

First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

September 17, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Worship will be live streamed on
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio,
You Tube: [www.youtube / FPCSALEM](https://www.youtube.com/FPCSALEM); and
our website, www.fpcsaalem.org.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Rigaudon

Andre Campra

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

Robert Lau

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take a moment to sign and pass the Attendance Pad.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 103:1-4*)

"Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,

And forget not all his benefits –

Who forgives all your iniquities,

Who heals all your diseases,

Who redeems your life from the Pit,

Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy..."

Let us worship God.

*HYMN 324

Open My Eyes That I May See

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Almighty God, the Three-in-One, besides Whom there is no other god: You are the Judge of all nations, races, tribes, clans, and persons. We confess that we have sought to grab authority away from You. We ignore Your commands, while demanding obedience to our own. We have treated others unkindly; we have failed to do justice; we have acted without compassion. God of all mercy, though we do not deserve Your care, forgive us for Your own name's sake. By the power of the Spirit, change us into the people You desire as disciples of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray in his name. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

***THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (*Unison*)

You reveal Your justice and mercy in Your Instruction, incarnate in the Son, Jesus Christ. By the Holy Spirit, enlighten us by the Word rightly read, preached, and heard. Empower us to do Your will through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

THE SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

The Haviland Choir

We're Gonna Worship Christ the King

Pepper Choplin

Mike Newman, Soloist

Lorenz Publishing Company, CCL#2595933

We're gonna worship Christ, the King.
We're gonna worship Christ, the King.
We're gonna worship Christ, the King,
and crown Him Lord of everything.

We're gonna worship Christ, the King.
We're gonna worship Christ, the King.
Now we're gonna worship Christ, the King,
and crown Him Lord of ev'rything.

Lift up your everlasting doors.
Lift up your heads and say, "Amen!"
The King of glory will come in.

Now bring all your off'rings to the King,
Bring all your off'rings to the King.
Bring all your off'rings to the King
and pray He will bless the gifts we bring.

Lift up your heads, O you gates!
Lift up your everlasting doors.
Lift up your heads and say, "Amen!"
The King of glory will come in.
The King of glory will come in.

And then we'll rise up and praise Christ, the King,
rise up and praise Christ, the King,
Rise up and praise Christ, the King,
and crown Him Lord of everything.
Crown Him Lord of everything.
We're gonna crown Him Lord, Lord of all,
crown Him Lord of all!

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven

times?”²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

This is the Gospel of the LORD!

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

“Measures of Grace”

Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 429 (vss. 1, 2, 4, 5) *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**God created human beings with a need for community
and with freedom to enter into it
by responding to their Maker with grateful obedience
and to one another with love and helpfulness.**

**We believe that we have been created
to relate to God and to each other
in freedom and responsibility.**

**Since every human being is made
for communion with God and others,
we must treat no one with contempt.**

**We are to respect and love all other people
and ourselves as well.**

(from "A Declaration of Faith," 1977)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Peace and Global Witness Offering

Mark Smith

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Jane Holstein

*Peace and Global Witness Offering envelopes
are in the Pew Racks and at Sanctuary entrances.*

*RESPONSE HYMN 592 (*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**You alone are the giver, sustainer and redeemer of life, O God.
We gratefully proclaim Your generous care. We dedicate these
offerings to the ministry of the body of Christ in the world, and
to the glory of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION / LORD'S PRAYER (*sins*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy
kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we**

forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE ENTER THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 369

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Unison; 2162 Sing the Faith*) *Grace Alone*

Every promise we can make,
every prayer and step of faith,
every difference we will make
is only by his grace.

Every mountain we will climb,
every ray of hope we shine,
every blessing left behind
is only by his grace.

Grace alone which God supplies,
strength unknown he will provide.

Christ in us our Cornerstone;
we will go forth in grace alone.

*POSTLUDE

Toccata

Theodore Dubois

*Please stand if you are able.

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Software Edition, © 1993, 1995 Westminster John Knox Press.

Questions for thought:

Of what do you need Christ's forgiveness?

Whom do you need to forgive?

Liturgist: Tegan Jackson

Bulletins: Given by Bob and Sue Merry for the Love of Family. Open Dates for Bulletins are November 19, 26, December 3, 24. The cost is \$15.00 a Sunday.

