

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

THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

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16 th Sunday after Pentecost <u>September 8</u> <i>Communion</i> Genesis 6:6 Genesis 9:8-17 "From Crisis to Redemption" Liturgist – Rev. Trina Lewis	17 th Sunday after Pentecost <u>September 15</u> Genesis 12:1-3 Genesis 15:1-8 "The Blessing Journey" Liturgist – Barb Yonker	18 th Sunday after Pentecost <u>September 22</u> Exodus 6:1 Exodus 6:6-9 "The Threat for Despair" Liturgist – Lynn Zocolo	19 th Sunday after Pentecost <u>September 29</u> <i>Ruling Elder</i> <i>Mike Shepherd</i> <i>in Pulpit</i> Liturgist – Sue Skiba
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Newly Elected Pastor

On Sunday August 25, the Pastor Nominating Committee presented the Rev. Annie Parker to the congregation as the nominee for the installed minister position of First Presbyterian Church of Salem to become part of our church family.

Rev Parker conducted our service, and our General Presbyter and Stated Clerk, the Rev. Barry Chance, moderated a Congregational Meeting assisted by our Committee of Ministry Representative, Mike Shepherd, to conduct a vote on accepting or rejecting Rev. Parker for this position. A vote of over 94% to accept her by our congregation was received.

We are proud to have Rev Parker be at the church starting on October 1 and begin her ministry with us in mid-October. The dates are being finalized through Session and our Presbytery.

Frank and Trina will remain with us during this time and the transition to assist with all the needed information and introductions. We cannot express our thanks to them for all that they have done for our church family and becoming a part of our family these past three years. While Frank and Trina may not be in the pulpit, however, they have been invited to remain part of our congregation as we move forward.

For anyone that may not been able to attend the meet and greet on the 24th or the service on the 25th, here are some facts about Rev. Parker and her family.

Rev. Parker is not only a local minister, but she is the current Vice-Moderator of our own Presbytery. She served on the committee and was instrumental in the hiring of Barry Chance, our Stated Clerk and General Presbyter. She also contacted the PNC to apply for the position as this was the church that she felt she was being called to.

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

CHURCH INFORMATION:

Temporary Pastoral Leadership:

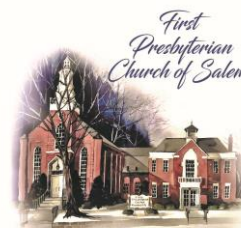
Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis, 304-266-8154; dad.lewis@gmail.com

Rev. Trina Lewis, 304-266-8214

Church Office: 330.337.9555 / phyllis@fpcsaalem.org

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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Her family is Ben, (her husband), Noelle (Ella), and Oriana (her two daughters). Annie Parker is a graduate of Grove City College and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She has been serving as a minister for over seven years and is hoping to serve the First Presbyterian Church of Salem for many years to come. Annie is lifelong Presbyterian, as is her father who is also a Presbyterian minister, so as you can see, she has been a part of the Presbyterian church since birth.

Annie loves helping with service projects and anything that reaches out to the community. She has a heart for teaching and hopes that her sermons will show how the Word of God is relevant and applicable in our world today.

Outside of church, Annie loves to walk her dog Oscar, to read and to travel and explore Ohio and the surrounding areas. Her husband Ben is a graduate of Westminster College and has a BS in Computer Science and works as a software engineer in healthcare. He loves to go on nature walks and take care of their two cats. Ella is going into 10th grade and loves lacrosse, science, and reading. Oriana will be entering second grade, and is an active child who loves any sport, swimming, and reading. As a family, they enjoy playing Nintendo games and going to the beach at Lake Erie. They are all looking forward to becoming part of our church!

Our committee spent many hours, emails, telephone calls, and numerous meetings in person with Annie and her family to ensure that we were listening to God and what would be best for our church family. From the time, we first met Annie in person and the entire committee knew we had been sent the right person. We still took almost four months to get to know her and her family. We discussed every topic about our church, our beliefs, our hopes for our church, and what expectations and plans she would have if she became part of our church family. She sincerely cares for people and helping in any way that she can. Annie wants to be part of our community and help our church, and to become a leader in God's ministry in Salem.

During one of our meetings, Mike Shepherd, our Committee of Ministry representative, told us that Annie served on the committee to find our new General Presbyter, and one candidate asked the COM something that they were unable to answer. Annie stepped up and took charge. The answer she provided to the candidate led to (Barry Chance) becoming our new General Presbyter and State Clerk.

This next even more extraordinary fact about Annie came to our attention after we had already made the decision to ask her and her family to join our church family. In fact, you might say what happened was predetermined 8 years ago that put all of this in to prospective.

In 2016, when Rev. Parker began her first call, she was assigned a mentor to help her in the ministry. That mentor passed on to her something extremely important that we were looking for in a pastor and that was congregational care. What we did not know was that God was preparing not only Annie, but her mentor all those years ago at a church in another state less than 100 miles from Salem for our church. You see the person that was assigned to Annie as her mentor in 2016 in that other state is part of our church family today, in fact all of all of us know her and her husband because for the past 3 years they have helped bring us closer together as a church. Her mentor from 8 years ago is our own Rev. Trina Lewis. This just solidified with the committee that Annie was the person God had planned for our church.

