

Rev. Annie Parker, Pastor

# THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

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<p>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after          Epiphany  <u>February 9</u>  <i>Communion</i></p> <p>Isaiah 6:1-13          Luke 5:1-11  <i>"Loving While Unloved"</i></p> <p>Liturgist –          Mike Newman</p>	<p>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after          Epiphany  <u>February 16</u></p> <p>Jeremiah 17:5-10          Luke 6:17-26  <i>"Love That Looks          Different"</i></p> <p>Liturgist – Lynn Zocolo</p>	<p>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after          Epiphany  <u>February 23</u></p> <p>Genesis 45:3-11, 15          Luke 6:27-38  <i>"Loving the Unlovable"</i></p> <p>Liturgist – Ray Cox</p>	<p>Transfiguration of          the Lord  <u>March 2</u></p> <p>Exodus 34:29-35          Luke 9:28-36  <i>"Meeting with God"</i></p>
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*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Mathew 6:21 NRSV)*

God has made us stewards over all of our treasures. It is for us to decide what we will use our treasures on. All that we are and all that we have are our treasures, and each piece is a gift from God. From our talents, our abilities, those people and causes that call to our hearts, to our possessions and physical gifts, to our time, every minute of every day, all of it is gifted to us by God. So every day we have important choices to make, what will we do with the gifts God has given us on that day. Will we help our neighbor and share the love of God? Will we offer our talents in a way to help the lowliest and least amongst us? Will we share from the abundance that God has gifted us? How can we use the gifts God gives us wisely and in a way that glorifies God? We best use gifts when we are mindful of the fact that each is a gift from God and spend time faithfully praying and asking God to guide us as we use our gifts. As our Finance Committee and Session prepared the 2025 budget, two things were very apparent to us. The first being that we do not bring in enough contributions to cover our budget and sustain our ministries. The second, though just as important, is that we don't want to give up or stop supporting any of our ministries. We are committed to the ways in which we share the church's gifts with our community and our world. As we looked for places to be frugal and spend wisely, we knew that we could not stop funding the many ministries that help our neighbors and share God's love in Salem and in the world.

Please think about how you can further contribute to these vital ministries that touch so many people and help our neighbors who are in need. Know that whatever gifts you give do make a big impact and help us to share God's providence and love with our neighbors. If you are interested in some uncommon ways to give to the church, like donating stock, there are brochures that will guide you in these uncommon giving methods outside the sanctuary. But God has granted us gifts beyond financial means. Know that donating your time and efforts to serve on a committee or volunteer for mission work is just as vital to our ministry.

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**"We are centered in Christ and powered by love."**

**CHURCH INFORMATION:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Annie Parker

330-720-5884; [pastorannie@fpcsaalem.org](mailto:pastorannie@fpcsaalem.org)

**Church Office:** 330.337.9555 / [phyllis@fpcsaalem.org](mailto:phyllis@fpcsaalem.org)

**Website:** [www.fpcsaalem.org](http://www.fpcsaalem.org) / **Facebook:** First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

**You Tube:** [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) / FPCSALEM (Service streamed 10:30 am on Sunday)



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God has granted us gifts upon gifts from God's unending abundance. Let us remember all our gifts and share them in the places that matter the most in our hearts. Let us spend time in prayer asking God how we can share all of our gifts, our time, talents and treasures, so that all the world may know God's kindness and love. Amen. ~ *Pastor Annie*

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**Thank You Notes:**

Thank you so much for the beautiful Poinsettia at Christmas. ~ *Pat Eichler*

Thank you for the lovely Poinsettia delivered by Mark and Grace Smith, and for the beautiful flowers delivered by Sue Kyser. ~ *David and Roselyn Stephens*

Thank you, holiday helpers 2024. We appreciate your support. ~ *Captain Imhoff, The Salvation Army*

Thank you to this wonderful team of people who helped to make the delicious Chicken Noodle Soup for our most recent Soup to Go – Bill Penfold, Mike Quinn, Sam Ricciardi, Brenda Bradley, Barb Fennema, Sue Kyser, Darlene Votaw, Lilly Fennema, Sharon Bortz, Barb Yonker, Kathie Baker.

Dear Friends, On behalf of Sophia Women's Center, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of \$197 raised through your soup luncheon. Your kindness and support are deeply appreciated and make a tangible difference in the lives of the mothers and families we serve. We are truly blessed by your generosity! May God bless you. ~ *Carrie and the Sophia Team*

A Big Thank You to all of our donors! We couldn't even be open without the help from you. Whether it be monetary donations, food donations, or prayer. These youth are hearing the gospel (some for the first time). We know there are many more in Salem, OH and thanks to your heart for this ministry and giving, we plan to reach them.

~ *The ROC of Salem Youth Center*

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**Daytimers – Wednesday, February 5**

12 Noon in Fellowship Hall / Bring a covered dish to share. Jennifer Zamarelli will speak about Hospice and possibly volunteer opportunities.

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**Preschool Fundraiser at Bob Evans Restaurant** – Wednesday, February 19 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Bob Evans will donate 15% of your check when you present the **enclosed flyer** during checkout at 2299 East State Street in Salem.

**Salem Community Pantry** – Mondays, 9-11:30 a.m. / Thursdays, 3:00-5:30 p.m.  
For People in 44460 zip code only / Bring Photo ID and Proof of Residency.

