

Rev. Annie Parker, Pastor

THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

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Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 6 p.m. on March 5 in the Sanctuary.



1 st Sunday in Lent <u>March 9</u>	2 nd Sunday in Lent <u>March 16</u>	3 rd Sunday in Lent <u>March 23</u>	4 th Sunday in Lent <u>March 30</u>
Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Luke 4:1-13 <i>"Joyful Sacrifice"</i>	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Luke 13:31-35 <i>"Being Willing"</i>	Isaiah 55:1-9 Luke 13:1-9 <i>"Undeserved Grace"</i>	Joshua 5:9-12 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 <i>"A Fresh Start"</i>
Liturgist – Noelle Lathom	Liturgist – Lynn Zocolo	Liturgist – Sharon Bortz	

Property and Maintenance Committee Project Updates

The Property and Maintenance Committee has several functions within our church structure. We maintain our buildings and grounds and, upon request, develop and implement projects to bring attention to our church and support community involvement.

Mike Quinn recently introduced a project to the committee that aims to bring attention to our church. The idea is to install an electronic system in our bell tower that not only chimes the time but also plays over 3000 spiritual songs and is controlled remotely. This proposal was well received by the committee and is expected to generate interest in our community.

This project will be financed through donations from the congregation, rather than being part of the general church budget. The Property and Maintenance Committee approved the resolutions, which were then presented to the session and approved, allowing us to present the project to the congregation for funding. A member donation has already been received that covered the PC hardware, software, and bell music libraries, resulting in an estimated total cost of approximately \$3,100 for this project.

I contacted the city to comply with noise ordinances. Mike adjusted the music schedule to avoid conflicts with nearby churches and facilities.

The committee believes this project will boost our community presence. More details will be shared during an upcoming Sunday morning service with a demonstration of the system capabilities. Please consider donating to support this initiative and raise awareness of our church.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with any member of the Property and Maintenance Committee.

Ray Cox, Moderator of Property and Maintenance

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

CHURCH INFORMATION:

Pastor: Rev. Annie Parker

330-720-5884; pastorannie@fpcsaalem.org

Church Office: 330.337.9555 / phyllis@fpcsaalem.org

Website: www.fpcsaalem.org / **Facebook:** First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

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



Thank You Notes:

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and for remembering me. ~ Pat Eichler

Your prayers and gifts of \$1,075 to Disaster Relief – U.S. Hurricane Response and \$1,000 to International Disasters & Emergencies, enables Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and our partners here in the U.S. and globally to extend God’s warm embrace to those who are in anguish and chaos. Your generosity enables God’s consolation to become real, and survivors of disaster and violence can know the true sense of love.

~ Rev. Edwin González-Castillo, Manager PDA

Bud and I gratefully thank you all for your love and kindness these past weeks. Your prayers, calls, cards, flowers, cookies, and soups are all indicative of the wonderful people we have in our congregation.

~ Bud and Judy Herron

Lent Study – starting Ash Wednesday, March 5 at 11 a.m.

The class will meet on Wednesdays throughout Lent in the Library. Led by Pastor Annie, discussion will be on the book “From Wilderness to Glory” by N.T. Wright.

Daytimers – Wednesday, March 5 at Noon

Fellowship Hall / Bring a covered dish to share. / Program: Health Insurance for Seniors (Myers Insurance)

Ash Wednesday Service – March 5 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) – Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees; receives 32% of funds.

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) – Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed; receives 36% of funds.



Self-Development of People (SDOP) – Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues; receives 32% of funds.

OGHS Offering Envelope included with this newsletter.

“If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!”

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 February 20, 2025, in person and via Zoom.*

- Learned that, thanks to Ben Parker, the church's website has been updated and is now running with many new additions.
- Learned that the average worship attendance for January (in person and YouTube) was 92.
- Received Pastor Annie's plan "Redemption in the Darkness" which lists worship topics for the Season of Lent beginning Ash Wednesday, March 5 and culminating Easter Sunday, April 20.
- Learned that Clerk Barb Loudon will attend a clerk's training at Hubbard Presbyterian Church.
- Heard that the Environmental Team will celebrate Earth Day on Sunday, April 27 this year .
- Approved funding for recent confirmands and their mentors to attend a Cavalier's game.
- Heard plans from the Congregational Care Committee who will coordinate the lunch and meeting of Presbytery at our church March 11. Pastor Annie serves as Moderator of this group.
- Learned that a soup luncheon will be held March 23 and ninetieth birthday celebrations will be held for George Bell on April 6 and Steve Navoyosky on April 27.
- Learned Sunday, May 4 will celebrate the Kirkin' of the Tartan and also recognize the choir.
- Approved funds from the Music Fund to be spent on special music February 23 and March 30.
- Voted to have the Property and Maintenance Committee explore the possibility of amplifying and playing our chimes so that the local community can enjoy them during the week.
- Voted to move forward for short-term patching and long-term repair of several portions of the leaking roof.
- Planned two new initiatives for 2025: an expanded Big Back Yard program and increased involvement for the church in the Mobile Meals ministry in town. This was the result of the brainstorming exercise identifying the church's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.
- Approved the expansion of the Big Back Yard program this summer to 6 Wednesday gatherings. More volunteers are needed to make this happen!

Vision Statement

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

Information

- **A Tai Chi Class** is held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The class is led by Rev. Frank Lewis and all are welcome!
- **A Holy Yoga Class** is held on Mondays and Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The class is led by Barb Economous and all are welcome!
- **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.
- **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.
- **Support PDA's Response to California Wildfires**
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. God, our refuge and our strength, you are an ever-present help in trouble. Please make checks payable to the church and mark 'California Wildfires' in the memo line.
- **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.

Your Environmental Team has been hard at work. We are pleased to announce that this will be the tenth year of celebrating Earth Sunday. For ten years, our team has been sharing information with all of you on ways that we can help to care for God's amazing world. Here are some of the activities we are working on for this special year.

- Sydney Thompson, a member of our Scout Troup, will be completing her work for her Pollinator Garden Eagle Scout project. Sarah Baer from Bee City USA and our Team will be working closely with her on this exciting project.
- Earth Sunday will be celebrated on April 27. Although a title has not been chosen yet, it will be announced soon. In addition to our celebration on Earth Sunday, the team members are working on exciting environmental activities for our church family to enjoy.
- We would like to do a book study and have chosen a book we think will be interesting and thought provoking. Details are forthcoming.
- We are also working on plans to schedule nature walks at the Huston Brumbaugh Nature Center located at Mount Union College, and a tour of the recycling sorting facility in Twinsburg. Everyone is welcomed.

We encourage you to enjoy these activities with us and please, feel free to invite friends and family to join us as well. We need to spread the word. *Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 9 following Worship. Come join us!*