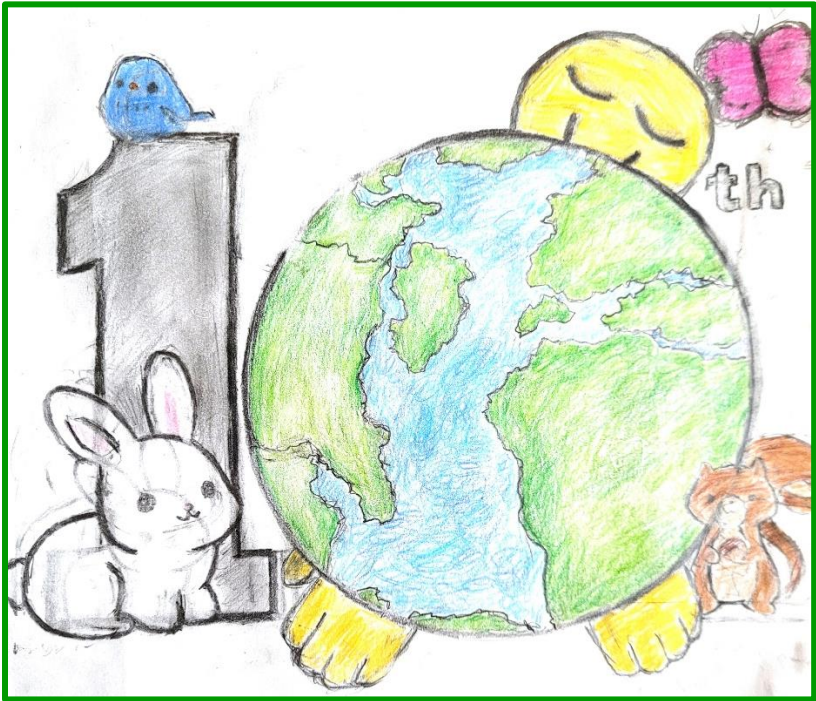


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

April 27, 2025

10:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday of Easter / Earth Sunday
"Celebrating Our First 10 Years with More to Come!"



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

All Things Bright and Beautiful John Carter
La Mourisque (Brass, Percussion) Tylman Susato
Basse Danse Bergeret (Brass, Percussion) Tylman Susato

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

PRELUDE

You Raise Me Up (Brass) Josh Groban
Arranged by Diego Marani

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

How wonderful are the works of God!

We give thanks and praise for the beauty of creation.

God made all living things – animals, plants, and humans – and
calls us to care for and protect them all.

As people of faith, we strive to care for all of creation.

God equips and empowers us to live as good stewards.

Let us worship and praise God together!

*HYMN 455

All Creatures of Our God and King

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We join our voices with all creation in praise and worship to God,
and we speak as one, broken yet redeemable creation when we
confess the destruction and poor stewardship that we wander
into. Let us pray together confident that God will hear us and in
that hearing, forgive us:

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Gracious God, forgive us for the ways in which we contribute to the disfigurement and destruction of your Creation. Transform our hearts and minds, that we may place the welfare of your earth and your people before our fleeting desires. Embolden us to give voice to the voiceless in our communities and ecosystems, and grant us divine wisdom that we may replace systems of destruction and oppression with systems of justice and sustainability. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: the old life has passed away; everything has become new!

All this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

God can work through destruction and death to bring new life.

Let us work with God to bring renewal and rebirth to all creation.

*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.

ANTHEM

Look at the World

The Haviland Choir

John Rutter

Bob Barnett, Director

Hinshaw Music Inc., CCL#2595933

Look at the world, everything all around us:
Look at the world, and marvel every day.
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,
So many miracles along our way.

Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation,
Give us thankful hearts, that we may see:
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,
All things come of thee.

Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower;
Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,
Valley and flowing river, field and plain:

Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation,
Give us thankful hearts, that we may see:
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,
All things come of thee.

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer
Bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.
Everything grows, everything has a season,
Till it is gathered to the Father's fold:

Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation,
Give us thankful hearts, that we may see:
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,
All things come of thee.

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish
Comes from the Lord in token of his love;
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty;
His is the earth, and his the heavens above:

Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation,
Give us thankful hearts, that we may see:
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,
All things come of thee, all things come of thee.

