



First Presbyterian Church
Portsmouth, Ohio

June 30, 2024
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ronald Johnson, Minister of Word and Sacrament
Mrs. Loretta Cooper, Liturgist
Ms. Michele Imes, Director of Music
Dr. Phillip Roberts, Organist/Musician

We are glad you came...



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

1 Samuel 17:1-50

GATHERING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Dr. Phillip Roberts

WELCOME AND GREETING

Pastor Ron Johnson

**CALL TO WORSHIP*

Ms. Loretta Cooper

L. Out of the depths, we cry to the Lord.

P. We will wait upon the Lord.

L. Hope in the Lord!

P. For with God, there is steadfast love;

L. With God, there is great power to redeem.

All: So we offer prayers and praise to God in whom we trust.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Ms. Cooper

**HYMN OF PRAISE #2 "Come, Thou Almighty King" GTG*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ms. Cooper

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (spoken in unison)

Ms. Cooper

Great and merciful God, We confess we sometimes lose trust in you. When we feel desperate, we wonder where you are. In the face of tragedy or disaster, we ask how you could let such things happen. We forget to reach out to you. Forgive us, O God, when we give up on your love. Reassure us that your love in Christ Jesus will never let us go. (Invitation to silent confession and reflection)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Johnson

**THE GLORIA PATRI (sung in unison)*

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

1 Samuel 17:1-23 MSG

Rev. Johnson

1-3 The Philistines drew up their troops for battle. The Philistines were on one hill, the Israelites on the opposing hill, with the valley between them.

4-7 A giant nearly ten feet tall stepped out from the Philistine line into the open, Goliath from Gath. He had a bronze helmet on his head and was dressed in armor—126 pounds of it! He wore bronze shin guards and carried a bronze sword. His spear was like a fence rail—the spear tip alone weighed over fifteen pounds. His shield bearer walked ahead of him.

8-10 Goliath stood there and called out to the Israelite troops, “Why bother using your whole army? Am I not Philistine enough for you? And you’re all committed to Saul, aren’t you? So pick your best fighter and pit him against me. If he gets the upper hand and kills me, the Philistines will all become your slaves. But if I get the upper hand and kill him, you’ll all become our slaves and serve us. I challenge the troops of Israel this day. Give me a man. Let us fight it out together!”

11 When Saul and his troops heard the Philistine’s challenge, they were terrified and lost all hope.

12-15 Enter David. He was the son of Jesse the Ephrathite from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse, the father of eight sons, was himself too old to join Saul’s army. Jesse’s three oldest sons had followed Saul to war. The names of the three sons who had joined up with Saul were Eliab, the firstborn; next, Abinadab; and third, Shammah. David was the youngest son. While his three oldest brothers went to war with Saul, David went back and forth from attending to Saul to tending his father’s sheep in Bethlehem.

¹⁶ Each morning and evening for forty days, Goliath took his stand and made his speech.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ One day, Jesse told David his son, "Take this sack of cracked wheat and these ten loaves of bread and run them down to your brothers in the camp. And take these ten wedges of cheese to the captain of their division. Check in on your brothers to see whether they are getting along all right, and let me know how they're doing—Saul and your brothers, and all the Israelites in their war with the Philistines in the Oak Valley."

²⁰⁻²³ David was up at the crack of dawn and, having arranged for someone to tend his flock, took the food and was on his way just as Jesse had directed him. He arrived at the camp just as the army was moving into battle formation, shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines moved into position, facing each other, battle-ready. David left his bundles of food in the care of a sentry, ran to the troops who were deployed, and greeted his brothers. While they were talking together, the Philistine champion, Goliath of Gath, stepped out from the front lines of the Philistines, and gave his usual challenge. David heard him.

SCRIPTURE LESSON CONTINUES 1 Samuel 17:26 MSG Ms. Cooper

²⁶ David, who was talking to the men standing around him, asked, "What's in it for the man who kills that Philistine and gets rid of this ugly blot on Israel's honor? Who does he think he is, anyway, this uncircumcised Philistine, taunting the armies of God-Alive?"

³¹ The things David was saying were picked up and reported to Saul. Saul sent for him. ³² "Master," said David, "don't give up hope. I'm ready to go and fight this Philistine." ³³ Saul answered David, "You can't go and fight this Philistine. You're too young and inexperienced—and he's been at this fighting business since before you were born."

³⁴⁻³⁷ David said, "I've been a shepherd, tending sheep for my father. Whenever a lion or bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I'd go after it, knock it down, and rescue the lamb. If it turned on me, I'd grab it by the throat, wring its neck, and kill it. Lion or bear, it made no difference—I killed it. And I'll do the same to this Philistine pig who is taunting the troops of God-Alive. God, who delivered me from the teeth of the lion and the claws of the bear, will deliver me from this Philistine."

Saul said, "Go. And God help you!"

38-39 Then Saul outfitted David as a soldier in armor. He put his bronze helmet on his head and belted his sword on him over the armor. David tried to walk but he could hardly budge.

David told Saul, "I can't even move with all this stuff on me. I'm not used to this." And he took it all off.

40 Then David took his shepherd's staff, selected five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the pocket of his shepherd's pack, and with his sling in his hand approached Goliath.

41-42 As the Philistine paced back and forth, his shield bearer in front of him, he noticed David. He took one look down on him and sneered—a mere boy, apple-cheeked and peach-fuzzed.

43 The Philistine ridiculed David. "Am I a dog that you come after me with a stick?" And he cursed him by his gods.

44 "Come on," said the Philistine. "I'll make roadkill of you for the buzzards. I'll turn you into a tasty morsel for the field mice."

