

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



March 28, 7:30 pm
Communion

Scriptures:

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Meditation:

"The Ancient New Story"

Liturgist: Rev. Trina Lewis

Good Friday
March 29, 12:15 pm



Scriptures:

Hebrews 10:16-25

Meditation:

"Why Jesus Died"

Resurrection Sunday
March 31 at 10:30 am
Communion

Scriptures: Isaiah 25:6-9;
1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 11;
John 15:1-18

Sermon:

*"Witnesses
to the
Resurrection"*

Liturgist:

Rev. Trina Lewis



2nd Sunday of Easter
April 7 at 10:30 am
Congregational Meeting



Scriptures:

Acts 4:32-35
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

Sermon:

*"The Challenge
of Believing"*

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

This is the new mission statement of First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio.

Let me explain how and why the Session adopted this statement. Then I will unpack some of what it means, and will mean, for us going forward.

The Pastor Search Committee brought to the Session's attention the fact that one of the questions many 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 MDF is the official dossier of the church that candidates see that describes our church and the pastor the PSC is seeking. The statement in the MDF was a very long paragraph that covered just about everything we think (or hope) we are about as a congregation. There was nothing wrong with what the statement said. It was all true. The problem was that it was unfocused, and it was too wordy. No wonder nobody could remember it.

This suggested a bigger problem. If we cannot remember what our mission statement says, *maybe we do not really know what our mission is*. In other words, who is God calling us to be, and what is God calling us to do right now?

The Session decided to tackle this question head-on. On March 9th the Session and Deacons met together to take up the challenge of drafting a new mission statement, one that fit our time and that everyone could remember. After a wonderful discussion, with some faithful reflection and, honestly, some collective soul-searching, this is the statement that emerged: We are called "to glorify God and to share the Spirit and the love of Christ with our community and world." ...continued on page 2

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*)



This statement undoubtedly captures the heart of our trinitarian theology and our missional calling. As I reflected on the statement after our meeting, I wondered if we could get at the essence of what we are saying in even fewer words. At the March Session meeting, I offered this, “we are centered in Christ and powered by love”, as a supplement, not a replacement, to the mission statement drafted on the 9th. The Session agreed.

Now for the unpacking. First, to say that we are centered in Christ is quintessentially trinitarian. Jesus Christ is the Second Person of the Trinity, the Son of God in fully human form. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, anointed by the Spirit at His baptism, empowered in ministry by the Spirit, and raised by the Spirit. Secondly, to say that we are powered by love is to say that we ourselves have, through Christ, God’s own power to share with our neighbors near and far, that is, our community and world. Remember, God is spirit and God is love. We are commanded to love and serve our community and world because God first loved us.

Here is the next step. We are going to use the new mission statement to focus our ministry as a congregation. And when I say we, the Session and your pastoral team mean *all of us*. The hope is that we will become known as the church that is “centered in Christ and powered by love.”

This means that each of us will, a. remember what our mission statement is, and b. focus our efforts on fulfilling it. For example, our worship services will be “centered in Christ and powered by love.” Our committee and other group activities and projects will be “centered in Christ and powered by love.” Our outreach to the community and our mission projects across the world will be “centered in Christ and powered by love.” And when you invite someone to join you in Sunday morning worship or some other church activity, you can show and tell that person that we are “centered in Christ and powered by love.” We should always ask ourselves whether or not what we are doing fulfills our mission; and, if it does not, we should rethink our actions.

We at First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio, glorify God and share the Spirit and the love of Christ with our community and world because, “we are centered in Christ and powered by love.” Share that.

Love, Frank

Daytimers: Come join us on Wednesday, April 3 at 12 Noon for a covered dish luncheon in Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be Brad Stephens, talking about the Salem Public Library.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to date is \$2,554 towards our goal of \$3,500.

Your Session at Work

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio meeting on March 21, 2024 in person and hybrid:

- Adopted a new Mission Statement for the church!
- Began collectively reading “Canoeing the Mountains” by Tod Bolsinger – a book about Christian leadership in uncharted territory.
- Set the next Soup to Go for April 13.
- Voted to donate Soup Luncheon monies to the Banquet of Salem.
- Was reminded of Earth Day being celebrated on May 5.
- Approved Denise’s Big Backyard for July 10, 17, 24, 31, and August 7.
- Approved 6 building requests for use of the church.
- Approved an Eagle Scout project making improvements to the church’s flagpole area.
- Set a Congregational Meeting for April 7 after worship to elect an Elder for the Class of 2026.
- Heard an update of the Pastor Search Committee continuing interviews.
- Approved development of a Presbyterian Preschool Website.
- Learned of the success of the Preschool’s fundraiser with Kast Iron Sodaworks.
- Learned that the girls are working on their Scouting Welding Merit badge.
- Learned the Scouts are practicing lashing in preparation for the April Spring Camporee.
- Set the next Moderators’ Meeting for Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 6:00 via Zoom.
- Offered Joys and Concerns for our church family.

ANNUAL CHURCH GARAGE SALE

Saturday, April 27, 2024 (7 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

“Early Bird” for church members (Friday, April 26, 1-3 p.m.)

SPRING CLEANING??? Don’t forget to save 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.

March

- 27 / Weds 6:15 Carillon Ringers (S)
7:00 Haviland Choir (S)
- 28 / Thur **7:30 Maundy Thursday Service and Tenebrae**
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- 29 / Fri 9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours
12:15 Good Friday Service (S)
- 31 / *Easter Sunday* 9:00 Church School for Grades 6-12 (209)
9:00 Church School for Adults (L)
10:00 Coffee Hour
10:30 Service of Worship – *Communion*

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.

April

Happy Birthday! – Gail Tetlow (1), Ruth Chaffee (3), George Bell (5), Melvin Wilms (5), Lois Dunn (6), Fred Denton (6), Genevieve Benson (11), Nancy Crum (13), Ruthann Lipp (18), Steve Navoyosky (25)

- 1 / Mon 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)
7:00 Board of Deacons (L)
- 2 / Tues 1:00-9:00 United Quilt Guild (FH)
- 3 / Weds 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)
12:00 Daytimers (FH) – Brad Stephens, Salem Public Library
6:00 Moderators Meeting via Zoom
6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)
7:00 Haviland Choir (S)
- 4 / Thurs **6:00 Christian Education (L) / Mission I and S (P)**
7:00 Devotions (S)
7:15 Property and Maintenance (L) / Worship, Music, and the Arts (P)
- 7 / Sun 9:00 Church School for Grades 6-12 (209)
9:00 Church School for Adults (L)
10:00 Coffee Hour
10:30 Service of Worship
11:30 Congregational Meeting to elect additional Elder, Class of 2026 (S)
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)
- 8 / Mon 10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)
6:00 Scouts Troop 3 (SR) and 2003G (209)
7:00 Congregational Care (L)
- 9 / Tues **8:30 am Investment Committee via Zoom**
- 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)**