

Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis, Temporary Pastoral Leadership
Rev. Trina Lewis, Temporary Pastoral Leadership

THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

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7th Sunday of Easter
May 12
Mother's Day

Scriptures:

Jeremiah 10:1-10a
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Sermon: "No and Yes"

Liturgist: Pat Garick

Music: Haviland Choir

Day of Pentecost
May 19 – Communion

Scriptures:

Ezekiel 37:1-14
John 15:26-27
Acts 2:1-21



Sermon: "Spirit of Life"

Liturgist: Rev. Trina Lewis

Music: Haviland Choir,
Carillon Ringers

Trinity Sunday
May 26

Scriptures:

Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Sermon: "More Than a Number"

Liturgist: Lynn Zocolo

Music: Haviland Choir

2nd Sunday after
Pentecost – June 2

Scriptures:

Deuteronomy 15:12-21
2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Mark 2:23-3:6

Sermon:
"How Love Acts"

Liturgist: TBA

Music: Haviland Choir

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

"Today's problems are from yesterday's solutions."¹ That startling observation by Peter Senge is quoted by Tod Bolsinger in his book *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. The Session is studying this book together as we look toward the future of First Presbyterian Church of Salem. In a nutshell, Bolsinger's point is that the church and the country have changed, and we are navigating in new terrain. In order for us to find God's mission for the church, we need to be able to see our mission landscape from a different point of view.

What is the new terrain? Put differently, how has the church changed in the past, let's say, 80 years—since the end of World War II? Perhaps the oldest among us can remember that time. There was a lot of rebuilding that had to happen. GIs came home to start families. Many went back to school or went for the first time, thanks to the GI Bill. Factories retooled from wartime to peace time industry, with America being the only intact world economy. With the resulting baby boom, everything was growing: schools, government, churches all were adding programs and building bigger buildings to keep pace. Gil Rendle called this the period of "yes."² If anyone wanted anything, the answer was "yes." He calls it "additive decision making." That is, the church could always add a new program, a new staff member, a new wing on a building (or a new building), the answer is 'yes', because there would always be more money and more people. He also calls it an "aberrant time." That is, times have changed. The baby boom wave is now reflecting golden sunset. The economy has changed. Where once there was near no competition, now there is. Once it was socially expected that everyone (or nearly everyone) attended a service of worship, now it isn't. The world has changed. And the church has changed.

This means that the church, this church, faces a challenge. It is, how will we adapt to the new world? Or, to put it another way, how will we follow God into the new world where God is going? First, be warned, "the world in front of you is nothing like the world behind you." This subtitle of Bolsinger's first few chapters lets us know that neither time nor God run backwards. History can be honored; it should be remembered and learned from; but it is not a thing to be grasped. ...continued on page 2

CHURCH INFORMATION:

Temporary Pastoral Leadership:

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



continued from page 1...

Here is how we begin to meet the challenge of the future. Rendle says that we ask three essential formation (I would say ‘spiritual’) questions. “Who are we?, What are we called to do?, and Who is my neighbor?”³ The Session and Deacons together have hammered out an answer. We are called “to glorify God and share the Spirit and love of Christ with our community and world.” That is our vision statement. Our mission statement is: “We are centered in Christ and powered by love.”

You will remember that I wrote about this at the end of March. Rendle’s third question is the one we need to ask now specifically, who is our neighbor now? How do and how can we share the Spirit and love of Christ now?

We might take a cue from history. George Hunter, III, wrote *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West...Again*. He said that St. Patrick set up a mission station near an Irish village. It offered schooling, medical assistance, and food. No evangelist went into the village to preach. But folk were attracted to the station because they could get things that benefited them. In addition, the missionaries learned the local language, they learned Irish.

I am writing this after having just heard a presentation at Daytimers by the Salvation Army captains. Their mission statement is “Soup, Soap, and Salvation.” I will not steal their thunder or attempt to describe all the work they do. Suffice to say that they listen to the community and find ways to share the Gospel in tangible ways. It strikes me that, as talented and intelligent as we are, we surely can think of some new ways to share our gifts. Reading, writing, math, science, music, cooking, crafting, and other arts — we have it all. How might we share these to the glory of God?

The future does not look like the past. Our future leads to the kingdom of God.

Love, Frank

¹Tod Bolsinger, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* (Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Books, 2015), 75.

²Gil Rendle, *Quietly Courageous: Leading the Church in a Changing World* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019), 76.

³Rendle, 67.

Church Office Hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, May 9 through June 20. The office will be closed on Fridays.

Thank You Notes:

Dear Friends at 1st Presbyterian,

Many thanks for sponsoring a meal for the Banquet in Salem. We have received your \$800 check. Each Monday we prepare 240 meals, some eat in, others just do carry out. God’s Blessing. ~ *Bill Wilkins*

The **April Garage Sale** was a success, but only because of all of you who donated items and all of the team of people who worked diligently to make it happen. Those people included Tyson Jackson, Tegan Jackson, and Joseph Seefeldt of our Middle School class, plus Barb Loudon, Melissa and Ed Tonkinson, Phyllis Garlock, Jennifer Gillis, Melinda and Bill Penfold, Judy and Bud Herron, Grace and Mark Smith, Adam and Grace Seefeldt, Tricia and Tyler Jackson, Grace and Mark Smith, Rev. Trina Lewis, LuAnn Cole, Sue Merry, Mike Quinn, John Krauss, and Jan Jones.

