

Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis, Temporary Pastoral Leadership
Rev. Trina Lewis, Temporary Pastoral Leadership

THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

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3rd Sunday of Easter – April 14

Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 John 3:1-7;
Luke 24:36b-48

Sermon: *“In the Presence of God”*

Liturgist: Lynn Zocolo

Music: Haviland Choir, Carillon Ringers

4th Sunday of Easter – April 21

Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans

Scriptures: 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Sermon: *“This Is Love”*

Liturgist: Mark Smith

Music: Haviland Choir



Recently Jan and I took a trip to Philadelphia to visit her sister and husband. That Sunday we attended church with them, and the minister’s sermon provided me with thoughts and ideas that I wanted to bring back to our committee.

In her sermon she spoke of The Rev. Nadia Bolz Weber, author, pastor, and speaker, who tells her story of the notable change that occurred in the congregation she used to serve in Denver, CO. It all happened because of her own notoriety, after being featured in a front-page full-color article in the Denver Post. Compelled by her frank, humorous, boldly inviting approach, people were intrigued, and the community grew overnight from maybe 40-45 people comprised mainly of what she’s described as “hip, urban, young adults”, to one that included soccer moms, bankers wearing Dockers, and the like, those whom she immediately labeled “the wrong element”.

Reflecting on this sudden and unexpected change in an interview later, Rev. Bolz Weber admits that she did not welcome it, in fact she loathed it and looked for ways to sabotage it; thinking perhaps that what they had was enough as it was, feeling protective, no doubt, of those who were the earliest members of that community.

She wanted the community to grow, but only based on the narrow contours outlined in her mind, not taking into account the ever-expanding contours of God. Rev. Bolz Weber shared this story in that interview, and the transformation it took in her own heart to accept this growth, as a means of explaining why death and resurrection are key to her theology and language of ministry. She says it this way, “I feel like the Christian life is a life of continual death and resurrection...I think I know or think that I think I’m certain about something and realizing I’m wrong. Or maybe fighting to think I’m right about something over and over and over again until I experience what I call the sort of divine heart transplant. You know, it’s like God reaches in, [pulls out our heart of stone and replaces it with a heart of flesh, something that is warm and beating again] ...the prophets speak of this. ...continued on page 2

“We are centered in Christ and powered by love.”

CHURCH INFORMATION:

Temporary Pastoral Leadership:

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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*)



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When we came back the following week, our Session and Deacons met along with Rev. Barry Chance, our General Presbyter, to discuss our Mission Statement. Upon arriving that morning, I approached Frank and Trina with what I had heard in the sermon. Little did I know that the message for that day was about change and how the church is going to move forward.

Frank wrote an article shortly after about our new Mission Statement. In the article, he related that the Pastor Search Committee had brought to the Session's attention that one of the questions prospective candidates asked was, "What is your mission?" The PSC had to admit that it did not know. So, they went back to the statement in the Mission Discernment Form (MDF), the official dossier of the church that candidates see that describes our church and the pastor the PSC is seeking. It was a very long paragraph that covered just about everything we think (or hope) we are about as a congregation. The problem was that it was unfocused, and it was too wordy. This is why we could not remember it.

Over the next few weeks, the PSC in our meetings have discussed that we need to take a look at how we are reviewing and interviewing potential ministers for the needs of our church going forward.

We have looked at 50 plus candidates over the past few months, along with numerous interviews. Many turn us down and even when we made an offer, been disappointed that it was not accepted.

We have prayed, had long discussions, and made changes in how we evaluate our process. With this new prospective, we now are speaking with 2 ministers that are interested in our congregation, and we are hopeful that we have found the path that God is leading us to for completion of this process.

Ray Cox, Ruling Elder and Moderator of Pastor Search Committee

Prayer Concerns: Nancy Boing (*Gloria Shafer's sister*), Lorrie Brinker (*Sandy Herman's sister*), Rich and Pat Eichler, Dawn Ellis (*Tracey's mother*), Sandi Flake, Mary Lou Gamble, Carolyn Gorley (*Scott and Deb Boyd's sister-in-law*), Patti Hays (*Bob and Sue Merry's sister in law*), Karen Hezlep (*Ryan Gillis' mother*), Melissa Jeswald (*Susan Smith's cousin*), Lois Middleton (*Alice Jackson's sister*), Gary and Wilma Moffett (*Melissa Costa's parents*), Joyce Pakosta, Peggy Pikunas (*Andrew Skiba's mother in law*), Ron and Beverly Price, Charity Ricciardi (*Carol Ricciardi's daughter-in-law*), Carol Shaw (*Gloria Shafer's mother*), Roselyn Stephens, those listed under Special Care and Military, and the Pastor Search Committee.