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In one of Frank's recent sermons, he said when a minister becomes part of the congregation, they become your pastor not just a minister, and we firmly believe that with Annie this will happen. On Sunday August 25th, the congregation agreed and voted to accept her as our new minister.

So, to summarize all of this, Annie Parker is an ordained Presbyterian minister in our own Presbytery which she serves as Vice Moderator.

With the vote that confirmed her on Sunday morning the 25th, our congregation has begun a new chapter in the story of us. Thank you.
~ Ray Cox, Moderator of Pastor Search Committee

Thank You Notes:

Thank you to Karl Wright for creating the excellent 'Little Lending Library' that is located near the playground. Also, thanks to the Property and Maintenance Committee for their approval and help with picking out a good location. All are welcome to bring books to keep it filled. *Mission I & S Comm.*



A heartfelt thank you to all who helped with this year's edition of Denise's Big Back Yard. We won't attempt to name names for fear of leaving someone out! For everything from setting up tables and chairs to providing, preparing, and serving food, thank you. We had five entertaining evenings with an average attendance of about 50 people who shared in fun, food, and fellowship. Some of our neighbors even contributed food and helped with putting away tables and chairs. A good year! ~ *Mission I & S Committee*

Thank you for your donation of \$732.40. ~ *Captain Jason Imhoff, Salem Salvation Army*

A Confirmation Class for middle and high school youth will begin on Sunday, September 8 at 9:00-9:45 a.m. in Room 209 of the Education Wing. Those interested in attending should call Judy Herron or Bill Penfold.

Vision Statement

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

Your Session at Work

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio meeting on August 15, 2024, in person and hybrid:

- Continued discussing the book "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger and "Quietly Courageous" by Gil Rendle to better understand the changing world of Christendom.
- Agreed to order the book "Becoming a Welcoming Church" for Session Members.
- Learned that the church currently has 189 active members.
- Agreed to continue to distribute a series of books on coping with grief to members of the congregation who have experienced the loss of a loved one.
- Learned that a Confirmation Class will begin September 8 and continue through approximately the end of April with the curriculum "Big God; Big Questions."
- Learned that the Adult Sunday School Class will use the Unified Bible series. The class wants to take the Bible one book at a time. "Matthew for Everyone" by N.T. Wright has been chosen as the first book, beginning September 8.
- Heard a report from the Quarterly Meeting of the Investment Sub Committee.

- Heard a wrap-up report of Denise's Big Back Yard: three events happening outside and two inside due to inclement weather. With additional volunteers, perhaps more sessions could be held next year, since momentum builds as the summer continues.
- Amended Phyllis Garlock's position to part-time. Her hours would be reduced to 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. – noon on Fridays.
- Approved vacation time for Revs. Frank and Trina Lewis for September 23-29 – making them absent on both Sunday, September 29 and Sunday October 20.
- Heard that the new officers of the Board of the Preschool are: Wanda Navoyosky – President; Carol Ricciardi – Vice President; Secretary – Cara Stephens; Treasurer – to be filled by the Finance and Administration Committee of the First Presbyterian Church.
- Learned that the Boy Scouts are still seeking a new Scout Master and the Cub Scouts are now a co-ed Pack.
- Heard a report from Elder Phyllis Denton, our representative to the Presbytery Meeting August 13 at Petersburg Church.
- Determined that "The Messenger" will continue as a monthly publication, rather than a bi-weekly one.

Our ***Peace and Global Witness Offering*** enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world. *An offering envelope is included with this newsletter.*

Preschool Supplies Needed – Paper Towels, Clorox Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Facial Tissues, Markers, Small Glue Bottles, Fruit and Vegetable Cups, Granola and Cereal Bars. The Preschool will appreciate it very much if anyone can donate any of these items.

Heggy's Candy – Preschool Fundraiser

Milk Chocolate Covered Oreos, Milk and Dark Chocolate Buckeyes, Milk and Dark Chocolate Cashews, Milk and Dark Chocolate Pecans, and Frog Mints. Completed forms and cash/checks must be turned in by Friday, October 4. Order on Sundays, September 8, 15, 22, and 29 during Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall; call the Preschool, 330-332-8620, or the Church Office, 330-337-9555.

The Preschool is currently receiving applications for partial scholarships that will reduce the tuition rates for parents of preschool students that need some monetary assistance in order to attend our preschool this year. The Preschool would appreciate any contribution you could give so more students can attend this year's preschool. We now have expanded our preschool to include both AM and PM classes and any contribution would help more students to attend either the AM or PM class. This can be done by contributing through your church contributions. Putting the words "Preschool Scholarship Fund" on your check or envelope will ensure that the funds will go to scholarships to the preschool children. The Preschool Board thanks you in advance for your consideration in supporting this initiative.