We are also thankful for the two people who brought us breakfast and lunch on both Friday and Saturday. So far, we have raised \$2,884.71. The sale of leftover items may increase that amount. Leftover items have been graciously shared with the church neighborhood, ReStore, the Salem Public Library, and other donation centers. Children's books were saved to give away at Big Back Yard this summer and to place in our own gazebo Little Library box and the Little Library boxes around town over the coming months.

It is with prayerful thanks that we move forward, with appreciation of time and talents and gifts provided by all our church family. We have shared the Spirit and love of Christ with our families, our community, and the world.

Big Item Recycling Opportunity – My friend Carl Hunt AKA “Carl the Scrap Guy” has volunteered to help FPC with our recycling efforts during the month of May. He can come to your house to collect any unwanted items that contain metal. Appliances, lawn mowers, lawn furniture (with metal), metal fencing, and more. Simply call Carl and say you are from the First Presbyterian Church and tell him what you would like him to pick up. He will tell you if it is something he can recycle or use. His number is 234-320-2363. His offer is good for the month of May only.

Calling All Used Cell Phones! If you have a cell phone that you threw in a drawer somewhere, it's time to dig it out. The Environmental Team is sponsoring a collection drive during the month of May to gather old cell phones for recycling. There will be a box at each entrance throughout the month. Just drop in the phone and the ET will do the rest. It doesn't matter what condition the phone is in, or what kind of phone it is. Folks at the Verizon store say that if a phone can be refurbished, it can be given to a women's shelter or military personnel. If it's a wreck, no worries; it can be used for parts. Wins for everyone.

Here is an option for those of you who want to recycle but would prefer Curbside Recycling. Ohio Valley Waste will provide you with this service IF their service is available where you live. New customers must sign a 2-year contract for regular trash collection in order to be eligible for Curbside Recycling. You must have at least one regular bin which is collected weekly, and you must use an Ohio Valley Waste recycling bin which is provided and collected every two weeks. Cost for both services is \$79.50 billed every three months. For more information contact Ohio Valley Waste Management, 330-792-2487, <http://www.ohiovalleywaste.com>.

Vision Statement

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

May

Happy Birthday! –

Archie Crum (8), Richard Lobdell (13), Carol Dougherty (17)

8 / Weds	6:15 Carillon Ringers (200) 7:00 Finance/Administration <i>via Zoom</i>
9 / Thurs	9:00–12:00 Church Office Hours 5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees
10 / Fri	Church Office Closed
12 / Sun	9:00 Church School, Adults (L); Gr. 6-12 (209) 10:00 Coffee Hour (FH) 10:30 Service of Worship 3:00 Sandy Beaver Chapter OA (FH) 6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)
13 / Mon	9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH) 6:30 Scouts Troop 3 (SR) and 2003G (209) 7:00 Congregational Care (L)
14 / Tues	9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours 9:00 Presbytery Meeting, Cuyahoga Falls UPC
15 / Weds	9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH) 6:15 Carillon Ringers (S) 7:00 Haviland Choir (S)
16 / Thurs	9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours 7:00 Regular Session Meeting, Zoom/Hybrid
17 / Fri	Church Office Closed
19 / Sun	9:00 Church School, Adults (L); Gr. 6-12 (209) 10:00 Coffee Hour (FH) 10:30 Service of Worship – <i>Communion</i> 1:00 Wilhelm Piano Recital (S/FH) 6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)
20 / Mon	9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH) 6:30 Scouts Troop 3 (SR) and 2003G (209)
21 / Tues	9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours
22 / Weds	9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH) 7:00 Haviland Choir (S)
23 / Thurs	9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours
24 / Fri	Church Office Closed

26 / Sun 9:00 Adult Church School (L)
10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)
10:30 Service of Worship – *Brass*

27 / Mon *Memorial Day / Office Closed*

28 / Tues **9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours**

29 / Weds **9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours**

30 / Thurs **9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours**

31 / Fri **Church Office Closed**

June

Happy Birthday! Bill McCormick (2), Joyce Pakaosta (6), Vince Anderson (12), Jenny Wilms (13), Phil Tetlow (14), David Stephens (23)

2 / Sun 9:00 Adult Church School (L)
10:00 Coffee Hour
10:30 Service of Worship

3 / Mon **9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours**
7:00 Board of Deacons (L)

4 / Tues **9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours**
1:00-9:00 United Quilt Guild (FH)

5 / Weds **9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours**
6:00 Moderators Meeting, Zoom

6 / Thurs **9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours**
6:00 Christian Education (L)
6:00 Mission I and S (P)
7:00 Devotions (S)
7:15 Property/Maintenance (L)
7:15 Worship/Music/Arts (P)

7 / Fri **Church Office Closed**

8 / Sat 1:00 Z.Gillis Graduation Party (FH)

9 / Sun 9:00 Adult Church School (L)
10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)
10:30 Service of Worship
11:30 Environmental Team (L)

10 / Mon **9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours**

11 / Tues **9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours**

12 / Weds **9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours**
7:00 Finance Committee, Zoom

Next Issue of Newsletter – June 4