

Rev. Annie Parker, Pastor

THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

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2nd Sunday of Advent
December 8

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6
*"Getting Everything Ready
for Something Good"*
Liturgist – Tegan Jackson

Christmas Eve / 7:30 pm
December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-14
*"Something Good is
Born Among Us"*
Liturgist – Lynn Zocolo

3rd Sunday of Advent
December 15

"Love is Born" Cantata
Haviland Choir,
Guest Musicians and Vocalists
Liturgist – Lynn Zocolo

1st Sunday of Christmas
December 29

Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-15
"Something Good to Go With Us"
Liturgist – Ray Cox

4th Sunday of Advent
December 22

Micah 5:2-5; Luke 1:39-45
"Finding Something Good"
Liturgist – Geoff Goll

2nd Sunday of Christmas
January 5, 2025

Jeremiah 31:7-14
John 1:1-9; 10-18
"The Good Shepherd"

During the past 15 weeks, four of our young people have been learning what it is to accept God as their Lord and Savior and trusting God to guide their lives. They have listened to members of our church share about their faith and how God has impacted their lives, including Lynn Zocolo, Jody Karmazin, Gloria Shafer, Mark Smith, Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis, Karl Wright, Adam and Grace Seefeldt, Barb Yonker, and Pastor Annie.

Our new Confirmands: Knox Tonkinson, Tegan Jackson, Tyson Jackson, and Joseph Seefeldt, have taken leadership in our worship services, learned what it means to be part of our church family, joined in fellowship with us, prayed with us, and participated in communion with us. They are studying the Bible and learning about our church's teachings together. These four young men will join our Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 22, promising before God to be faithful disciples and to show God's love to others.

We hope you will be in church with them that Sunday and will welcome them in person in Fellowship Hall following worship. Thank you! They are a special group.

Teaching Staff: Judy Herron, Bill Penfold, Mark Smith, and Rev. Trina Lewis, Advisor, along with congregation Mentors: Bob Merry, Ryan Gillis, and Mike Quinn.

P.S. Pastor Annie has been meeting with the Christian Education Team and with Jennifer Gillis, Preschool Director to begin having a children's sermon as part of our Sunday worship service, followed by a Sunday School class in the Educational Wing starting in January. Jennifer will lead the class, but we would appreciate other adults taking a turn with the class occasionally. Thanks. Please think of other children, neighbors, or grandchildren who might enjoy this class and invite them to come to God's house with you.

Judy Herron, Christian Education Committee Moderator

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

CHURCH INFORMATION:

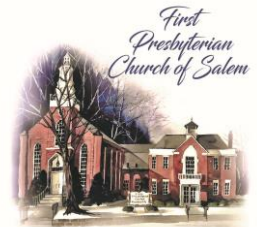
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Website: www.fpcsaalem.org / **Facebook:** First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

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



Thank You Notes:

Thank you so much for the flowers delivered by Deacon Sue Merry. ~ Archie and Nancy Crum

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. ~ Rich and Pat Eichler

Never are we more aware of how much our friends and family mean to us than at this time of loss. Your kindness and sympathy will always be remembered. Thank you for the flowers, cookies, and visits.

~ The Family of Arthur W. Votaw

Blessings Jars Benefit Presbyterian Hurricane Relief – Please take a jar home with you (at Sanctuary entrances) and drop your pocket change in the jar to show gratitude for your many blessings. Return the jars to church on December 22 or 24.

Prepare the Way – The Perfect Gift

Through the *Christmas Joy Offering*, we reflect God’s perfect gift to us. Our gifts smooth the path for current and retired church workers and their families in their time of critical need; and prepare the way for our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. We are there with the leaders of our church – past, present and future. Please join us in the Christmas Joy Offering. *If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!* (A Christmas Joy Offering envelope is included with this newsletter.)

Daytimers – Wednesday, December 4

12 Noon in Fellowship Hall / Bring a covered dish to share.

Program: The Keller Family Singers will sing Christmas songs.



