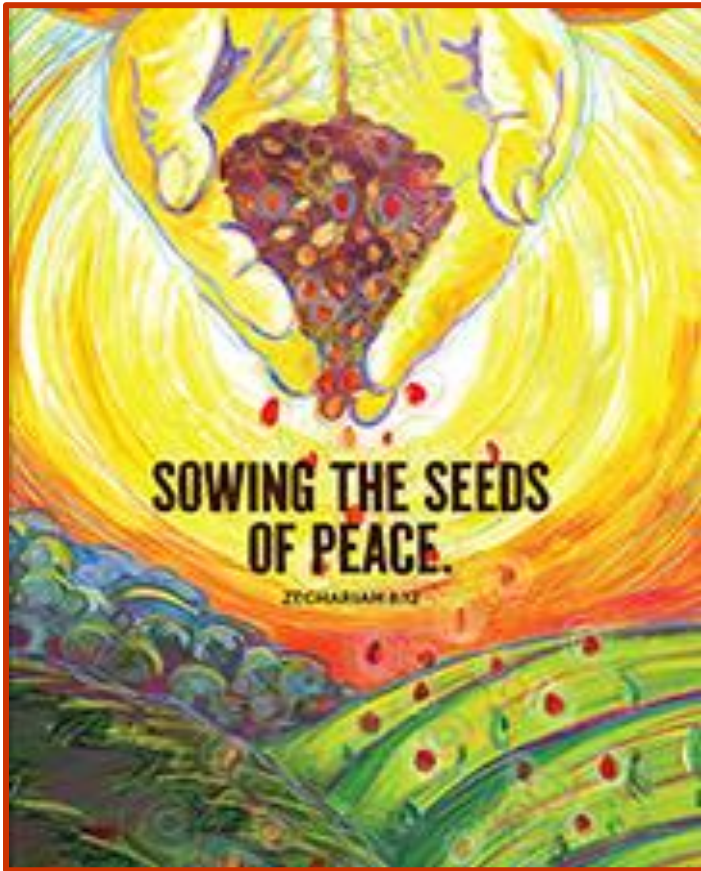


First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

September 15, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



Worship will be live streamed on
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio
You Tube: [www.youtube / FPCSALEM](http://www.youtube.com/FPCSALEM); and
our website, www.fpcsaalem.org.

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

*The Heavens Declared (Psalm 19)
Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts*

*Benedetto Marcello
Fred Bock*

*Let us silently turn our hearts, minds, and
bodies to the worship of God as the
light of Christ is brought forward.*

PRELUDE

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take a moment to sign and pass the Attendance Pad.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Unison)

"O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation,

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise."

(Psalm 95:1-2)

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 482

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

"For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness' ... To one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness." *(Romans 4:3, 5)* Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, Leah and Rachael; Father of the Lord, Jesus Christ, You make and

keep covenant with Your people so that all the world may know Your love. We confess that we have not kept covenant with You. You promise unlimited blessings, but we have not trusted You. Nor have we been trustworthy. We have molded the truth or ignored the truth to suit our desires. We have overlooked the falsehoods of others if they fit our interests. Savior God, Foundation of Truth, have mercy on us. Reform our minds and restore our spirits so that we faithfully follow Him whom You raised to fulfill Your covenant, Jesus Christ the Righteous. We pray in His name. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“So also David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works: ‘Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, whose sins are covered; blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin.’”

(Romans 4:6-8)

Believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*GLORIA PATRI *(Unison; Hymn 579)*

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 OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God our Maker, by Your word You created all things. Your Son is the Word become flesh Who holds all things together. Grant us faith through the witness of the Holy Spirit to hear with understanding who You would have us to be, and what You would have us to do. Amen.

ANTHEM

The Haviland Choir

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Moses Hogan

Hal Leonard Corporation, CCL#2595933

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1-3, p. 10

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Largo and Allegro

Arthur Frackenpohl

Mark Stanga, French Horn

Jan Cox, Piano

THE SECOND READING

Genesis 15:1-8, p. 12

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. ⁷ Then he said to

him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”⁸ But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“The Blessing Journey”

Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 543

Abide with Me

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church’s mission.

His human life involves the church in the common life of humanity.

His service to others commits the church to work for every form of human well-being.

His suffering makes the church sensitive to all the sufferings of humanity, so that we see the face of Christ in the faces of people in every kind of need.

In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, we see the promise of God’s renewal of human society and of God’s victory over all wrong.

(from “The Confession of 1967”)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Peace and Global Witness Offering

Mark Smith

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Near to the Heart of God

Don Hustad

Peace and Global Witness Offering envelopes at entrances.

*RESPONSE HYMN 592 (*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)**

Thank You, Gracious One, for calling us Your children. We thank You for sending our Older Brother, Jesus Christ, to save us from sin and death. Accept our offerings in honor of Jesus. May others receive gifts of life by Your generosity through us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION/LORD'S PRAYER (*Sins*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE ENTER THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN 538**

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE (2162, *Sing the Faith*)**

Grace Alone

Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,
every difference we will make is only by his grace.
Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,
every blessing left behind is only by his grace.
Grace alone which God supplies,
strength unknown he will provide.
Christ in us our Cornerstone;
we will go forth in grace alone.

