

Rev. Annie Parker, Pastor

# THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

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Baptism of the Lord <u>January 12</u> <i>Communion</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany <u>January 19</u>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany <u>January 26</u>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany <u>February 2</u>
Isaiah 43:1-7 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 John 2:1-11	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Luke 4:14-21	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Luke 4:21-30
<i>"Belonging to God"</i>	<i>"Seeing is Believing"</i>	<i>"Finally, Some          Good News"</i>	<i>"Planning for the          Unexpected"</i>
Liturgist – Ryan Gillis	Liturgist – Lynn Zocolo	Liturgist – Mike Newman	Liturgist – Sharon Bortz
*No Broadcast*			

*Lamentations 3:22-24*

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;  
 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.  
 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

The new year often leads us to think about change. We look into the dawn of a fresh new year and plan the ways we can better ourselves. From tracking and managing our spending to building a healthier diet and body, we see the new year as the right time to make ourselves better. Companies know that many will be working to build new habits, and soon our screens and in-boxes will be full of advertisements of products sure to make all of our New Year's Dreams come true. About half of Americans will spend somewhere between \$100- \$500 on products and software to help them achieve their goals. Sometimes the financial investment pays off and sometimes we end up with a dusty exercise bike in the corner of our room.

We may even apply this idea of starting fresh to our spiritual life, we were so busy and stressed over the Christmas Season and now we can settle into a good routine with God. Now we can prioritize time to pray and read the word. Now we can be generous and kind and work to love our neighbor. But unlike weight, debt, wealth and muscles, righteousness and sin do not accumulate with God. Every good act we do is not measured against our sin and brokenness. Instead as we ask for grace from God we receive it, and the sins of yesterday and yesteryear are wiped clean, as if they never existed. Our good actions and sinful deeds may cause ripple effects in the world, but with God we are made new again and again. We see God's mercy new and fresh again and again. Every day is a new opportunity to serve and love God and our neighbor.

As we begin a new year, start any new healthy habits that you think will benefit you. But remember that God gives us fresh start after fresh start, let us live as God's new creation, offering grace and love to everyone every day. Amen!

*Pastor Annie Parker*

**"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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**Prayer Concerns:** Candy Beech (*Susan Merry's friend*), Nancy Boing (*Gloria Shafer's sister*), Pat Eichler, Dawn Ellis (*Tracey's mother*), Herb Farley (*Ethel Clark's son-in-law*), Sandi Flake, Mary Lou Gamble, Carolyn Gorley (*Scott and Deb Boyd's sister-in-law*), Patti Hays (*Bob and Sue Merry's sister-in-law*), Karen Hezlep (*Ryan Gillis' mother*), Melissa Jones (*Tom and Gloria Shafer's friend*), Sue Korff, Lois Middleton (*Alice Jackson's sister*), Peggy Pikunas (*Andrew Skiba's mother-in-law*), Barb Pollock (*Jody Karmazin's sister*), Vickie Wilson (*Bob and Sue Merry's friend*), Special Care and Military

**Sympathy:** The Sympathy and Surrounding Love of Our Congregation are extended to Mark and Lynn Zocolo and the family on the death of Lynn's mother, Ruth Varkonda.

**Birthdays:** Sandra Arter (2), Sandra Quinn (3), Karl Wright (4), Barb Loudon (5), Larry Johnson (6), Lucy Works (8), Sue Merry (9), Judy Sicilia (16), Janet Chumney (19), Cheryl Kekel (19), Susan Simon (21), Ken Kyser (23), Roselyn Stephens (24), Ron Price (26), Terry Rufer (28), Robin Welsh (31)

### Special Care:

Goldie Burrier, Brookdale Salem, #507; 1916 S Lincoln Ave, Salem OH 44460

Helen Hayes, Lexington Place Assisted Living, #211; 2345 Lexington Ave, Salem OH 44460

Barbara Marra, c/o Rick Marra, 18560 Treetop Ct, Findlay OH 45840-9469

Kay Rousseau, Whispering Pines, #315; 937 E Park Ave, Columbiana OH 44408

**Military:** Haley Herman Rivera (*Granddaughter of Sandy Herman*); Roger Knizat (*Ellen Maticik's grandson*); Adam Pawlosky (*Son in Law of Jim and Ruth Newman*); Cody Tonkinson (*Son of Ed and Melissa Tonkinson*)

### Thank You Notes:

Dear Friends, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$625.00 to the Christina House. Your gifts make a difference in the lives of the clients we serve at the shelter. I hope you know how much your continued support means to us. ~ Sincerely, *Debbie Chaffin, Program Manager*

To my church family and friends, It is hard to put into words the joy I felt to be honored at the reception following the beautiful Christmas Cantata! Thanks for all the cards, gifts, flowers, and kind words I received. Thanks to Carol Ricciardi and the Congregational Care Committee for planning, preparing, and serving that wonderful food. And thank-you to the staff and all the leaders of this church for all your time and talents. My job was made easier by your willingness to serve this church. Using Mark Smith's words, "When we each do a little, it adds up to a lot". Love to each and every one of you! ~ *Alice Jackson*