## Your Session at Work

*The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio  
meeting on January 23, 2025, in person and via Zoom.*

- Participated in a visioning exercise which explores Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats for our church in preparation for goal setting for the year.
- Learned that the average attendance for Sunday worship in December – in person and on YouTube – was 146.
- Welcomed new Elders Debbie Boyd, Ruth Newman, and Sue Skiba to Session, and Barb Yonker for a second term.
- Heard that the upcoming Soup-to-Go Sundays are February 22 and March 15.
- Learned that the next Soup Luncheon will be March 23 after church.
- Heard that the Choir will be recognized Sunday on May 4, the same Sunday as the Kirkin' of the Tartans.
- Were reminded that blue recycling bins throughout the church are for recyclable plastics, cans, and paper only.
- Heard that we will again be participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" on Super Bowl Sunday. Donations will be collected after worship for food ministries.
- Approved building permit requests for Holy Yoga classes, the Music Study Club's voice and music auditions, The United Quilt Guild's two Saturday workshops, an Eagle Scout Court of Honor, and a Workplace Drug Testing Presentation by the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation.
- Approved a Bob Evans Fundraiser for the Presbyterian Preschool for Wednesday, February 19.
- Learned that Pastor Annie and Ben Parker will be taking over the management of the church's website.
- Began plans for our church hosting the next meeting of the Eastminster Presbytery on Tuesday, March 11.

### For Your Information

- The **Congregational Care Committee** does not need any more donations of soup/canning jars or take out containers, but they thank everyone who contributed.
- **Egg Cartons** are to be taken directly to the Salem Community Pantry and not to the church. Thank you again for supporting this ministry with your egg cartons.
- **Annual Reports for 2024** are available at Sanctuary entrances.
- **Updated Directories** (no pictures) are available at Sanctuary entrances. Correction – please change phone number for Mark and Lynn Zocolo to 234-567-3219.
- **Open Dates to Donate Bulletins** are March 2, 16, 23, April 13, May 4, 11, 18. Cost is \$15 a Sunday.
- **Café Justo's great Organic Coffee** we serve every Sunday during Coffee Hour is for sale on the first Sunday of the month in Fellowship Hall (or during the week in the Church Office)! Cost is \$12.00 for a 1-pound bag of regular, decaf, or whole bean coffee. Cooperative members own the entire business from the growing through the roasting, and the coffee is famous for its smooth taste and low acidity. It is Organic certified and has a Fair Trade Plus certification.

- **Per Capita Apportionment for 2025** is \$33.00 for each Active Member, paid to General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery. Per Capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better elders and ministers. It is how Presbyterians discern God's call in their lives. The Per Capita Apportionment due for the year 2025 for First Presbyterian Church of Salem is based upon reported active membership at the end of the year 2023, which was 199.
- Scout Troop 3 B is seeking adult leaders and young persons ages 11-18. Qualifications are adherence to the Scout Oath and Law, a love of adventure, learning, and teamwork. Perks are a world-class team, adventure, and learning amazing things. For more information, call Mark Smith or Frank Lewis.

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## Are You "Capturing Water"?

We throw away more 60 million plastic water bottles each day. Most end up in landfills or incinerators but some litter our parks and streets and public spaces. Many of those plastic bottles are tossed with their lids screwed on often with water or liquids still inside. At least 22 million gallons of water/liquid is trapped in plastic bottles and thrown into landfills annually in the US alone. These plastic bottles can take up to one million years to disintegrate. The water inside is CAPTURED WATER and can never be available to use again, EVER. Best for our environment not to use plastic bottles but if we do, recycle them with no liquids left inside, please.

*~ Researched by the FPC Environmental Team*

## Support PDA's Response to California Wildfires

**Give** – Please make checks payable to the church and mark 'California Wildfires' in the memo line.

**Pray** – God, our refuge and our strength, you are an ever-present help in trouble.

The beginning of this year has brought unprecedented challenges for our neighbors in California, who are now facing a devastating disaster. The harrowing images of wildfires consuming parts of Los Angeles and Ventura counties have deeply impacted us all, stirring our hearts with sorrow and compassion. Authorities are reporting this as a historic and deadly wildfire event. More than 40,000 acres have burned, with over 12,300 structures destroyed, entire communities wiped out, and tens of thousands of residents displaced. Currently, 92,000 residents are under evacuation orders, and 89,000 more remain in evacuation warning zones, meaning they may need to leave their homes at a moment's notice. Tragically, at least 24 lives have been lost, and the numbers continue to rise as fires remain uncontained. This is an ongoing disaster, and the extent of damage and loss continues to evolve, with figures expected to change as the situation develops.

As part of the ongoing response and in consultation with the Presbyteries of the Pacific, San Fernando and San Gabriel, as well as the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii and its leadership, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in communication with faith leaders in the affected communities. In addition to providing emotional and spiritual care, PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate assistance. Though the final outcomes of these fires are yet to be known, we are clear that the magnitude of the event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects. Presbyterians in the region are participating in coordination calls with nonprofit and faith-based disaster organizations to ensure that no one is forgotten.

PDA affirms our commitment to accompany those affected by this disaster. As people of God, once again we are called to stand with our siblings in the "GAP" – Give, Act and Pray.

## Vision Statement

*To glorify God and share the Spirit and love of Christ with our community and the world.*