Christmas Sing Along – Sunday, December 8

Join Salem Preservation Society at 3:00 p.m. showcasing Salem’s Historic Episcopal Church of Our Savior, 870 E State Street in Salem. A free will offering will be taken for the preservation of the church. Light refreshments provided. Organ music with Vince Anderson.

Advent Music Program – Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 a.m.

Haviland Choir, guest musicians, and vocalists will present “Love is Born”, a cantata by Lloyd Larson, celebrating the Mystery and Wonder of Christmas.

Christmas Eve Service – Tuesday, December 24

7:30 p.m. / The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper / Candle-lighting

Vision Statement

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

Thank You Alice Reception

Sunday, December 15 after Worship

Over the past couple of months, we have been celebrating some very special people in our church who have contributed greatly to the survival and the future of our church. We celebrated the 40 years that Phyllis has been the backbone of our church. We expressed our gratitude to Frank and Trina for the immeasurable love and strength they provided for us the past 2 years. And we enthusiastically welcomed Pastor Annie by sharing a delicious Potluck Dinner with her. Of course, we owe a great debt of gratitude to both of the Pastor Search Committees, the members of all the committees, and the Deacons and the Elders. But there is one person who most often was in the background but worked tirelessly holding all of us together – Alice Jackson. Alice was the Clerk of Session for 20 years and then later, in addition to that position, she volunteered to be Head of Staff. Her work as Clerk of Session was perfection. She kept us well organized and her reports to Presbytery were always exemplary. As if that wasn't enough, for the past 5 years until Pastor Annie came to us, she served as Head of Staff in addition to still being the Clerk of Session. Word has it that she was at the church almost every day, "taking care of business!" The Congregational Care Committee feels we need one more celebration. This one will be our "THANK YOU ALICE" celebration on Sunday, December 15, the day of the choir's Christmas Cantata. Light refreshments will be served. As we have done in the past, there will be a basket where you may share your personal note of gratitude with her. Please plan to be with us that day to say, THANK YOU ALICE!



Thank
you!

Your Session at Work

*The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio
meeting on November 21, 2024, in person and hybrid.*

- Learned that Advent Services will be centered around the theme of “Hope.”
- Heard that a special Sunday Service planned for December 29 will include handing out “Star Words” to guide us in 2025.
- Learned that the average Sunday worship attendance in person and via YouTube was 132.
- Heard that Pastor Annie plans to start a special children’s time in Sunday worship beginning in January.
- Designated \$500 from the Soup to Go money to the Preschool Scholarship Fund.
- Designated proceeds from the November 24 Soup Luncheon to the Sophia House.
- Voted to have Earth Sunday celebrated April 27, 2025.
- Voted to donate money from the Environmental Team’s budget and proceeds from Sue Lewis’ bag raffle to Sydney Thompson’s Eagle Scout Project – a Pollinator Garden.
- Approved the Emergency Response Policies, Response to Community Outbreak, and Telephone Bomb Threat Form.
- Was reminded that the Church has an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for emergency use.
- Approved Pastor Annie joining the Rotary Club of Salem.
- Confirmed that the Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7:30 p.m.
- Established 2025 Communion Dates through June 2025:
 - January 12 – Baptism of the Lord
 - February 9
 - March 2 – Transfiguration of the Lord
 - March 30
 - April 17 – Maundy Thursday
 - April 20 – Easter
 - May 18
 - June 8 – Pentecost
- Approved the following candidates for church leadership to be voted upon at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 5, 2025:

Elders, Class of 2027: Debbie Boyd, Ruth Newman, Sue Skiba, Barb Yonker (second term)
Deacons, Class of 2027: Sue Kyser, Brenda Swinhart, Julie Johnson, Wanda Navoyosky (second term)
- Learned that 12 students are currently enrolled in Preschool with another four students expected soon.
- Learned that the Scouts will serve as the Color Guard for Salem’s Christmas Parade.