

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

THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

Periodicals Postage Paid at Salem, OH 44460, USPS 442500. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Presbyterian Messenger*, 436 E 2nd St, Salem OH 44460-2816

November 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Scriptures: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14;
Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon: *“Climbing the Highest Mountain”*

Liturgist: Mark Smith

Music: Haviland Choir, Brass & Timpani

December 4 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13;
Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon: *“Peace and Pitch-forks”*

Liturgist: Mickey Buck

Music: Haviland Choir, Handbell Ringers

By the time you read this it will be Thanksgiving and then the First Sunday of Advent. Sometimes it happens, a national holiday and a religious one back-to-back. I see some significance in the pairing of these two. Both have a kind of double sidedness in their meaning. Each has roots in the past, while pointing to the future.

First, think of Thanksgiving as the time we reflect on the personal blessings of the past year for which we are grateful. Of course, the history of the day goes farther back in national memory. I don't mean Plymouth Rock and the pilgrims, though I do remember wearing a black construction paper hat in second grade to mark that occasion. Rather, I'm thinking of President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of national thanks and prayer during the Civil War. God's providence extends deep and wide.

Thanksgiving has a future dimension as well. I can't remember where I read it or who said it, and I can't find it to quote, so I will have to paraphrase as best I can, because I know it's true: The past is not an inheritance we receive; it is a legacy we pass on to our children. That legacy we repeat whenever we say the pledge of allegiance: “with liberty and justice for all.” I think that, whenever we celebrate Thanksgiving as a national holiday, we might consider recommitting ourselves to that legacy.

In a similar vein, Advent has both a past and future vision. The word “advent” refers to preparing for something. In our Christian context, it means preparing to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we tell our kids, we're getting ready for Jesus' birthday. In one sense, that birthday happened over 2,000 years ago. That it is still timely goes without saying. Or maybe that it the deeper point in our world, where you can find all kinds of store ads, Christmas TV specials, muzak and parades without Christ ever being mentioned. The season of Advent is meant to remind us that we are preparing for the future—God's future in and through us in Christ. We light the candles on the Advent wreath, including the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve, not only to mark off this year, but to keep before us the truth that God is bringing to fulfillment all that is promised in scripture: a new heaven and a new earth where sin and evil and all their results are no more. Surely that is a future to prepare for.

Love, *Frank*

CHURCH INFORMATION:

Temporary Pastoral Leadership:

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



Thank You Notes:

We want to thank you all for the prayers you have been sending up for us. We know they are heard. A special thank you to Rev. Trina Lewis, Alice Jackson, and Barbara Yonker for bringing us Communion. Nothing like sitting on your own front porch having Communion! Also special thanks to Paul and Barb Fennema, Sue Merry, Nancy McNeal, and Phyllis Garlock for phone calls, visits, flowers, soup, pictures, and ongoing information. We so enjoy the weekly televised Sunday services with Rev. Lewis' leadership in Worship, and the Choir, and John Krauss and Nancy McNeal's dedication. We would be remiss if we didn't mention Lynn Zocolo's fascinating "Story of Us" that she has shared during Sunday services recently. We know we are so blessed to belong to the wonderful "Church Family" at Salem First Presbyterian and we are so thankful! Peace be with you all. *Lorin and Marcia Shepard*

Thank you so much for inviting me to play my violin with the choir in October. It is always so much fun to make music with others! I am so glad I got to share with the congregation! Thank you for your kindness! Love, *Lydia Andres*

To my Family of Friends at the First Presbyterian Church,

I want to express my heart felt thanks and appreciation for the Beautiful Birthday Celebration; to the Women's Association for the delicious cakes that were made by Brenda Johnson; the beautiful wrist corsage from Marge Wright, and the lovely chancel flowers for one to share. A special thanks to Erma Eaton for her hand painted card. I am truly grateful for being a member of this Church Family for sixty-two years to share with all the spiritual needs of this Church Family. Blessings, *Marilyn Loudon*

...continued

A big thank you to the team of workers who recently helped to make the delicious and very popular Chicken Noodle soup earlier this month. From the many positive comments about how delicious the soup was, we will be making it again later in the spring. Team members were Barb Fennema, Jason Fennema, Sharon Bortz, Sandy Quinn, Regina Costlow, Jackie Noebe, Sam Ricciardi, and Archie Crum. *Brenda Bradley and Carol Ricciardi*

Thank you to all for a wonderful 190th Birthday Celebration for our mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Ruth Varkonda. It truly was a very special morning and sharing it with Marilyn Loudon and her family made it even more so. Thank you to Jan Jones and Marge Wright for coordinating all the details, to the Congregational Care Committee for serving, and to the Women's Association and Brenda Johnson for the beautiful cakes. Thank you to Marge Wright for the corsage. Thank you, all of our church family, for your cards and good wishes. All made our hearts smile! We are so blessed. *Ruth Varkonda's Family*

Thank you so much for all your support for eating at Bob Evans! Thirty-six flyers were turned in for a profit of \$144.00 for the Preschool. We also thank you for purchasing Flower Bulbs to plant. There are still some left on the top of the piano in Fellowship Hall – Yellow Daffodils, Mt. Hood White Daffodils, Red Devon (yellow with red center) narcissus, Red Tulips, and bags of surprise mixed bulbs for \$5.00 a bag which goes directly to the Preschool. We have made \$350.00 so far on the Bulb Sale. Again, many thanks! *Jennifer Gillis, Administrator*

Your Session at Work:

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio meeting on November 17, 2022, via Zoom:

