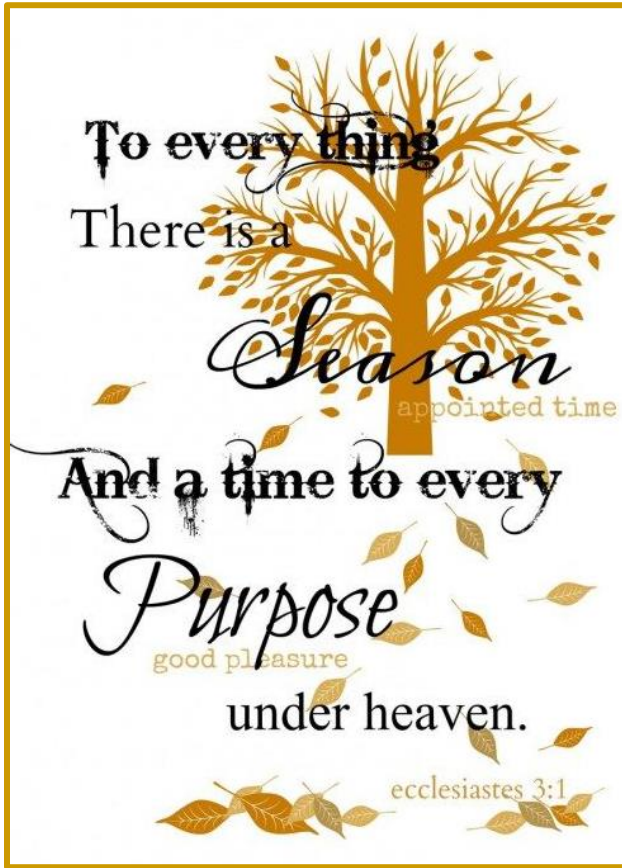


First Presbyterian Church  
Salem, Ohio

September 7, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Thirteenth 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](http://www.fpcsaalem.org).

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

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PRELUDE

*Cortège*

*Dale Wood*

*O God, Thou Faithful God*

*Sigfrid Karg-Elert, 1877-1933*

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

### PRELUDE

*Prayer*

*Jacques Lemmens*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Like clay on a wheel

**God forms us: shaping us, molding us, creating us.**

And like moldable clay,

**God continues to shape us.**

Let us worship God.

### \*HYMN 391

*Take My Life*

### \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

In the very beginning, God made us in God's own image. And yet, in the most common of human actions, we stray from God's pure intentions for us. Let us return to our Lord, acknowledging our mistakes both individually and as a community.

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Creator God, you know us better than anyone else. You formed us in your own image. And yet, we sometimes stray from the gift you've given us. We keep people at a distance, letting systemic and personal barriers get in the way of relationships.**

**Forgive us, Lord. Let us hear your call to change and do better. Empower us to ask for forgiveness from those whom we have wronged. Help us to think of you and those around us. Amen.**

*(Moments of Silent Prayer)*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, the good news is this: God is not done with us. Our Creator is still forming and shaping us, forgiving us, and allowing us to grow. Hear the Good News of the Gospel:

**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.

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

**Lord, allow our ears to be open to your Word, especially where there are questions or challenges. Allow us to be open to where you are speaking to us in our discomfort. Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

*Psalm 27:1-4, 11-14*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh — my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall.

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

<sup>4</sup>One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

<sup>12</sup> Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

<sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

This is the Word of the LORD!

**Thanks be to God!**

THE SECOND READING

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

<sup>1</sup> For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

<sup>2</sup> a time to be born and a time to die;

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

<sup>3</sup> a time to kill and a time to heal;

a time to break down and a time to build up;

<sup>4</sup> a time to weep and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn and a time to dance;

<sup>5</sup> a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

<sup>6</sup> a time to seek and a time to lose;

a time to keep and a time to throw away;

<sup>7</sup> a time to tear and a time to sew;

a time to keep silent and a time to speak;

<sup>8</sup> a time to love and a time to hate;

a time for war and a time for peace.

This is the Word of the LORD!

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*Come and See*

*The Haviland Choir*

*Martin, Barrett*

Shawnee Press, Inc., CCL#2595933

Come and see, come and see what the Lord has done,  
what the Lord has done, what the Lord has done.  
He filled the darkness with light.  
He filled the heavens by His great might.  
He filled the earth and the seas.  
He spoke and all of life came to be.