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

Gracious God, your Word is a living word. By your Spirit awaken us, that we may see and hear your presence in the world and in the scripture that we read today. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our healer and our guide. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Let's Take Care of the Earth

The First Presbyterian Preschool

Debbie Clement

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE FIRST READING

Psalms 104:24-35

²⁴ O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. ²⁵ There is the sea, great and wide; creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. ²⁶ There go the ships and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it. ²⁷ These all look to you to give them their food in due season; ²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. ²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. ³⁰ When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground. ³¹ May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works — ³² who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke. ³³ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. ³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord. ³⁵ Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Praise Not Creation

The Haviland Choir

Jim Couchenour

Arrangement by Gary Kekel

Bob Barnett, Director

As I gaze into the Heavens
On a clear and star lit night,
what a marvelous panorama
of playful twinkling lights.

As I contemplate creation,
who could keep it all in place?
What a loving heavenly Father
Who gives us every breath to say:

It's not the wind, it's not the waves,
that are worthy of our praise;
it's not the sun, not the moon,
for even they will fade away
in the Light of the One
Who can speak of peace
turn a raging sea to calm.
Praise Not Creation Praise God.

Oh, the beauty of the eagle
and the power of the whale,
and even goodness of mankind
some may think it can prevail.
But to worship man and nature
and leave a longing heart to fall
for fulfillment comes in surrender
unto the One who made them all.

It's not the wind, it's not the waves,
that are worthy of our praise;
it's not the sun, not the moon,
for even they will fade away
in the Light of the One
Who can speak of peace
turn a raging sea to calm.
Praise Not Creation Praise Not Creation.

It's not the wind, it's not the waves,
that are worthy of our praise;

it's not the sun, not the moon,
for even they will fade away
in the Light of the One
Who can speak of peace
turn a raging sea to calm.
Praise Not Creation, Praise Not Creation,
Praise Not Creation; Praise God.

SERMON

"God the Good Farmer"

Pastor Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 266

Thank You, God, for Water, Soil, and Air

*BEATITUDES FOR STEWARDS OF EARTH (*by Father Ed Eschweiler*)

Blessed are they who revere all created things as sacred: in God's eyes all creation is good.

Blessed are they who understand that creation is like a beautiful tapestry, with every strand depending on others.

Blessed are they who see the beauty of Earth as a reflection of the beauty of God, who creates it.

Blessed are they who do not waste or spoil Earth's resources, which are for everyone, even those not born yet.

Blessed are they who reverence the air--the breath of God and the Spirit of our life.

Blessed are they who reverence the life-giving waters that sustain the Earth's climate and nourish Earth's inhabitants.

Blessed are they who reverence the soil that supports our homes and our footsteps and yields abundant harvests.

Blessed are they who reverence the trees and other plants that call down the rains, stabilize the soil, and freshen the air.

Blessed are they who reduce what they consume, re-use what they can, and recycle what they can no longer use.

Blessed are they who praise God the Creator in their reverent and gentle use of all things on Earth.

MINUTES FOR MISSION

Celebrating Our First 10 Years

Carol Ricciardi

Presentation of God and Life Scout Award to Joseph Seefeldt

Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee

Emma Lou Diemer

OGHS collected through April 30. Envelopes in Pew Racks.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

All good gifts come from you, dear God, and you reveal glimpses of your grace through them. Thank you for inviting us to be partners with you in caring for your creation. We offer these gifts now, knowing that they come first from you, then from other members of your family of creation, then from us. Bless these symbols of our awareness that we depend upon you and your creation for all that we call “ours”. Please accept these gifts and our desire to be your partners. In Your name. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER (*Sins*)

We give you thanks and praise, O God of creation, for the grandeur of all that you have made, saying

We thank you, God.

For the healing waters of creation, which bring pleasure and health, purity and life,

We thank you, God.

For the richness of the good earth that brings forth fruits and flowers, a pleasure to taste and a joy to behold,

We thank you, God.

For the soaring birds of the air, the crawling creatures on the Earth, the gliding fishes in the seas, for all creatures great and small with whom we share this precious web of life,

We thank you, God.

For the invigorating sunlight of day, the deepening mystery of night, the wonder of the stars, and the call of the unknown in the universe,

We thank you, God.

From heedless misuse and dishonoring of the wonders of your hand,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From squandering resources, abusing our companion species, and polluting the habitat we all share,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From the folly of imagining ourselves free from the fate of your whole creation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

For the courage and wisdom to confess how little we have cared for your gifts,

Strengthen us, O Spirit.

For the conviction that you have called us to love and restore the Earth,

Strengthen us, O Spirit.

For repentance and the determination to begin our stewardship anew,

Strengthen us, O Spirit.

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

*We Have the Whole World in Our Hands
(adapted from the traditional spiritual
"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands")*

We have the whole world in our hands.
We have the whole world in our hands.
We have the whole world in our hands.
We have the whole world in our hands.

We have the rivers and the oceans in our hands...

We have the air we breathe in our hands...

We have the flowers and the trees in our hands...

