

Rev. Annie Parker, Pastor

## THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

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| 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday<br>after Pentecost<br><u>November 10</u>                               | 26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday<br>after Pentecost<br><u>November 17</u> | 27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday<br>after Pentecost<br><u>November 24</u><br><i>Communion / Brass</i> | First Sunday<br>of Advent<br><u>December 1</u>               |
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| Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17<br>Mark 12:38-44<br><br>"God's Abundance"<br><br>Liturgist – Tegan Jackson | Rev. Barry Chance<br>in pulpit<br><br>Liturgist – Lynn Zocolo    | 2 Samuel 23:1-7<br>John 18:33-37<br><br>"What is True?"<br><br>Liturgist – Mark Smith        | Jeremiah 33:14-16<br>Luke 21:25-36<br><br>"Looking for Hope" |

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### Welcoming Strangers and Friends

*"So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 10:12; 17-19)*

On August 24th to many of you I was a stranger. A friendly stranger, one your Pastoral Nominating Committee had recommended, but a stranger still. You did not know me or my past, my dreams and hopes, or my spiritual walk with God. You also didn't know my husband or my two girls, we were all strangers coming into a new place with new people. But from the moment I walked into this church and began to meet you, I felt warmly and unconditionally welcomed. You instantly shared with me your stories. You told me why you love this church and told me about the ministries that have touched your lives. You shared what you are passionate about and the ways in which God had called you into service. You invited me to lead worship, but not as an outsider, as a part of the body of Christ here, worshiping with you. You have welcomed my family, inviting my girls to share about themselves and including them in activities. In my first few weeks here, you have helped me to feel at home in this church and in Salem. From offering me a ride, fixing a tire for me, to sharing what you love about Salem, your favorite places to go and things to do here, you made this church and Salem feel like home. I am filled with gratitude for the warm welcome I have received, and how you have made me feel as though I belonged here from the moment I first came here.

*continued on page 2*

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

**CHURCH INFORMATION:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Annie Parker

330-720-5884; [pastorannie@fpcsaalem.org](mailto:pastorannie@fpcsaalem.org)

**Church Office:** 330.337.9555 / [phyllis@fpcsaalem.org](mailto:phyllis@fpcsaalem.org)

**Website:** [www.fpcsaalem.org](http://www.fpcsaalem.org) / **Facebook:** First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

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



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As I have had the joy of getting to know many of you, I was surprised by how many of you are lifelong members, how you were baptized in this church and worshiped here throughout your life. That told me there was something very special about this church family. Just as important though, are the stories about how people came to visit this church and have never left. Your hospitality and inclusiveness touched them deeply, and they felt at home right away.

My hope is that together we will continue to welcome strangers, and make them feel at home. That this church would be a place where God can lead those who are in need of God's love and a place to belong. And that everyone who comes to us feels included and a sense of community. Through prayer let us ask God to lead those who are in need of a holy community to come to us and that we would be prepared to receive them. Let us be as welcoming and gracious to the strangers who come to visit us as God is to us. Amen.

P.S. My office hours are 9:30-4:00 Monday through Wednesday, and 9:30-12:30 on Thursday. I may be in and out visiting so please call or text, 330-720-5884, or send e-mail to [pastorannie@fpcsaalem.org](mailto:pastorannie@fpcsaalem.org).

*Pastor Annie Parker*

**Thank You Notes:**

Thank you to the Deacons for the lovely flowers, and for all the thoughts and prayers. ~ *Pat Eichler*

A Note to Thank You. Your kindness means the world to me. ~ *Ann Topie*

Thank you so much for all you did for my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party – cake, flowers, good wishes, and ore. I really appreciate it. ~ *Mary Bryan*

Dear Church Friends, How wonderful it was to have a party! The event was elegant without being fussy, and the people were very happy with the food! I loved the hugs! We took the time to read all the letters at home; they really touched us. The cards and handwritten notes are treasures. It was our pleasure to be with you in the between-time of church life and we wish you well with your new pastor, Annie. ~ *Love, Frank and Trina*

The Christian Education Committee, the class teachers, and Barb Loudon, along with the parents of the Youth Sunday School class, would like to thank the church members and the community for their support of our garage sales, both in April and the Christmas mini sale in October. The combined sales made it possible to add over \$3250 to the LOGOS Mission and Service fund to, sometime in the future, show Christ's love through the groups' faith and service to God. In prayerful thanks, God bless.

