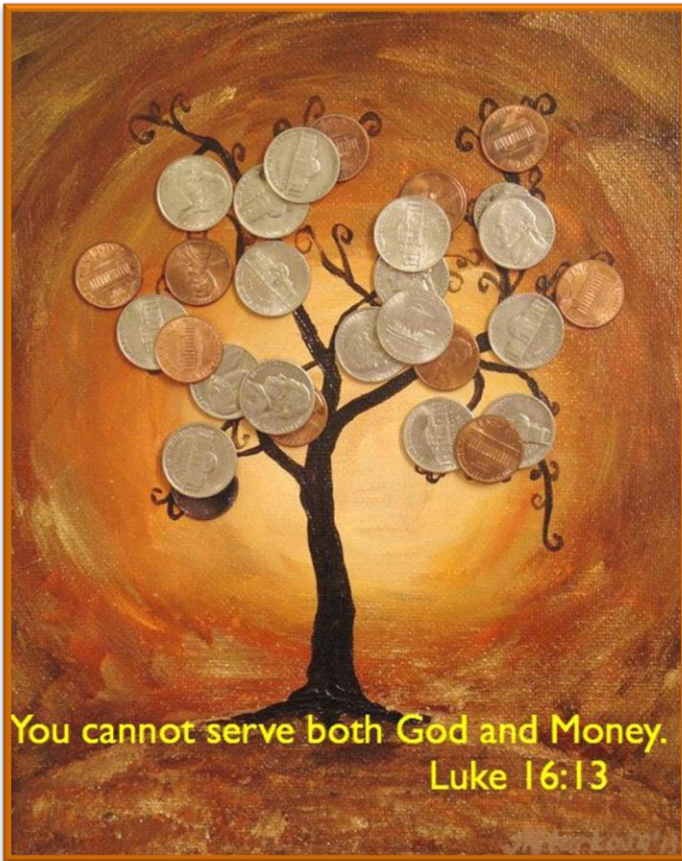


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

September 21, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Fifteenth 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

Psalm 19 (The Heavens Declare)
Sonata No. 3

Benedetto Marcello
Alexandre Guilmant

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

PRELUDE

Pastorale

G.F. Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Turn us, O God,

Away from the world's temptations and distractions.

Return us, O God,

To the quiet calm of your presence.

Restore us, O God,

To the path you call us to follow.

Orient us, O God,

To the hope of all that is possible through you.

*HYMN 384

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Let us honestly acknowledge how we have gone astray and
confess our sins to God.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**God, our refuge, you lift up the lowly and hold out hope to the
hopeless. Yet we who receive your grace so freely do not
follow your example. We are quick to judge, eager to criticize,**

slow to show mercy. We gather and keep for ourselves what was meant to be shared. We diminish and dehumanize those around us. God of us all, hear this confession. Receive it. We ask for your forgiveness. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Isaiah 43:1*)

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

*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.

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us, so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all — this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I

was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

The Haviland Choir

The Yearning

Craig Courtney

Lorenz Publishing Company, CCL#2595933

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the First-born of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 16:1-13

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to

him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

This is the Gospel of the LORD!

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

"Questionable Advice"

Pastor Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 478

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**We believe that God has entrusted the church with
the message of reconciliation
in and through Jesus Christ;
that the church is called to be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world,
that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker,
that the church is witness both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth
in which righteousness dwells.**

(from The Belhar Confession, 1986)

MOMENT FOR CELEBRATION

Lynn Zocolo

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Peace and Global Witness Offering

Adam Seefeldt

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

The Gift to Be Simple

Dale Wood

Peace and Global Witness Offering envelopes in pew racks.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**Generous God, what we place before you is but a fraction of all
you have entrusted to us. Receive these gifts, we ask, and
multiply them for your purpose. Let our offerings become a
source of blessing for the most vulnerable, for those in greatest
need. May the act of giving, rooted in generosity, loosen our
grip on what we possess, and kindle in us a deeper desire to
share. 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 422

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Hymn 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.

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

POSTLUDE

The Rejoicing

G.F. Handel

*Please stand if you are able.

*Some of Today's Liturgy comes from or is inspired by
Liturgy provided in the *Presbyterian Outlook*.

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Lynn Zocolo

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given anonymously to the Glory of God.

Flowers have been 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.

Sunday School for Youth begins next Sunday, September 28 at 9 am. We will meet for our first class in the Fellowship Hall where we will prepare soup together to donate. Also coffee will be available in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday for parents to enjoy during Sunday School.

Preschool Fundraiser – Heggy’s Confectionery

Order today and next Sunday in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour, or call the Preschool, 330-332-8620, or Church Office, 330-337-9555; Milk Chocolate Covered Oreos, Milk and Dark Chocolate Buckeyes, Milk and Dark Chocolate Cashews, Milk and Dark Chocolate Pecans, Frog Mints. Completed forms and cash/checks must be turned in by Friday, October 3.

The First Presbyterian Church Preschool continues to enroll students for the 2025-2026 school year. 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. 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.

Reminder: Church Office hours are 9 am – 3 pm Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. – 12 pm on Friday.

Daytimers – Wednesday, October 1

12 Noon in Fellowship Hall / Bring Covered Dish to Share

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.

Dear Church Family,

We are so thankful for the continued love and support you pour into our preschool ministry. It is because of your generosity, our little learners are growing in both faith and knowledge every day! As we begin this new school year, we are in need of some classroom supplies and snacks to keep our children’s hands busy, our learning space clean, and our bellies full. If you are able, we would greatly appreciate donations of:

- Tissues
- Clorox wipes
- Play-Doh
- Crayola washable markers
- Glue Sticks
- Applesauce pouches
- Fruit cups
- Goldfish crackers
- Granola bars



Every Contribution, big or small, makes a huge difference in our preschool. Thank you for blessing our children with your kindness and generosity! With Gratitude, *First Presbyterian Preschool*

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

Sunday, September 21

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, September 22

6:30 Troop 3 Scouts (Basement)

Tuesday, September 23

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, September 24

6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (Sanctuary)

Thursday, September 25

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, September 28 – Rally Day for Church School; Making Soup

9:00 Adult Bible Study (Library)

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship – Brass

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, September 29

6:30 Troop 3 Scouts (Basement)

Tuesday, September 30

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Pastor..... Rev. Annie Parker, 330-720-5884

pastorannie@fpcsalem.org

Clerk of Session.....Barbara Loudon, bloudon@neo.rr.com

Director of Music.....John Krauss, wjohnkrauss@gmail.com

Organist Nancy McNeal, 330-332-5053

Dir. Handbells/Youth ChoirsCheryl McDevitt, cheracd@aol.com

Administrative Secretary Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsalem.org

Financial Assistant Mary Banar, office@fpcsalem.org

Custodian..... Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net