We have the bees and the butterflies in our hands...

We have all of God's creatures in our hands...

We have all of God's children in our hands...

POEM – *In A Round World*

Ruth Newman

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Hymn 467, Chorus, How Great Thou Art*)

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

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

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in C

Robert Lau

*Please stand if you are able.

*The cover art was created by Adam Seefeldt
of the Environmental Team.*

Questions for thought:

1. Where do you most see and appreciate God's creation?
2. How are your everyday "normal" habits aiding in the misuse or destruction of creation?
3. What is a way you can commit to being a better steward of all creation?

Western Reserve Brass

Andy Schuller, Terry Gale, Trumpets;
Rob Cole, Horn; Jonathan Willis, Trombone;
Benjamin Ammon, Tuba; Robert Barnett, Percussion

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Jan Cox

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given anonymously to the Glory of God.

Flowers have been given in Memory of Joe Skiba, Sr., and to celebrate the Birthdays of Joe Skiba, Sr. and Joe Skiba, Jr.; by Alice Jackson in honor of Megan Wilson's Birthday; and anonymously to the Glory of God.

Flower Seeds Available Today

As you leave today, please take with you a few packets of flower seeds to grow in your gardens to attract the pollinators – Short Marigolds, Tall Marigolds, Short Zinnias, Tall Zinnias, Regular and Mexican Sunflowers. The names are marked on the packets.

The Book Study, sponsored by our Environmental Team, will meet today following worship in the Gazebo (weather permitting). A light lunch will be provided as we begin our study and discussions on the book, SILENT SPRING, by Rachel Carson. This book has been described as the classic that launched the environmental

movement. Anyone who is interested in learning more about this book is welcomed to join us. This will be the first of two discussion times planned for our study of this book.

Daytimers – Wednesday, May 7 at Noon

Come join us for a covered dish luncheon in Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be Steve Gifford speaking about “The Jail Ministry”. They go every week to the jail and minister to the inmates.

Nature Walk – Sunday, May 10

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.

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, and course of study by June 30.

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. A chart showing donations is in Fellowship Hall.

Interested in Overseeing Garage Sale????

Contact Bill Penfold, 330-831-2673 or exmatch@neo.rr.com.

Pollinator Garden – As part of the requirements for becoming an Eagle Scout, a scout must plan, develop, and lead a significant service project that benefits the community. Sydney Thompson

has chosen to create a beautiful and vital pollinator garden to be housed on our church property. This pollinator garden will serve as a crucial habitat for bees, butterflies, and other essential pollinators that play a vital role in our ecosystem and food production. The garden will not only look beautiful, but it will also provide an educational opportunity for community members of all ages to learn about the importance of pollinators and how to support them. To bring this important project to fruition, Sydney is seeking financial donations from our church members to support the purchase of essential materials for the pollinator garden. Your support will not only help Sydney achieve this personal goal, but will also leave a lasting positive impact on our church, our community and the environment. Please make any checks out to the church, and in the Memo Line add Pollinator's Garden so that they can go towards Sydney's garden.

Vision Statement

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

2015 – Recycling



2016 – Monarch Butterflies



2017 – Bees, God's Pollinators



2018 – Our World is Drowning in Plastic

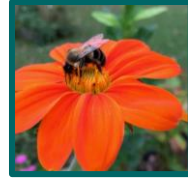


2019 – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



2020 – COVID; No Earth Sunday

2021 – Be Mindful of God's World



2022 – Our World, Our Future



2023 – Our World – Their Future – Why Should I Care?



2024 – What's the Buzz all About? Presbyterians Promoting Pollinators!



Earth Sunday, April 27

Environmental Book Study following Worship (Gazebo)

4:00 Scout Blue and Gold Banquet (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, April 28

10:00 Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)

12:00 Holy Yoga Class (Fellowship Hall)

6:30 Troop 3 (Basement) / Troop 2003G (209)

Wednesday, April 30

10:00 Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)

5:30-7:00 Preschool Open House

7:00 Haviland Choir (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 1

12:00 Holy Yoga Class (Fellowship Hall)

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

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

Friday, May 2

10:00 Calling Hours for Sandy Herman (Fellowship Hall)

11:00 Memorial Service for Sandy Herman (Sanctuary)

Saturday, May 3

9:00-3:00 United Quilt Guild Workshop (Fellowship Hall)

Pastor..... Rev. Annie Parker, 330-720-5884

pastorannie@fpcsalem.org

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

Director of MusicJohn Krauss, wjohnkrauss@gmail.com

Organist Nancy McNeal

Dir. Handbells/Youth ChoirsCheryl McDevitt, chermcd@aol.com

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