

First Presbyterian Church  
436 East Second Street  
Salem OH 44460-2816

Volume 91, Issue 1  
January 2, 2024

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

## THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

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January 7

Baptism of the Lord

*The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-5  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11



Sermon: "Why??!!!"

Liturgist: Rev. Trina Lewis

Music: Haviland Choir

January 14

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 3:1-10  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

Sermon: "Connecting with God"

Liturgist: Sharon Bortz

Music: Haviland Choir

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"To sing is to pray twice" is often attributed to St. Augustine, but no one really knows for sure. It may have been various other people, including Martin Luther.

One thing is certain – our purpose here on Earth is to praise and honor God all of our days. He hears our prayers and expressions of gratitude through the vehicle of music.

The Psalms were written with the intention of them being sung and there are over 50 direct commands for us to sing. Singing is mentioned over 400 times in the Bible, not to mention many references to harps, drums, and timbrels.

There is never an admonition regarding singing too loudly (or badly), even in public!

My hope for the New Year is for all of us to make more joyful noise in 2024, through singing, playing, and listening to music.

Happy New Year and love,  
*Ruling Elder Jan Cox*

## CHURCH INFORMATION:

### Temporary Pastoral Leadership:

Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis, 304-266-8154; [dad.lewis@gmail.com](mailto:dad.lewis@gmail.com)

Rev. Trina Lewis, 304-266-8214

**Church Office:** 330.337.9555 / [phyllis@fpcsaalem.org](mailto:phyllis@fpcsaalem.org)

**Website:** [www.fpcsaalem.org](http://www.fpcsaalem.org) / **Facebook:** First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

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



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## Thank You Notes:

The total amount collected from the Blessings Jars was \$830.90 for the Salem Community Pantry!!!! Thank you for your many, many blessings! ~ Carol Ricciardi, Moderator of Congregational Care Committee

A big “Thank You” to the Moravian Star team of Lois Dunn, Barb Fennema, Chery McDevitt, and Barbara Yonker who have mastered the skill of folding and making these beautiful stars that for the third year, were shared with our congregation. To add the finishing touches, a group of us met to add ribbons, dip the stars in wax, and sprinkle them with glitter. Thanks to Sandy Quinn, Sandy Herman, Cheryl McDevitt, Barbara Yonker, and Grace Seefeldt for helping with this. In all, we were able to make 125 beautiful Moravian Stars this Christmas to share with our church family as a reminder of Jesus, the Light of the World.

- ✓ **Annual Reports for 2023** are due in the Church Office this Friday, January 5, 2024. Reports will be distributed on Sunday, January 28 in time for the Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting on Sunday, February 4.
- ✓ **Bulletin Donors** are needed for 2024. Standing Orders have been placed on the calendar. Open dates are January 21, 28, February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 17, 24, April 28. Cost is \$15 a Sunday.
- ✓ **Chancel Flower Donors** are needed for 2024. Standing Orders have been placed on the calendar. Open dates are January 7 (1 vase), January 14 (1 vase), January 21 (1 vase), January 28 (1 vase), February 11 (1 vase), February 18 (1 vase), March 10 (1 vase), March 17 (2 vases), April 28 (1 vase). Cost is \$10 a vase.
- ✓ **Per Capita Apportionment for 2024** is \$32.50 for each Active Member, paid to General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery. Per Capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit’s leading for the future. It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better elders and ministers. It is how Presbyterians discern God’s call in their lives. The Per Capita Apportionment due for the year 2024 for First Presbyterian Church of Salem is based upon reported active membership at the end of the year 2022.