Come and see. Come and see, come and see  
what the Lord has done, what the Lord has done.  
Come and see what the Lord has done.  
God's Spirit moved upon the waters,  
through silent depths and empty heights.  
Into that endless night, God spoke and there was light.

Come and see, come and see.  
what the Lord has done, what the Lord has done.  
He filled the darkness with light.  
He filled the heavens by His great might,  
He filled the earth and the seas.  
He spoke and all of life came to be.

Come and see. Come and see, come and see  
what the Lord has done, what the Lord has done.

THE THIRD READING

*Philippians 3:17-21*

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

This is the Word of the LORD!  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*“Ordinary Time?”*

*CRE Judy Bender*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

\*HYMN 100

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**Wherever the church exists,**

**its members are both gathered in corporate life  
and dispersed in society  
for the sake of mission in the world.**

**The church *gathers* to praise God,**

**to hear God's word for humankind,  
to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper,  
to enjoy fellowship,**

**to receive instruction, strength, and comfort,  
to order and organize its own corporate life,  
to be tested, renewed and reformed,**

**and to speak and act in the world's affairs  
as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.**

**The church *disperses* to serve God**

**wherever its members are – at work or play,  
in private or in the life of society.**

**Their prayer and Bible study are part of the  
church's worship.**

**Their witness is the church's evangelism.**

**Their daily action in the world is the church in  
mission.**

**The quality of their relation with other persons is  
the measure of the church's fidelity.**

*(based on “The Confession of 1967”)*

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*The Good Shepherd*

*Dale Wood*

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**God of all goodness and grace, receive the gifts we offer; and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 339

*Be Thou My Vision*

\*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

*Recessional*

*Raymond Haan*

\*Please stand if you are able.

**Head Ushers:** Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

**Liturgist:** Ruth Newman

**Light-Bearer:** Joseph Seefeldt

**Bulletins** have been given by Chuck and Joyce Pakosta in memory of daughter, Allison Pakosta.

**Flowers** have been given by Alice Jackson in honor of Joshua Wilson's birthday, and by Chuck and Joyce Pakosta in memory of daughter, Allison Pakosta.

**We Welcome** Commissioned Ruling Elder Judy Bender to our pulpit today, Honorably Retired from Eastminster Presbytery, and former member of First Church.

**Café Justo's great Organic Coffee we serve every Sunday during Coffee Hour is for sale today in Fellowship Hall!** Cost is \$12.00 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. *The date on the bag is not the expiration date.*

**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.

**Peace and Global Witness** offering envelopes are in the Pew Racks today. Gifts to this offering help more people experience the freedom and dignity that Christ wants for everyone. 25% of this offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our community.



## **Preschool Fundraiser – Heggy’s Confectionery**

Milk Chocolate Covered Oreos, Milk & Dark Chocolate Buckeyes, Milk & Dark Chocolate Cashews, Milk & Dark Chocolate Pecans, and Frog Mints. Order today in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour, or call the Preschool, 330-332-8620, or Church Office, 330-337-9555.

**The First Presbyterian Church Preschool started last week and 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. 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.

Sunday, September 7

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, September 8

6:30 Troop 3 Scouts (Basement)

**7:00 Board of Deacons** (Library)

Tuesday, September 9

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, September 10

7:00 Haviland Choir (Sanctuary)

**7:00 Finance and Administration** *via Zoom*

Thursday, September 11

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

**5:30 Preschool Board of Trustees** (Library)

Sunday, September 14

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 15

6:30 Troop 3 Scouts (Basement)

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

[pastorannie@fpcsalem.org](mailto:pastorannie@fpcsalem.org)

Clerk of Session.....Barbara Loudon, [bloudon@neo.rr.com](mailto:bloudon@neo.rr.com)

Director of Music.....John Krauss, [wjohnkrauss@gmail.com](mailto:wjohnkrauss@gmail.com)

Organist ..... Nancy McNeal, 330-332-5053

Dir. Handbells/Youth Choirs ..... Cheryl McDevitt, [chermcd@aol.com](mailto:chermcd@aol.com)

Administrative Secretary ..... Phyllis Garlock, [phyllis@fpcsalem.org](mailto:phyllis@fpcsalem.org)

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