

Rev. Annie Parker, Pastor

THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

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5th Sunday in Lent
April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8
"Getting Ready for God"
Liturgist – Tegan Jackson

Palm/Passion Sunday
April 13

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29
Luke 19:28-40
"Opening the Gates"
Liturgist – Lynn Zocolo

Maundy Thursday
April 17

Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m.
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Liturgist – Ruth Newman

Resurrection of the Lord/
Easter Day – April 20

Isaiah 65:17-25; John 20:1-18
"Morning is Coming"
Liturgist – Ray Cox

2nd Sunday of Easter
April 27 – Earth Sunday

"10 Years of Loving
God's Creation"
Liturgist – Jan Cox

3rd Sunday of Easter
May 4

Kirkin' O' the Tartans
Acts 9:1-20; John 21:1-19
"Going Where You Are Sent"

The **Environmental Team** is a group of church members who are very passionate and genuinely dedicated to caring for this world on which we live.

When our group first organized in the fall of 2014, we were known as The Recycling Interest Group. At that time, we developed a list of actions that we felt were needed to help make FPC Salem more aware of the importance of Environmental Stewardship, specifically Recycling. After our first few meetings, it was decided that a good way to get the congregation on board about the importance of Recycling was to organize an Earth Sunday. Our first Earth Sunday was celebrated on April 19, 2015 with the emphasis on Recycling. That first year, following Earth Sunday, the members of the Recycling Interest Group met with all the church committees and shared recycling information with them. As the year progressed, we were able to make a great many earth friendly changes at Salem First Presbyterian. Recycle containers were placed throughout the church. The large recycle bin was placed in the church parking lot. Baskets were placed at each of the church entrances to recycle the Sunday Bulletins. A "No Styrofoam Policy" was approved by the Session. The reusable quart jars were used for our Soup to Go. Recycling articles were regularly included in the Messenger. The church began solely using its China dishes and coffee mugs for all events. And finally, the Interest Group visited the Kimble sorting facility in Twinsburg. (That was quite an experience!) As recycling became more routine with our congregation, we felt it was time to address other environmental topics. It was then that we decided to change our name to the Environmental Team.

When we celebrate Earth Sunday this year, we will be celebrating 10 years of learning about and caring for God's Beautiful Earth. Over the past 10 years, we have not only learned about recycling, but so many more important environmental topics. We have learned about the importance of bees and other pollinators to our food supply. We have learned about the Monarch butterflies and their fascinating lives. We also learned about Plastic pollution and how it affects so many aspects of our daily lives. (*continues on page 2*)

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

CHURCH INFORMATION:

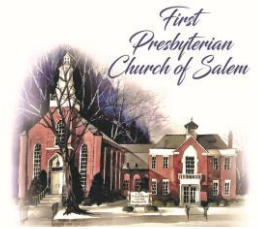
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Website: www.fpcsaalem.org / **Facebook:** First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

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



We worked with the Boy Scouts and saved bottle caps that were made into benches in our church yard. We collected so many during COVID that we were able to have a second bench made in honor of Michael Karmazin and still had more to share with other groups to help them make benches.

This year, Earth Sunday will be celebrated on April 27. Our theme is, "Celebrating our First 10 years With More to Come." Our first 10 years have been very exciting, but it's important that we continue our work of caring for this beautiful earth that God has entrusted to us. This includes not just people, but all living things – the animals on land and in the sea, the birds, the butterflies, the bees, as well as the air we breathe, the water we all need, and the trees and all the plants.

Please plan on joining us on Earth Sunday and bring your friends and family. (There will be flower seeds for you again!) ~ *Carol Ricciardi*

Thank You Notes:

Bud and I gratefully thank you all for your love and kindness these past weeks. Your prayers, calls, cards, flowers, cookies, and soups are all indicative of the wonderful people we have in our congregation.

~ *Bud and Judy Herron*

Thank you for Gloria Shafer taking time to visit me. She brought pretty flowers and delicious vegetable beef soup, which we enjoyed for lunch! ~ *Sandy Herman*

Thank you to the great group of workers who helped to make the delicious Vegetable Beef soup last month. A big thank you to Sandy Quinn, Barb Fennema, Sue Kyser, Sam Ricciardi, and Mike Quinn. ~ *Carol Ricciardi*



Chime Project – An electronic system will be installed in our bell tower that not only chimes the time, but also plays over 3000 spiritual songs and is controlled remotely. The estimated remaining cost after a member donation is approximately \$3,100. Donations will be received through May 30, 2025 to fully fund the project. You can see the progress of donations on the chart in Fellowship Hall.

