy Spirit, built up in faith, hope, and love.**
We are the church! **Sent out by God's Spirit to proclaim the gospel in word and deed.**
Go in peace. **We go in the name of Jesus Christ.**

**Benediction*

**Sending Song #288*

Spirit of the Living God

GTG

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.
Melt us; mold us, fill us, use us.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.*

**The original text by Presbyterian pastor, Daniel Iverson, uses the word "me."*

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. We expect this work to begin by the end of next week. 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! 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 has reopened as of Thursday, May 14 from 12 to 2 p.m. Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Rachel Collingsworth or the Church Office to learn more.

Join us for a 5th Sunday Fellowship Gathering following worship next Sunday, May 31st – We'll meet at Giovanni's Pizza located at 1925 11th Street for "Dutch treat" lunch and an informal time to visit with FPC friends. Everyone is welcome!

A memorial service for Dr. Eugene John Valentine, husband of Anne Nickerson, will be held at Noon on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Christ Community Church with Rev. Lisa Eye officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the service at the church.

ABOUT PENTECOST SUNDAY

On Pentecost Sunday, Christians around the world celebrate the formation of the church when the Holy Spirit called people into community as Christ's body and blessed them with universal understanding of languages, Pentecost, which literally means "fifty days," is a moveable feast which always occurs on the seventh Sunday after Easter, Though it may not be as ubiquitous as other key Christian celebrations, it is a tremendous day in church history, Theologian Willie James Jennings asserts: "Only the gracious work of God in creation matches this moment of prevenient grace."¹ He's not alone in this conviction; some theologians describe Pentecost as the Church's birthday. Others describe it as a "big bang" that brought the church into being, for just as God's Spirit came rushing into the world over the waters of creation, in Acts 2, God's Spirit rushes into the world to gather and transform God's people.

So where does that leave us? If we are willing to be amazed, Pentecost is one of the most awe-inspiring days in our Christian calendar. If we are willing to be transformed, it is an opportunity to be renewed in energy and faithfulness toward the work of God's kingdom on earth where all people will experience true liberation and boundless love.

¹ Jennings, Willie James. *Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible: Acts*. (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017)

Church & Community Calendar

Sunday, May 24: Regular Deacons' meeting following worship in Lounge
Monday, May 25: Memorial Day, Church Office Closed
Thursday, May 28: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 31: Trinity Sunday Worship in Fellowship Hall, 11:00 a.m.
5th Sunday Fellowship Gathering at Giovanni's Pizza following worship
Wednesday, June 3: Ministry for Congregational Life Meeting, 4:00 p.m. in Lounge
Thursday, June 4: Armbrust Student Loan Committee, 4:00 p.m. by Zoom
Friday, June 5: Session Boundary Training, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in Lounge and Zoom
Sunday, June 7: Worship & Communion – 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, June 10: Regular Session Meeting – 1:00 p.m. in Lounge
Thursday, June 11: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 18: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 25: Food Pantry, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 28: Regular Deacons Meeting following worship

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>



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