April Birthdays: Gloria Shafer (9), Genevieve Benson (11), Rich Eichler (11), Nancy Crum (13), Ruthann Lipp (18)

Special Care:

Altercare – Goldie Burrier, #214; 11750 Klinger Ave NE, Alliance OH 44601

Brookdale Alliance – Carol Dougherty, #138; 1277 S Sawburg Ave, Alliance OH 44601

Brookdale Bowling Green – Barbara Marra, #121; 121 N Wintergarden Rd, Bowling Green OH 43402-2190

Crandall Medical Center – Genevieve Benson, #139; 800 S 15th St, Sebring OH 44672

Lexington Place Assisted Living – Helen Hayes, #211; 2345 Lexington Ave, Salem OH 44460

Whispering Pines – Kay Rousseau, #315; 937 E Park Ave, Columbiana OH 44408

Military: Haley Herman Rivera (*Granddaughter of Sandy Herman*), Roger Knizat (*Ellen Maticcik's grandson*), Adam Pawlosky (*Son in Law of Jim and Ruth Newman*), Zach Smith (*Nephew of Mickey Buck*), Cody Tonkinson (*Son of Ed and Melissa Tonkinson*)

Thank You Notes:

Thank you so much for the beautiful Easter Lily delivered to me. ~ *Margaret Gibbs*

Special thanks to Lois Dunn for donating the ingredients and baking the Communion Bread each month.

The recipe can be found in the church cookbook5, *Communion Around the Table*. ~ *Barb Yonker*

New Church School Class Possibility

Our Session's Christian Education Committee is discussing the possibility of adding a Sunday morning church school class for Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First Graders. Rather than survey the whole congregation, we would appreciate your sharing names of your children, grandchildren, or possible other children who might be interested in such a class. This class would be a time of learning about Jesus by reading stories, singing songs, and participating in other activities as their first introduction to church and God's love. Please put names or contact information in the offering plate or the Church Office mailbox as soon as possible. Thanks! ~ *Judy Herron, Moderator of CE Committee*

Preschool Family Fun Night – Tuesday, April 16

Come explore the wonderful world of books from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Interested and current families are invited for a fun night of learning. Hot dogs, chips, and cookies will be served. For more details, call 330-332-8620.

Kirkin' O' the Tartans – Sunday, April 21

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. ~ *Worship Committee*

Presbyterian Book Sale – Sunday, April 21

Do you have any books on your bookshelf that you want to let someone else read? Would you like to replace them with some new reads? We will display donated garage sale books on tables in Fellowship Hall, before and after church, for you to browse through and purchase for a nominal fee. Leftover books will be donated to the Salem Public Library book sale. If you have books to donate, please bring them to the stage in Fellowship Hall as soon as possible. On Sunday, April 21st, get a cup of coffee or juice, put on your reading glasses, and search for some summertime books.

New Wilmington Mission Conference: July 19-24

The 119th 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 "Make Peace – Build One Another Up". Call Mark Smith or Judy Herron if interested in attending this year.

ANNUAL CHURCH GARAGE SALE

Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 7 am – 3 pm

"Early Bird for church members on Friday, April 26 from 1-3 pm

SPRING CLEANING??? Please help by looking for clean, usable items you no longer need. There will be tables for Kitchen, Music, Holiday, Working Lamps, Linens, Garage, Jewelry, Kids and Toys, Small Furniture, Bikes etc., Antiques, Books, Pictures. **PLEASE:** No Clothing, No Shoes, No Electronics, No TVs, No Computers, No Upholstered Furniture, No Food, No Open Toiletries or Makeup

Place all donation items in the boxes on the stage in Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday, April 21.

Need pick-up? Call Melissa at 330-853-1955. Proceeds to LOGOS/Sunday School Mission.

April

Happy Birthday! – Genevieve Benson (11), Nancy Crum (13), Ruthann Lipp (18), Steve Navoyosky (25)

- 10 / Weds 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)
 6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)
 7:00 Haviland Choir (S)
 7:00 Finance and Administration *via Zoom*
- 11 / Thurs **5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees** (L)
- 13 / Thurs 9:00 Making Soup to Go for April 14 (K) – *Vegetable Beef*
 10:00-4:00 United Quilt Guild Workshop (FH)
- 14 / Sun 9:00 Church School for Adults (L) / Grades 6-12 (209)
 9:45 Personnel Committee (P)
 10:00 Coffee Hour
 10:30 Service of Worship
 11:30 **Soup to Go** – *Vegetable Beef*
 3:00-5:00 Sandy Beaver Chapter OA (FH)
 6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)
- 15 / Mon 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)
 6:30 Scouts Troop 3 (SR) and 2003G (209)
- 16 / Tues **5:30-7:00 Preschool Family Fun Night**
- 17 / Weds 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)
 6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)
 7:00 Haviland Choir (S)
- 18 / Thurs **7:00 Regular Session Meeting** (Library and Hybrid)
- 20 / Sat 9:00 Salem Music Study Club Auditions (S)
- 21 / Sun 9:00 Church School for Adults (L) / Grades 6-12 (209)
 10:00 Coffee Hour
 10:30 Service of Worship – *Kirkin' O' the Tartans*
 Presbyterian Book Sale (Fellowship Hall)
 6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)
- 22 / Mon 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)
 6:30 Scouts Troop 3 (SR) and 2003G (209)
- 24 / Weds 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)
 6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)
 7:00 Haviland Choir (S)
- 27 / Sat **7:00-3:00 Garage Sale** (FH)
- 28 / Sun 9:00 Church School for Adults (L) / Grades 6-12 (209)
 10:00 Coffee Hour
 10:30 Service of Worship – *The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; Brass*
 6:00 Pack 3 Blue and Gold Banquet (FH)
- 29 / Mon 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)
 6:30 Scouts Troop 3 (SR) and 2003G (209)

Café Justo's great 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. If you want to purchase, stop in the Church Office during the week.