

First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

June 1, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Ascension of the Lord



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

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

*With Timbrel and Dance
I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

*Dale Wood
Alice Jordan*

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

PRELUDE

In Heavenly Love Abiding

James Pethel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God, come and fill our hearts with your joy and our mouths
with your praises.

Let us be full of worship always.

As we wait for Jesus to return, proclaiming the forgiveness of
sins in His name;

Let us be full of worship always.

As we face hardship and joy, as we live in this broken world.

Let us be full of worship always.

*HYMN 150

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We worry if we confess what rests heavily on our hearts, we will
be judged and condemned. Yet God desires we come close and
open ourselves to the possibility of transformation and grace.
When we confess our sin, we acknowledge God's love for us and
Christ's prayer for us, opening ourselves to forgiveness and new
life. Trusting in this love, let us confess our sins.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)**

Merciful God, you desire that the world might see your light shine through us. Yet we confess we are often too blinded by the glittering temptations of this world. We turn from your way, hurting the very ones we were called to serve, in our action and our inaction. We grow frustrated with each other, seeking to silence anything besides our own desires. We fail to see your righteousness and champion greed and discord in the name of power and popularity. Forgive us. Melt us and mold us into more faithful disciples, seeking your light, reflecting your mercy, and sharing your grace. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ prays for us. Christ reaches out with endless love and mercy.

Friends, believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made ready to love and serve. Alleluia. Amen.

***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 (*Unison*)

Holy God, we are thirsty for your good Word. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed, open our hearts to hear what you have to say to us. Fill us with the light of your love that, having heard, we will be ready to go live more faithfully and love more deeply. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Psalm 23

The Haviland Choir

Paul Basler

Rob Cole, Horn

Colla Voce Music, Inc., CCL#2595933

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the LORD!

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

"Looking Up"

Pastor Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**The Risen Christ lives today,
present to us and the source of our hope.**

**We sing of a church
seeking to continue the story of Jesus
by embodying Christ's presence in the world.**

**We are called together by Christ
as a community of broken but hopeful believers,
loving what he loved,
living what he taught,
striving to be faithful servants of God
in our time and place.**

(from "A Song of Faith," the United Church of Canada, 2006)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Pentecost Offering

Mickey Buck

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Fred Bock

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Generous God, all that we are and all that we have comes from you. Take these gifts and ourselves and make us blessings for your people in this community and beyond. Amen.

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

Most High God, we are witnesses to the life of Jesus Christ: written in the Law, promised by the prophets, sung by the psalmists; given in love for the world, risen from the dust of death, lifted up in heavenly glory. Let our lives proclaim Christ's life. Wrap us in your power and presence so that we may worship you always, continually blessing your name. Jesus Christ, our Savior, you live and reign forever at the right

hand of God. Baptize us with your Spirit, so that we may glorify you, proclaiming the gospel to the ends of the earth.

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 151

Crown Him with Many Crowns

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (2166, *Sing the Faith*)

Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me – King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me – never to part.

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

POSTLUDE

Recessional

F.W. Asper

*Please stand if you are able.

Questions for thought:

1. What is something you watched for?
2. How can these same feelings be applied to watching for God?
3. What do you dream will change when Christ returns?

*Pentecost Offering envelopes are in the Pew Racks.
40% of the offering will go to the Brightside Project.*

Geraniums were delivered early this year. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE ANY HOME UNTIL PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 8. Thank you!

~ Congregational Care Committee

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Mike Newman

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins and Flowers have been given by Tim and Melissa Costa in reflection of D-Day 1944 – “Upon the 6th of June, remember them with pride. Men from many nations fighting together side by side. Let us never forget their bravery and sacrifice. We may have our freedom, but they paid the price. By John F. Connor”

Bulletin Donors are needed for June 8, 15, 22, July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24. Cost is \$15.00 a Sunday.

Flowers have been given anonymously to the Glory of God.

Flower Donors are needed for July 6 (1 vase), July 13 (1), July 27 (1), August 10 (1), August 17 (1), August 24 (1), August 31 (1). Cost is \$10.00 a vase.

These Days – There are a few copies of this Presbyterian devotional available at the east and west Sanctuary entrances.

Limited Deacon Scholarship Funds are available for students from our church who are enrolled in College or University and who have not previously received Deacon assistance. Requests should be sent to the Church Office stating the name of the college or university attending. The deadline is June 30.

A Graduation Party for Lana Tonkinson will be held on Saturday, June 14 from 1-8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are invited.

All Hands on Deck for the 2025 Denise's Big Back Yard Events!

An exciting addition for this summer is that we will have a large tent to use for our weekly picnics. An informational meeting for volunteers will be held in the church library after morning worship on June 29. Sign-up sheets for side dish and dessert donations will be posted in Fellowship Hall closer to the start-up date of July 9. The current list of Wednesday evening programs is listed below. **Any and all help is appreciated!** ~ Mark Smith, Mission I and S Committee

- **July 9** – All About Pollinators!
- **July 16** – Presbyterian Preschool Program
- **July 23** – Music Stylings with Lulu and Jesse Reeks
- **July 30** – ‘Chief Logan’s War’ with John Barnett
- **August 6** – TBA
- **August 13** – TBA

The First Presbyterian Church Preschool is now accepting students for the 2025-2026 school year. The five day a week program combines the very best elements of a Preschool for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children. The Preschool staff is dedicated to maintaining a positive, nurturing environment promoting creativity, curiosity, and kindness. Our Preschool follows a Christian theme and participates in Ohio’s “Step Up to Quality” system. We have an Early Childhood degreed teacher and experienced staff. Financial assistance is available through Job and Family Services for those qualifying. Children will develop skills needed for kindergarten readiness. Call 330-332-8620 for more information.

Salem Community Foundation Ministerial Scholarship – This program is extended to those who wish to enter the fields of the Ministry, Christian Education, Youth ministry, or a closely related field. The Ministerial Scholarship application and guidelines are on www.salemcommunityfoundation.org and by calling the Foundation office at 330-332-4021. The Scholarship Committee, under established guidelines, will determine the amount of each scholarship awarded. All applications must be received by Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

Monday, June 2

7:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

Tuesday, June 3

10:00 United Quilt Guild Set Up for Challenge Night (FH/K)

Thursday, June 5

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

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

7:00 Property (Library) / **Worship, Music, Arts** (Parlor)

Sunday, June 8 – Pentecost

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall; *Worship Committee hosting*)

10:30 Service of Worship – *Communion*

Tuesday, June 10

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, June 11

7:00 Finance and Administration Committee *via Zoom*

Thursday, June 12

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees (Library)

Saturday, June 14

1:00-8:00 Graduation Party for Lana Tonkinson (FH/K)

Pastor..... Rev. Annie Parker, 330-720-5884
pastorannie@fpcsalem.org
Clerk of Session..... Barbara Loudon, bloudon@neo.rr.com
Director of Music..... John Krauss, wjohnkrauss@gmail.com
Organist Nancy McNeal
Dir. Handbells/Youth Choirs Cheryl McDevitt, chermcd@aol.com
Administrative Secretary Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsalem.org
Financial Assistant Mary Banar, office@fpcsalem.org
Custodian..... Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net

Vision Statement

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