Thank you for all the thoughts and prayers at my mom, Ruth Varkonda's passing. Another thank you for flowers delivered for my mom's birthday and the poinsettia in her memory. We are blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring church family. ~ *Lynn Zocolo*

Thank you for all the cards, flowers, and visits from the church. It is nice to be remembered. ~ *Goldie Burrier*

Christmas reminds us we're all on a journey...toward meaning, toward hope, toward love and lasting peace. God bless your ministry and your life together at Christmas and in the new year. Grace and Peace, ~ *Lynn Bozich Shetzer*

## Your Session at Work

*The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio  
meeting on December 19, 2024, in person and via Zoom.*

- Learned that the first meeting of 2025 of the Eastminster Presbytery will be held on March 11 at our church. Pastor Annie will begin her term as the Moderator of this group.
- Learned that the average worship attendance for November (in person and YouTube) was 118.
- Thanked Elders Brenda Bradley, Judy Herron, and Mark Smith for their service to the church as they complete their term on Session.
- Heard from the Personnel Committee that staff evaluations for 2024 were successfully conducted.
- Set Sunday, January 5, 2025 as the date for election of church officers (Elders and Deacons) by the Congregation, followed by an orientation/training session in the afternoon.
- Set Sunday, February 2, 2025 as the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting, immediately after church.

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### **Daytimers – Wednesday, January 8**

12 Noon in Fellowship Hall / Bring a covered dish to share. Program: “Free Three” with Amy Bordonaro, Executive Director of ‘Free Three’. She will talk about Anti Trafficking for Columbiana County.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Worship Service on January 12 will not be broadcast.

**Newly Elected Officers** will be ordained and installed during worship on Sunday, January 12.

### **Soup to Go – Sunday, January 26**

Help is needed on Saturday, January 25 at 9:00 a.m. to make Chicken Noodle Soup with Brenda Bradley and Carol Ricciardi. You can purchase on Sunday morning, January 26, for \$5.00 a quart. When “Soup to Go” was first begun, it was agreed that the price of the soup would be \$5.00 and that the proceeds of the sales would go to local missions. The Congregational Care Committee has chosen to keep the price of the Soup at \$5.00 but with the rise in cost of the ingredients, we will not have as much money to donate to the local missions. If at all possible, please consider adding a small donation when you purchase your soup. Please return jars and lids. ~ *Carol Ricciardi*

### **Coming Soon: 2025 Directory**

To update our membership directory (no pictures) and to enhance communications, please let the Church Office know if you no longer have a landline phone and are using a cell phone.

### **From the Environmental Team:**

For those of you who still enjoy celebrating Christmas with a live tree, here is information where you can recycle your tree. There is a CCH drop off site at Memorial Park where you can take your tree through January 31. Look for the “Recycle Your Live Christmas Tree” sign.

**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.

### **Vision Statement**

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

**Annual Reports for 2024** are due in the Church Office this Friday, January 10, 2025.

**Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting – Sunday, February 2, 2025** immediately following Worship. Reports will be available on Sunday, January 26.

**Bulletin Donors for 2025** are needed. Please call the Church Office if you have a standing bulletin order and wish to continue in 2025. Open Dates are January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 16, 23, March 2, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13, 27, 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.

**Calendars for 2025**, compliments of Stark Memorial Funeral Home, are at Sanctuary entrances.

**Flower Donors for 2025** are needed. Please call the Church Office if you have a standing flower order and wish to continue in 2025. Open Dates are January 19 (2 vases), January 26 (2 vases), February 23 (2 vases), March 9 (2 vases), March 16 (2 vases), March 23 (1 vase), March 30 (1 vase), April 27 (1 vase), May 4 (1 vase). Vases are \$10 each.

**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.

### **Making Resolutions for an Earth Friendly New Year**

It's that time of year when traditionally, many of us make those "New Year's Resolutions." I looked on the internet for some ideas to help all of us do this. Here are the ones I found that are very doable. (You will notice, many of them are exactly what the Environmental Team has been stressing over the last few years.)

1. Take your reusable shopping bags with you when you go grocery shopping.
2. Use your own reusable water bottle rather than buying bottled water. Those plastic bottles take 450 years to break down in the landfills. They basically last forever!!!!
3. Stop buying Styrofoam. Styrofoam takes 500 years to decompose-worse than plastic.
4. Reduce your use of paper towels and paper napkins. Cloth towels and cloth napkins are a sustainable alternative to paper napkins and paper towels.
5. Use reusable batteries.
6. Remember to recycle or donate unwanted items in your home. You could donate the good ones to the Rummage Sale planned by our church this coming spring.
7. Replace your incandescent light bulbs or CFL lightbulbs with efficient LEDS.
8. Stop buying or limit buying any kind of single use items.
9. Start planning now for your flower garden for the pollinators.

I'm sure you can think of more. Whatever resolution you make, please try to keep it.

Happy Earth Friendly New Year! *Environmental Team*