

First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

August 31, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



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

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Blessed Assurance (Organ)
America (Brass)

Rick Parks
arr. Stephen Bulla

*Let us silently turn our hearts, minds, and
bodies to the worship of God as the
light of Christ is brought forward.*

PRELUDE

Canzona per sonare No. 2 (Brass)

Giovanni Gabrieli

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling:

Calling for you and for me.

We come for the wonderful love He has promised:

Promised for you and for me.

Though we have sinned, God has mercy and pardon:

Pardon for you and for me.

So come home, come home:

You who are weary, come home!

*(*adapted from the lyrics of the 1880 hymn
"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling")*

*HYMN 356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We are a broken people, prone to wander from the loving leading of God. Let us bring our brokenness to God full of the hope and faith that God will heal us.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)**

**Merciful God, we confess
that we struggle with forgiveness.
It's hard to forgive.
It's hard to be forgiven.
It's hard to offer forgiveness,
and hard to ask for it.
And even offered and received,
it's hard to believe forgiveness is real.
Lord, teach us to forgive as you forgive,
not grudgingly, but out of an abundance of love
and a belief in the power of mercy
to redeem and transform the world. Amen.**

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God is full of mercy and abundant in grace. He longs to forgive us and to work within us to make us whole.
Hallelujah! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***GLORIA PATRI (*Unison; Hymn 579*)**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey

Meena Weingart, Vocal; Jan Cox, Piano

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

Father God, as your word is read and proclaimed, let us hear your words anew. Write them on our hearts and minds so we may be molded and guided by them always. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Micah 7:18-19

¹⁸ Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

God Bless America (Brass)

arr. Stephen Bulla

THE SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-2, 7-15

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things – anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! ¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Pastor Annie Parker

The Apostle's Creed: Ancient Words, Fresh Faith:

The Forgiveness of Sins

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 280

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison; Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39*)

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
and we know that in everything God works for good
with those who love him,
who are called according to his purpose.**

**We are sure that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

His Eye Is on the Sparrow (Organ)

Charles Gabriel

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**Father God, we offer to you our many gifts; gifts of time, talent
and even our treasure. Receive our gift with open hands and
bless and multiply them to build your kingdom on every corner
of your world. We pray this in Jesus' holy name, 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 467

How Great Thou Art

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Hymn 432; Song of Hope*)

May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

*Please remain standing as the Light of Christ
is carried into the world.*

POSTLUDE

My Country, 'Tis of Thee (Brass)

arr. Stephen Bulla

*Please stand if you are able.

Questions for thought:

1. Have you struggled to forgive yourself?
2. Believing God forgives us fully, how do you need to adapt your thinking about forgiveness?
3. How has God worked to defeat the brokenness and sin of the world?

Western Reserve Brass

Terry Gale, John Veneskey – Trumpets

Rob Cole – Horn

Tom Pylinski – Trombone

Benjamin Ammon – Tuba

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Barb Yonker

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given by Goldie Burrier in memory of loved ones.

Flowers have been given by Goldie Burrier in memory of loved ones; and anonymously with thanks for our wonderful schools and prayers for all our students as they learn and grow throughout this school year.

Carillon Schedule – 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. Each chime starts with 3 bells, then 1 minute later, a random hymn plays.

Daytimers – Wednesday, September 3

12 Noon in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish to share. Adam Seefeldt will speak on his recent trip to Nepal sharing maps, photos, and experiences. All are welcome! Gatherings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

The First Presbyterian Church Preschool is enrolling students for the 2025-2026 school year. The five day a week program combines the very best elements of a Preschool for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children. The Preschool staff is dedicated to maintaining a positive, nurturing environment promoting creativity, curiosity, and kindness. Our Preschool follows a Christian theme and participates in Ohio's "Step Up to Quality" system. We have an Early Childhood degreed teacher and experienced staff. Financial assistance is available through Job and Family Services for those qualifying. Children will develop skills needed for kindergarten readiness. Call 330-332-8620 for more information.

The First Presbyterian Preschool is continuing an initiative to provide financial assistance to preschool aged children whose parents may need some monetary help in attending preschool this fall. A separate church fund has been established as a means for church members, community members as well as organizations to contribute to this fund to support this project. The fund is called "Preschool Scholarship Fund". The Preschool Board is also discussing ways to support the funding through fundraisers, etc. If church members wish to help in this effort to assist parents who need some financial support to send their child to our preschool this fall, you may do so by contributing through your church contributions. Putting the words "Preschool Scholarship Fund" on your check would indicate that you are supporting this fund. Money in church envelopes could also be designated on the envelope with the words "Preschool Scholarship Fund". The Preschool Board thanks you in advance for your consideration in supporting this important preschool scholarship initiative. If you have any questions concerning this initiative, contact any member of the Preschool Board – Ashley Davidson, Chelsey Hovanic, Alice Jackson, Jean McCool, Wanda Navoyosky, Ruth Newman, Carol Ricciardi, Pastor Annie Parker, Cara Stephens.

Troop 3 is seeking adult leaders and young persons ages 11-18. Qualifications are adherence to the Scout Oath and Law, a love of adventure, learning, and teamwork. Perks are a world-class team,

adventure, and learning amazing things. For more information, see Mark Smith.

Vision Statement

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

Monday, September 1 – Labor Day
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2

First Day of Presbyterian Preschool

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

1:00 United Quilt Guild (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, September 3

12:00 Daytimers (Fellowship Hall) – *Program by Adam Seefeldt*

Thursday, September 4

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 Christian Education (Library) / **Mission I and S** (Parlor)

7:00 Property (Library) / **Worship, Music, Arts** (Parlor)

Sunday, September 7

9:00 Adult Bible Study (Library)

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship – *The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper*

2: 00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, September 8

6:30 Troop 3 (Basement)

7:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

Pastor..... Rev. Annie Parker, 330-720-5884
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Clerk of Session..... Barbara Loudon, bloudon@neo.rr.com
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