## Your Session at Work:

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

- Heard there will be an Officer Retreat/Training on January 6.
- Approved the Installation and Ordination of the newly elected officers on January 14, 2024, following examination and approval by session.
- Approved holding the Annual Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, February 4, 2024.
- Heard Boundary Training for officers will be held in February or March.
- Approved the youth of the church participating with the Youth Group of the Canfield Presbyterian Church for a few projects under the leadership of Don Wilson, of the Canfield Church.
- Heard the 2022 Session minutes were reviewed and approved by Presbytery.
- Heard the new contracts for Rev. Trinia Lewis and Rev. Dr. Frank Lewis (December 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024) were approved by Presbytery.
- Was reminded that the Youth Rummage Sale will be held in April.
- Heard there will be a Pot-luck dinner on February 7.
- Approved donating the money from the November soup luncheon to the Brightside Project.
- Discussed the need for increased giving.
- Approved Day Star Electric replacing the ceiling lights in Fellowship Hall with LED lights at a cost of \$785.00 from the Capital Permanent Fund.
- Approved West Roofing's semi-annual roof inspection at a cost of \$450.00 from the Capital Permanent Fund.
- Approved building requests.
- Approved Communion on January 7, 2024, and all Home Communions for 2024.
- Approved a resolution of thanks and appreciation for the Choir Christmas Program.
- Heard a report from the Pastor Search Committee.
- Approved the Deacons' Report.
- Approved the Preschool Report which included the notice that a grant has been received from the State of Ohio.
- Set the next Moderators' Meeting for January 3, 2024.
- Approved a resolution of thanks and appreciation to Elders Carol Ricciardi, Ryan Gillis, and Sis Winch for their many years of service on Session.
- Approved Elders Marilyn Ward and Carol Ricciardi as ex-officio members of Session.
- Approved Rev. Jim Mohr preaching on Sunday, December 31, 2023.
- Approved Judy Sicilia to sign checks and perform any other duties necessary until Alice Jackson returns.
- Offered Joys and Concerns for our church family, our community, our country, and our nation.

**Salem Community Pantry** – Mondays, 9-11 a.m.; Thursdays, 3-6 p.m. for people in 44460 zip code only.  
Drop off **Empty Egg Cartons** in collection bin at the side door of pantry, 794 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

## January

Happy Birthday! Karl Wright (4), Jan Bethel (9), Roselyn Stephens (24), Terry Rufer (28)

- 3 / Weds      12:00 Daytimers (FH)  
                  **6:00 Moderators Meeting** *via Zoom*  
                  6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)  
                  7:00 Haviland Choir (S)
- 4 / Thurs      **6:00 Christian Education Committee (L) / Mission I and S Committee (P)**  
                  **7:00 Devotions in Sanctuary**  
                  **7:15 Property and Maintenance Committee (L) / Worship, Music, Arts Committee (P)**
- 5 / Fri            Annual Reports for 2023 due in Church Office
- 6 / Sat           **9:30 Officer Retreat and Training (FH)**
- 7 / Sun           9:00 Adult Church School (L)  
                  9:00 Church School for Grades 6-12 (209)  
                  10:00 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Karl Wright (FH)  
                  10:30 Service of Worship  
                  6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)
- 8 / Mon          10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)  
                  **2:00 Congregational Care Committee (L) – Please Note Time Change**  
                  6:00 Scouts Troop 3 and 2003G (Scout Room/209)  
                  **7:00 Board of Deacons (L)**
- 9 / Tues          **8:30 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)**
- 12 / Fri          8:30 Church Office Open (Closes at 11:30)
- 14 / Sun          9:00 Adult Church School (L)  
                  9:00 Church School for Grades 6-12 (209)  
                  10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)  
                  10:30 Service of Worship – *Ordination/Installation of newly elected Deacons and Elders*  
                  3:00 Sandy Beaver Chapter of Order of Arrow Sipp-O Lodge (FH)  
                  6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)
- 15 / Mon        10:00 Tai Chi Class (FH)
- 17 / Weds       6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)  
                  7:00 Haviland Choir (S)
- 18 / Thurs      **7:00 Regular Session Meeting (L) and Hybrid**
- 20 / Sat          10:00-4:00 United Quilt Guild Workshop (FH)
- 21 / Sun          9:00 Adult Church School (L)  
                  9:00 Church School for Grades 6-12 (209)  
                  10:00 Coffee Hour (FH)  
                  10:30 Service of Worship  
                  6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Scout Room)