- Noted that the average attendance on Face Book was 119 and YouTube was 69 for the month of October.
- Approved LOGOS trip to the Oglebay Festival of Lights in December.
- Approved the youth attending other church services in the area as part of their Sunday School lessons.
- Heard the Congregational Care Committee will be making Moravian Stars again this year.
- Approved the proceeds from the October “Soup to Go” and the “Soup and Dessert Luncheon” will be given to the Food Pantry.
- Approved all October Financial Reports.
- Approved giving Mission money to the “Let’s Get it Done Challenge” at the Food Pantry.
- Approved purchasing new blinds for the ground floor of the CE Building.
- Approved Building Requests.
- Approved holding one service on Christmas Eve at 7:30 pm and a Christmas Day Service at 10:00 am. in the Chapel.
- Approved Communion Dates for the first half of 2023.
- Heard a report from the Nominating Committee.
- Heard Staff Reviews will be held on December 5.
- Determined that there is a need for the Presbyterian Women to hold a meeting.
- Heard the Bob Evans fundraiser for the Preschool was a huge success.
- Approved selling T-shirts and sweatshirts to the congregation and community with the Preschool Logo on them.
- Heard the Scouts’ popcorn sale was a huge success.
- Heard the Scouts continue to be very active.
- Elected Elders Mo Hofmeister and Barbara Yonker as commissioners to the December meeting of Eastminster Presbytery on December 6 via Zoom.
- Reviewed the Active Roll of the church.
- Called a Congregational Meeting on December 11, 2022, after Worship to elect officers.
- Called a Special Session Meeting at 9 am on November 27, 2022, to receive a new member.
- Offered intercessory prayers for our church family and beyond.

A Christmas Joy Offering envelope is included with this newsletter.
And the Word became flesh and lived among us... ~ John 1:14

November

- 23 / Weds Church Office closes at 2:30 p.m.
- 24 / Thurs *Happy Thanksgiving!* / Church Office Closed
- 25 / Fri Church Office Closed for Holiday
- 27 / Sun **9:00 Special Session Meeting** (Library)
9:15-10:00 Advent Sunday School for Youth/Adults
10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)
10:30 Lord's Day Worship – *Brass and Timpani*
6:00 Troop 3 Planning Meeting
- 28 / Mon 10:30 Tai Chi Class (FH)
5:00 Troop 3 Planning Meeting
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (B/FH)
- 30 / Weds 10:30 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)
6:00-6:15 Carillon Ringers (S) / 6:15 Anthem Ringers (S)

December

Happy Birthday! *Helen Hayes (1), Marge Wright (15), Juanita Latham (29)*

- 1 / Thurs **6:00 Mission I and S Committee** (Parlor)
7:00 Devotions (Sanctuary)
7:15 Property and Maintenance Committee (Library)
- 4 / Sun 9:15-10:00 Advent Sunday School for Youth and Adults
10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)
10:30 Lord's Day Worship
3:00 Salem Music Centre Piano Recital (S/FH)
4:30-6:00 Pres-Bees / LOGOS (Library)
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement/Fellowship Hall)
- 5 / Mon 10:30 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)
4:00 Personnel Committee (Parlor)
4:30 Staff Evaluations by Personnel Committee (Parlor)
6:00 Troop 3 Scouts (B) / Troop 2003 G Scouts (209)
7:00 Board of Deacons (Library)
- 6 / Tues 10:00 Eastminster Presbytery Meeting *via Zoom*
- 7 / Weds **12:00 Daytimers** – *"Walking Canes & Things"*, *Jenny Wilms*
6:15 Handbell Ringers (S)
7:00 Haviland Choir (S)
- 8 / Thurs **5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees** (Library)
7:00 Finance and Administration Committee *via Zoom*
- 9 / Fri 4:30 Violin Studio Rehearsal (S)
- 10 / Sat 2:00 Violin Studio Concert (S/FH)
- 11 / Sun 9:15-10:00 Advent Sunday School for Youth and Adults
10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)
10:30 Lord's Day Worship
Congregational Meeting following Worship

Blessings 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. Unfortunately, there are many in our community who are struggling. Our committee would like to do something to help them so we have decorated Blessings jars that you will find in the sanctuary. We would like you take a jar home with you and drop your pocket change in the jar each night or a couple of dollars each time you go to the bank or ATM. Return the jars to church on December 18th, 24th, or 25th. The money will be donated to the Food Pantry to help those who are in need. Please take this opportunity to show gratitude for your many blessings by sharing with others and showing God's love.

REMINDERS OF HOW YOU CAN CONTINUE TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S EARTH DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

- Avoid using disposable plates, forks and spoons, cups, etc. Get out your beautiful china, good silver, and all your other special dishes that are in your cupboards to use this Christmas (or any time!).
- Choose gifts that are earth friendly.
- Use gift bags that can be reused for another Christmas. And go easy on the tissue paper that everyone puts in them! If your family doesn't make too much fun of you, it can be smoothed out, rolled or folded and used again!
- Remember to recycle all those boxes. Just be sure to break them down and remove all packaging materials.
- If you decorate with a live tree, be sure to recycle it at Waterworth Memorial Park after Christmas.
- If you do use wrapping paper, it can also be recycled (but not metallic paper). Be sure to remove all tags, ribbons, and bows.
- Your Christmas cards can also be recycled, but not if they are metallic, or have glitter on them.
- When grocery shopping, remember to take your reusable shopping bags or you can ask for your groceries to be bagged in paper bags.
- Be sure to take all your plastic bags, bubble wrap etc. to Giant Eagle to recycle.
- Please avoid using single use plastic items in any way!

Do what you can. Every small effort on our part really makes a difference.