Thanks to all those who donated 275 pairs of Socks for the Salvation Army! ~ *Congregational Care Committee*

Special thanks to those who purchased Heggy's candy for the Preschool Fundraiser, and to the many people who came to our Preschool Trunk or Treat event. We are still selling Little Critters Soda from Kast Iron – Root Beer, Orange, Black Cherry, and Blue Raspberry for \$3 (1 bottle), or \$5 (2 bottles). ~ *Jennifer Gillis, Administrator*

**Small Black Hearing Devices are missing.** These devices are about 3" x 4" square and have a cable with an ear plug attached. They are usually on the tables near the Sanctuary entrances. They only increase sounds when used in the Sanctuary. If you know where one is, please return it to the ushers area as soon as possible. Several people use these to hear the sermon on Sundays.

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**Daytimers – Wednesday, November 6**

12 Noon in Fellowship Hall / Bring Covered Dish to Share. The Director of Sophia Women's Center will speak.

**Fall Soup Luncheon – Sunday, November 24**

Fellowship Hall following Worship / Anyone wishing to bring soup to share would be appreciated. Sponsored by the Congregational Care Committee.

**Order Red Poinsettias** in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, November 10, 17, and 24, through the Church Office during the week, or e-mail [phyllis@fpcsalem.org](mailto:phyllis@fpcsalem.org) by Friday, November 22. The cost is \$10.

**Christmas Angel Tags** will be available soon. We are helping The Salvation Army by sponsoring 30 children this year.

**Blessing Jars** – In this season of Thanksgiving, the Congregational Care Committee would like the members of our church family to stop and think about just how Blessed we all are. Blessing Jars will be in the Sanctuary for you to take on Sunday, November 17. The money will be donated to the Presbyterian Hurricane Relief Fund. Jars should be turned back in on December 22 or 24.

## Your Session at Work

*The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio meeting on October 17, 2024, in person and hybrid.*

- Heard that the Congregational Care Committee will be distributing Blessing Jars on November 17, with proceeds to go to Presbyterian Hurricane Relief efforts.
- Heard that the Congregational Care Committee is planning a Soup Luncheon after Consecration Sunday on November 24.
- Heard that Soup-to-Go will resume in January and new "soup teams" are being recruited now!
- Learned that the average worship attendance for September (in person and YouTube) was 114.
- Learned that the Confirmation Class will be confirmed on December 22.
- Learned that the Finance and Administration Committee is overseeing 2025 budget preparation.
- Learned that the Personnel Committee has been overseeing staff reviews.
- Learned that the Mission Interpretation and Stewardship Committee is still working toward the \$2500 goal for the Peace and Global Witness Offering. 25% of this offering will remain in Columbiana County for the Christina House.
- Learned that the Property and Maintenance Committee is replacing some church lights with LED lights.
- Learned that Property and Maintenance is hoping to have some parking lot repaving done in the spring.
- Learned that there will be a Celtic Harpist on November 10 and a Christmas Cantata followed by a reception on December 15.
- Learned that the Boy Scouts are actively recruiting more members and adult leadership for our troop.
- Learned that the Nominating Committee is actively seeking candidates for Deacons and Elders.

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*Peace and Global Witness Offering - \$1,747.00 as of October 29*

## Vision Statement

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

## Update on Recycling Contamination

Recently, there has been great concern about the contamination in our recycling bin and the bins in the city next to the police station. Stories have been circulating that all the recycling in Salem was going straight to the landfills. This was upsetting to many of us. So, to get the correct information about this, I talked with Tony at CCH in an attempt to get to the bottom of these concerns. This is what he told me. Kimble takes everything from their recycling bins to a transfer facility in Carrollton. It stays there until there is enough to fill a truck that then, takes everything to the Twinsburg sorting facility. There the contamination is taken out and the recycling is sorted. Ohio Valley uses the Westpoint transfer facility and then everything is taken to their own sorting facility. I didn't get the name of where that is. Please share this information and continue to place only correct items in the recycling bins.

## Charity Quilt Sew on November 9

Come join us for Sewing Saturday! The second Saturday of the month is Sewing Saturday. The United Quilting Guild we will be hosting a Charity Quilt Sew at the First Christian Church, located at 1151 E. 6th St., Salem, OH - across from the high school. We will be making quilt tops for charity and teaching people how to sew. Everyone is welcome! If you want to learn how to quilt – come join us. If you want to learn how to sew – come join us! All fabric and patterns are provided, and we do everything as a group. We will all be working on the same pattern at the same time, so all levels of skill are welcome. The only thing you need to bring is your sewing machine and the desire to have a good time while doing good. Here's a chance to give back to the community while learning a new skill or honing one you've already got. We will be meeting from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., so bring your lunch and join us. This is a free event, so join us on November 9th at 1151 E. 6th St., Salem, OH.