Preschool Easter Egg Hunt – Our Preschool is having an Easter Egg Hunt on April 15. Last year many of you filled plastic eggs for their hunt and the children had so much fun. If you would like to fill some plastic eggs this year, please leave them on the table outside of the preschool door on Palm Sunday. Thank you so much!

Paper Shredding – The Salem Public Library Community Paper Shred will take place on Saturday, April 19, from 10:00 to 12:00 in the library parking lot.



Environmental Team Book Study – The Environmental Team is organizing a book study that we hope many of you will join. The book, “Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson, has been chosen for our study. It is described as a classic book that helped to launch the Environmental Movement. If you are interested in joining us or you have friends or other family members who would like to participate, please call the office and let Phyllis know by April 8. She will help us with the ordering of the books. You should receive your book some time that week. Our first meeting to discuss the beginning of the book will be on Earth Sunday, April 27th following worship. If the weather is good, we are hoping to meet outside in the gazabo and enjoy a picnic lunch together. A second gathering to discuss the rest of the book will be determined that day. We hope you will consider being a part of this study.

Nature Walk – All you bug enthusiasts, mark your calendars! The Environmental Team is planning an outing to the Huston Brumbaugh Nature Center at the Mount Union College on May 10 from 1:00 to 2:00. Participants will go out into the center with nets and collecting jars to gather up any little critters you might find. We will then gather back together and learn about our findings. More information will be announced closer to the date.

Interested in Overseeing Garage Sale??? Please contact Bill Penfold, 330-831-2673 or exmatch@neo.rr.com.

Your Session at Work

*The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio
meeting on March 20, 2025, in person and via Zoom.*

- Earth Sunday will be celebrated April 27th.
- Christian Education was approved to organize a field trip to the Community Center on April 3.
- There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on April 15 at 11 a.m. and donations of candy to fill eggs was requested.
- Environmental Team announced a book study beginning April 27 featuring “Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson. Also, there will be a nature walk at Brumbaugh Nature Center on May 10.
- Property and Maintenance approved a building request for Wilhem Music Recital on May 18.
- Music and Worship expressed that the organ is in need of repair. Session agreed to abide by the committee’s decision pending Finance Committee’s approval.
- Nominating Committee is seeking one more deacon to fill a vacancy.

For more than 75 years, **One Great Hour of Sharing** has partnered with others to take action to share God’s love. Through these three life-saving programs, we are there to advance the causes of justice, resilience and sustainability. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Offering envelopes are in Sanctuary pews and entrances. *To date, we have received \$1,535.00.*

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – Restore Streets to Live In
- Presbyterian Hunger Program – Share your Bread with the Hungry
- Self-Development of People – Loose the Bonds of Injustice



Café Justo Organic Coffee is what we serve every Sunday during Coffee Hour. Cost is \$12 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. You can purchase in Fellowship Hall the first Sunday of the month, or in the Church Office during the week. *Note – The date on the bag is when it was packed, not an expiration date.*

Kirkin' O' the Tartans – Sunday, May 4

Part of the 10:30 service will include a roll call of clans. So, if you or your family has Scottish lineage, please contact Phyllis at 330-337-9555, or phyllis@fpcsaalem.org with the clan name, so the names can be listed and recognized. We intend to recognize all members as Children of God, celebrating everyone's heritage. More information on Tartans and Clans can be found on several websites including: Clan.com – clans or tartans.

Troop 3 is seeking adult leaders and young persons ages 11-18. Qualifications are adherence to the Scout Oath and Law, a love of adventure, learning, and teamwork. Perks are a world-class team, adventure, and learning amazing things. For more information, see Mark Smith or Frank Lewis.

New Wilmington Mission Conference: July 18-23

The 120th conference will be held on the campus of Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. The conference is for all ages and is the longest-running Christian Mission-focused event in the United States. The theme this year is *"Go Make Disciples of All Nations"* (Matthew 28:18-20). Call the Church Office if interested in attending this year.

Vision Statement

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