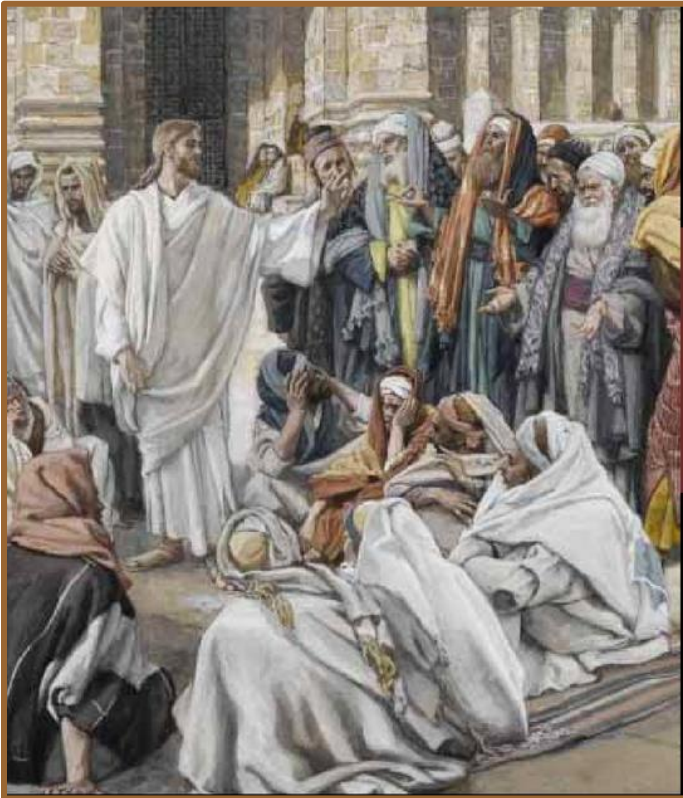


First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

September 1, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Fifteenth 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

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

John Behnke

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

Wilbur Held

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

PRELUDE

Fanfare for The Common Man (Brass)

Aaron Copland

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Unison)

"The LORD is righteous;
he loves righteous deeds;
the upright shall behold his face." (Psalm 11:7)

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

"The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek the LORD. They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one." (Psalm 14:2-3) "But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Light of light, Creator of Truth, Keeper of Covenant, You made
the heavens and the earth according to Your just wisdom, Your**

eternal love. To Your people You have revealed Yourself through the words of sound instruction, and in Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. We confess that we have not lived according to Your teachings, Christ's example, or the Holy Spirit's guidance. We have acted as if we knew better than You the meaning and worth of our lives, and the value of everything and everyone else. How could we be so foolish? Have mercy on us. Help us to turn from such hurtful ways. Form us into the likeness of Christ, so that we honor You, walk in Your ways, and do the smartest thing humans can do – love and serve You in Christ's name. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

"I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me." *(Psalm 13:5-6)*

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

May the Spirit of Truth, the Teacher of Wisdom speak to our hearts, minds and bodies, freeing us from what is false and empowering us to live holy lives with God in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

America (Brass)

Traditional

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9, p. 160*

¹ So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ² You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. ⁶ You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸ And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? ⁹ But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

God Bless America (Brass)

Irving Berlin

THE SECOND READING *James 1:17-27, p. 229*

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰ for human

anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶ If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

My Country, 'Tis of Thee (Brass)

Traditional

THE GOSPEL READING

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23, p. 42

¹ Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶ He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching human

precepts as doctrines.’⁸ “You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

This is the Gospel of the LORD!

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

“Be a Good Human”

Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 487

When Morning Gilds the Skies

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

(from The Belhar Confession, 1986)

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Dale Wood

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

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

You have given us blessings for this life and for life eternal, O God. Give us, also, grateful hearts to rejoice in Your goodness and generous spirits that share Your love 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 564**

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** (*Hymn 432*)

Song of Hope

May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

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

POSTLUDE

Recessional

F.W. Esper

*Please stand if you are able.

Question for thought:

How do Christian love and justice fit together?

Today's appearance of the Western Reserve Brass Quintet is underwritten by the many donors to our Music Fund.

Terry Gale, Brandon Ritchie – Trumpets
Rob Cole – Horn
Jonathan Willis – Trombone
Benjamin Ammon – Tuba

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given anonymously in memory of September 11, 2001.

Flowers have been given by Frank Lewis – Happy Birthday Trina!; by Ellen Maticik in honor of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; and by Lois Dunn in memory of the Wedding Anniversary of parents, Louis and Leila Weirick, on September 2.

Rev. Annie Parker was elected as our pastor last Sunday during worship. Rejoice! Rejoice!

Café Justo's great Organic Coffee we serve every Sunday during Coffee Hour is for sale today in Fellowship Hall! 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.

The Church Office will be closed tomorrow for the Labor Day holiday. Please note that the new office hours will be 9:00-3:00 Monday through Thursday, and 9:00-12:00 on Friday.

Committee Moderators will meet *via Zoom* this Wednesday, September 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Daytimers – Wednesday, September 4

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

Historian John Barnett will talk about the Civil War and the Underground Railroad. All are welcome! Gatherings are held on the first Wednesday of the month.

A **Confirmation Class** for middle and high school youth will begin on Sunday, September 8 at 9:00-9:45 a.m. in Room 209 of the Education Wing. Those interested in attending should call Judy Herron or Bill Penfold.

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

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. Order on Sundays, September 8, 15, 22, and 29 during Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall; call the Preschool, 330-332-8620, or the Church Office, 330-337-9555.

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.

Monday, September 2 – *Labor Day*; Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 3

First Day of Preschool

4:00-9:00 United Quilt Guild Challenge Night (FH, L, C, K)

Wednesday, September 4

6:00 Moderators Meeting *via Zoom*

Thursday, September 5 – *Committee Night*

6:00 Christian Education (Library) / **Mission I & S** (Parlor)

7:00 Devotions (Sanctuary)

7:15 Property (Library) / **Worship, Music, Arts** (Parlor)

Sunday, September 8

9:00 Adult Church School Class (Library)

9:00 Confirmation Class (209)

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship

Monday, September 9

7:00 Board of Deacons (L)

7:00 Congregational Care (P)

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@fpcsaalem.org

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

Custodian Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net