Flowers: Given by Nancy McNeal remembering Marshall Price Bailey, a marvelous teacher, and Boyd and Ethel Helm for the support for our music program and wonderful piano. Open Dates are November 19 (2 vases), December 3 (1 vase). The cost is \$10.00 a vase.

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. Envelopes are in the Pew Racks and at Sanctuary entrances. To date we have received \$572 towards our goal of \$3200. A Veterans outreach agency, 'Save 22', will receive 25% share of this offering.

A New Member Class will be held next Sunday, September 24 at 9:15 a.m. in the Library. Please let the Church Office know if you are interested in learning more about what it means to unite with First Presbyterian Church.

Tai Chi Class is held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall led by Rev. Frank Lewis. The class is free and open to everyone of all ages. Movements are slow and gentle, promoting balance, stability, stress reduction, mental focus, flexibility, inner strength, and overall wellness. Come join us!

Please check the table in Fellowship Hall for any items you may have left at the church.

Volunteers for Coffee Hour:

For the past few years, members of the Session Committees, Deacons, and Choir, have been responsible for assuming the responsibilities of Coffee Hour for a month of Sundays. Recently, some church members, not active in any of these groups, have shown an interest in helping with Coffee Hours. If you are one of these generous people, here is our plan. Church committees and groups will continue to plan for a month of Sundays, but the third Sunday of

each month will be open for our new volunteers. If you are interested in helping with Coffee Hour one of those third Sundays, please sign your name on the Coffee Hour form that will be on a clip board on the small table in the Fellowship Hall. Committee members for each month will be available to assist new volunteers until they become more comfortable with the “Coffee Hour routine”.

Preschool Enrolling for 2023-2024 School Year: The five day a week program combines the very best elements of a Preschool from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., and Childcare for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children from 12-4:30 p.m. We work with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to help families who are working or in school pay for childcare. Call 330-332-8620 to enroll your child.

The First Presbyterian Preschool needs some supplies for the beginning of school: Paper Towels, Clorox Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Facial Tissues, Play Dough, Fruit and Vegetable Cups, Granola and Cereal Bars. The Preschool will appreciate it very much if anyone can donate any of these items.

Preschool Fundraiser – Heggy’s Candy

Chocolate Covered Oreos, Milk and Dark Chocolate Buckeyes, Milk and Dark Chocolate Cashews, Milk and Dark Chocolate Pecans. Completed forms and cash/checks must be turned in by October 4. Forms are in Fellowship Hall today or call the Preschool, 330-332-8620, or the Church Office, 330-337-9555. Orders will be delivered on Wednesday, October 18.

SOCK-TOBER:

The Congregational Care Committee is asking church members to bring socks to church during the Sundays in October. Any kind of socks are welcome. Baskets for your donations will be at Sanctuary entrances each Sunday during October.

Information about Recycling: Recently, there have been changes in how recyclables are accepted at the recycling center in Salem behind the Police station. There, they must be sorted and placed into the appropriately marked bins. We checked with CCH Recycling Group concerning the recycling bin in our church parking lot. They informed us that our recycling bin will continue to be a mixed bin. You do not need to sort what you put into our bin. So, continue to bring your recyclables to our bin but please, remember to empty your plastic bags of recyclables and take the plastic bag with you.

Sunday, September 17

6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, September 18

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 Scout Troop 3 (Basement) / Scout Troop 2003G (209)

Wednesday, September 20

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

6:15 Carillon Ringers Rehearsal (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, September 21

7:00 Regular Session Meeting (Library and Hybrid)

Sunday, September 24

9:15 New Member Class (Library)

9:15 Adult Church School Class (Parlor)

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship

6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, September 25

10:00 Tai Chi Class (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 Scout Troop 3 (Basement) / Scout Troop 2003G (209)

Temporary Pastoral Leadership Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis, 304-266-8154

Rev. Trina Lewis, 304-266-8214

Temporary Head of Staff & Administrator.... Alice Jackson, 330-257-8798

Clerk of Session Alice Jackson, awilson14@neo.rr.com

Director of Music John Krauss, wjohnkrauss@gmail.com

Organist.....Nancy McNeal

Director, Handbells/Youth Choirs Cheryl McDevitt, chermcd@aol.com

Administrative Secretary..... Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsalem.org

Financial Assistant.....Mary Banar, office@fpcsalem.org

Custodian Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net