45-47 David answered, "You come at me with sword and spear and battle-ax. I come at you in the name of God-of-the-Angel-Armies, the God of Israel's troops, whom you curse and mock. This very day God is handing you over to me. I'm about to kill you, cut off your head, and serve up your body and the bodies of your Philistine buddies to the crows and coyotes. The whole earth will know that there's an extraordinary God in Israel. And everyone gathered here will learn that God doesn't save by means of sword or spear. The battle belongs to God—he's handing you to us on a platter!"

48-49 That roused the Philistine, and he started toward David. David took off from the front line, running toward the Philistine. David reached into his pocket for a stone, slung it, and hit the Philistine hard in the forehead, embedding the stone deeply. The Philistine crashed, facedown in the dirt.

50 That's how David beat the Philistine—with a sling and a stone. He hit him and killed him. No sword for David!

L: The Word of the Lord

P: Praise be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Ms. Michele Imes

THE MESSAGE **An Upset of Ridiculous Proportions** Rev. Johnson

HYMN OF RESPONSE #379 "We Shall Overcome" **GTG**

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Rev. Johnson

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING Ms. Cooper

OFFERTORY INSTRUMENTAL Dr. Roberts

***THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION** (*spoken in unison*) Ms. Cooper

*Compassionate God, we offer you our gifts with grateful hearts.
We are glad to know you keep reaching out to the world you love.
Bless what we bring, and use us and our gifts to touch the world
with your healing grace through Christ, our Savior and friend.*

**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.**

CALLED TO MISSION

***CLOSING HYMN** #269 "Lead On, O King Eternal!" **GTG**

***CONGREGATIONAL CHARGE** Rev. Johnson

***THE BLESSING** Rev. Johnson

ACOLYTE RECESSIONAL Miss Abby & Family

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

POSTLUDE (*Please be seated for the postlude*) Dr. Roberts

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



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Aim your camera at the UPC code
and press "Enter."

First Presbyterian Church offers members and visitors limited access to the internet during worship services. You can bring your iPad, smartphone, android device, or Chrome Book and read your favorite translation of the Bible, look up parallel passages, take notes for an in-depth study, or Google the message points. We only ask that you not text friends and family during worship and to use our Wi-Fi ethically.

Look for: "First Presbyterian1- Guest in your WiFi settings
Enter the password: "neweverymorning!221" and accept the conditions.

THE PRAYER LIST IS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE EDUCATION ANNEX

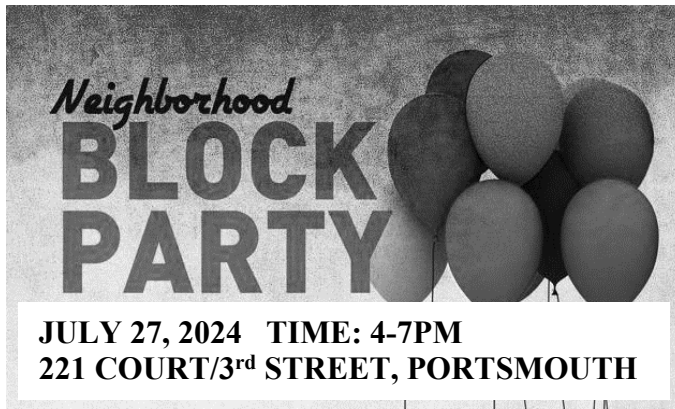
Please pray for your ability to be faithful disciples, family, and friends; our church, pastor, the session, deacons, committees, lay leadership, our ministry, outreach, and stewardship, the Boney Fiddle community and its churches, public schools, city of Portsmouth and its leadership, state and national leadership, and those incarcerated.



Our Church and Community Calendar for June - July

- June 30: No Deacon Meeting
- July 3: No ASLC mtg. (see August Calendar)
- July 2: SCM-Finance meets, Hybrid, 5P, Conf. Rm.
- July 3: MCL meets, 4P, Conference Rm.
- July 4: Independence Day is celebrated, Offices Closed.
- July 7: FPC worships with 2PC Portsmouth, 9:30A, 2nd PC (FPC will not worship at 11A)**
- July 10: Capital Campaign Project in Conf. Room, 11A.
- July 10: Session meets, 1P, Conference Rm. (no hybrid)
- July 16: Hanging Rock Church Pro. meets, Portsm. Brewing, 10A
- July 18: SCM Board Mt., All Saints Episcopal, 7P
- July 22: Pastor meets with PSV COM, 1P.
- July 25: Boundary Training, Clergy Required, PSV, Columbus, 10A.
- July 27: FPC Block Party, 4-7P, Court Street
- July 28: AmeriCorps Volunteer Recognition and Send Off, 11A.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY!!!



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Join us for a live band, snow cones, nacho's, burgers, hotdogs, popcorn, bounce houses, give-aways, face painting, and more...

PLEASE, WON'T YOU BE A NEIGHBOR!

Please call the church office to sign up family, friends, attendees, and members. Church Office: 740.353.4259 or email, <firstpresbyterian.port@gmail.com>

Church Contact Information:

Pastor & Church Secretary's Office Hours for the Week

Sunday: Worship and office hours. Mondays:

Home office (worship planning, prep, and meetings)

Tuesday thru Thursday: 10 A - 4 P Fridays: Off

Email: rjohnson.fpc@gmail.com or rev.ron.johnson@gmail.com

Pas. Study: (740)529-7117 M: (434)770-1052

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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