*Please remain standing as the Light of Christ
is carried into the world.*

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Old Hundredth"

Fred Bock

**Please stand if you are able.*

Question for thought:

Is there a difference between 'believing in God,'
'trusting God,' and 'having faith in God'?

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Barb Yonker

Bulletins have been given by Fred and Phyllis Denton in memory of loved ones.

Flowers have been given by Fred and Phyllis Denson in memory of our beautiful daughter in law, Terri Denton; and by Nancy McNeal remembering Marshall Price Bailey, a marvelous teacher, and Boyd and Ethel Helm for the support for our music program and wonderful piano.

Church Office Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9:00 a.m. to Noon on Friday.

Preschool Supplies Needed – Paper Towels, Clorox Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Facial Tissues, Markers, Small Glue Bottles, Fruit and Vegetable Cups, Granola and Cereal Bars. The Preschool will appreciate it very much if anyone can donate any of these items.

Preschool Fundraiser – Heggy's Candy

Order today in Fellowship Hall and on Sundays, September 22 and 29 during Coffee Hour. Milk Chocolate Covered Oreos, Milk and Dark Chocolate Buckeyes, Milk and Dark Chocolate Cashews, Milk and Dark Chocolate Pecans, and Frog Mints. Completed forms and cash/checks must be turned in by Friday, October 4.

The Preschool is currently receiving applications for partial scholarships that will reduce the tuition rates for parents of preschool students that need some monetary assistance in order to attend our preschool this year. The Preschool would appreciate any contribution you could give so more students can attend this

year's preschool. We now have expanded our preschool to include both AM and PM classes and any contribution would help more students to attend either the AM or PM class. This can be done by contributing through your church contributions. Putting the words "Preschool Scholarship Fund" on your check or envelope will ensure that the funds will go to scholarships to the preschool children. The Preschool Board thanks you in advance for your consideration in supporting this initiative.

Daytimers – Wednesday, October 2

12 Noon in Fellowship Hall / Bring covered dish to share.

Program – Geoff Goll will talk about Power of Attorney and Living Will.

Volunteer Opportunity with The Salem Community Pantry

The Salem Community Pantry provides free food to our neighbors who may need help to stretch a family food budget. The Salem Community pantry relies on volunteers to make services available to the public. Volunteers help with food collection, sorting, and distribution, along with cleaning, office work, and record keeping. Call the Pantry at 330-332-5166 for more information, or drop by Monday 8 am – noon, Tuesday / Friday / Saturday 9 to 11 am, Wednesday noon to 2 pm, Thursday 2 pm to 6 pm. Located at 794 E 3rd Street on the corner of Third and Vine. Online at salempantry.com. *Helping Salem Set the Table*

Salem Community Pantry is open Monday from 9 am – 11:30 am and on Thursday from 3 – 5:30 pm for residents in 44460 Zip Code. You must show a valid picture ID and another document showing name and current address with 44460 Zip Code. A person may visit the Pantry up to two times per month to receive food.

Beaver Creek Church Camp Fall Open House

Saturday, October 5 – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

I have been involved with Beaver Creek Church Camp for 14 years. I love this place.

Beaver Creek Church Camp has been around for 72 years providing great spiritual experiences for young people. Due to COVID and then a time of transition as we have donated the property to the YMCA we have not had camp for the last few years. 2025 we will have a great new beginning with an updated and greatly improved camp.

We want to give you an opportunity to see the beginning stages of this improvement. **EVERYONE IS INVITED** to come and see the early stages of our redevelopment. A free lunch will be provided.

Our camp is located on Duke Vodrey Road just north of Calcutta, OH. Please come and see.

Steve Cramer

Beaver Creek Church Camp Invites You . . .

FALL OPEN HOUSE

Come and See All the Excitement!

The YMCA is investing millions of dollars to
improve the camp.

All are welcome to join us for Lunch and
Camp Tours to see renovations in
God's Beautiful Creation!

Saturday, October 5, 2024
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Duke Vodrey Road, outside of Calcutta

Questions? Contact Steve Cramer
330-921-1115

Sunday, September 15

11:30 Environmental Team (Library)

11:30 Personnel Committee (Parlor)

6:00 Cub Scouts (B)

Monday, September 16

6:30 Troops 3 and 2003G (B / 209)

Wednesday, September 18

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

Thursday, September 19

7:00 Regular Session Meeting (Library and Hybrid)

Sunday, September 22

9:00 Adult Church School Class (Library)

9:00 Confirmation Class (209)

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship

6:00 Cub Scouts (B)

Monday, September 23

6:30 Troops 3 and 2003G (B / 209)

Vision Statement

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

Temporary Pastoral Leadership Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis, 304-266-8154

Rev. Trina Lewis, 304-266-8214

Temporary Head of Staff & Administrator.... Alice Jackson, 330-257-8798

Clerk of Session Barbara Loudon, bloudon@neo.rr.com

Director of Music John Krauss, wjohnkrauss@gmail.com

Organist.....Nancy McNeal

Director, Handbells/Youth Choirs Cheryl McDevitt, chermcd@aol.com

Audio/Video Tylor Bricker, Bob and Susan Merry

Administrative Secretary..... Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsalem.org

Financial Assistant.....Mary Banar, office@fpcsalem.org

Custodian Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net