

First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

November 30, 2025

10:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent



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.fpcsalem.org.

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Sheep May Safely Graze (Brass)

J.S. Bach

He Shall Feed His Flock (Organ)

G.F. Handel

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

PRELUDE

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming (Brass) *Arr. Michael Praetorius*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice! The Lord is come.

He came as a child in Bethlehem.

He comes as the hope of our hearts.

He will come again in glory.

We remember. We celebrate. We anticipate.

Rejoice! The Lord is come.

HYMN – *Watching for the Lord*

The Haviland Choir

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

The Parker Family

Ben Parker, Noelle Lathom, and Oriana Parker

*HYMN 8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

**In Advent, as we prepare for the coming of Christ,
full of grace and truth.**

**Trusting in God's unfailing grace,
let us tell the truth about ourselves,
joining in our prayers of confession.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Gracious Lord, we confess to giving up hope. You have not come back in the glory we expect — and we have developed doubt and fear over your return. We confess too that we are not entirely comfortable with the idea of your return. We would rather not deal with the change you would bring. Restore our courage and refresh our vision, that we would look not just back to the manger, but forward to your kingdom. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May the God of peace cleanse you through and through.

The promise is that our whole being—spirit, soul and body will be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rejoice, then, and give thanks as we receive forgiveness and healing in Christ's name.

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

Speak to us, Lord.

Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,
the hoping, the longing,
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.

Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Hornpipe from Water Music (Brass and Timpani) G.F. Handel

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 98

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. ² The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. ³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. ⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. ⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. ⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. ⁷ Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it. ⁸ Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy ⁹ at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

The Haviland Choir, Piano, Brass, Timpani

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Arr. Douglas Wagner

Lorenz Publishing Company, CCL#2595933

We send our thanksgiving for all that we find
of beauty on earth, in the sea or the sky;
For all that reveals, if the soul be not blind,
our world as it glows in the infinite mind.

The hope of our hearts and the work of God's hands,
have changed like the patterns of water on sand.
But we oft have sung our delight as we scanned
the splendor of God on the sea and the land.

The rose in the hedge and the plum on the tree
remember their maker who caused them to be:
They send up the joy of their color as we
this joy of our singing to God gratefully,
this joy of our singing, with praise and thanksgiving
to God gratefully. Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

This is the Gospel of the LORD!
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

“The Heart Prepares”

Rev. Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

Out of Israel

God in due time raised up Jesus.

**His faith and obedience were the response of
the perfect child of God.**

**He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.**

**He gave history its meaning and direction,
and he calls the church to be his servant
for the reconciliation of the world.**

(from "The Confession of 1967")

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

Mickey Buck

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Come to My Heart (Choir, Piano)

Arr. T. Fettke / T. Grassi

Christmas Joy Offering envelopes are at Sanctuary entrances.

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope.

And we give in hope.

Hope for your coming reign;

Hope because of your presence with us even now.

Receive these generous offerings,

and use them for your work of healing and hope in our world.

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 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Unison; "Grant us peace."*)

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

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

POSTLUDE

Organ, Brass, Timpani

Now Thank We All Our God from Cantata 79

J.S. Bach

*Please stand if you are able.

**Some of the liturgy and the sermon series from today's worship
came from or was inspired by liturgy written for Deep Well Worship.*

Instrumentalists: Terry Gale, John Veneskey – Trumpets;
Rob Cole – Horn; Jonathan Willis, Trombone;
Benjamin Ammon – Tuba; Robert Barnett – Timpani

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Barbara Yonker

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Flowers have been given by Margaret Winch in honor of Elizabeth's birthday today, and anonymously with thanks for this time of anticipation and reflection of Advent.

2026 Calendars compliments of Stark Memorial Funeral Home are available today at Sanctuary entrances.

Pledge Cards are available at Sanctuary entrances and can be placed in the offering plates.

Order Red Poinsettias today in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$10.00. Deadline to order is today.

Christmas Angel Tags: We still have a few tags left to help The Salvation Army by sponsoring children this Christmas. Tags are in Fellowship Hall with children's genders, ages, needs, and wish lists. Please sign the sheet with numbered tags listed. Please purchase 1 outfit and 1 toy from the tag and return it to Fellowship Hall or the Church Office. Do not wrap gifts, but place in garbage bag or large shopping bag with the tag affixed to the outside. Do not include gift receipt. *Please return all gifts to the church by Friday, December 12.*

Blessings Jars benefit Salem Community Pantry

Please take a jar home with you (at Sanctuary entrances) and drop your pocket change in the jar to show gratitude for your many blessings. Return the jars to church on December 21 or 24.

The Festival of Choirs – Sunday, November 30 at 3 p.m.

The Haviland Choir will be participating at the First United Methodist Church on South Broadway.

Experiencing Christmas Bible Study at 5 p.m.

Tuesdays, December 2, 9, 16, and 23 in the Library led by Pastor Annie.

HOLIDAY SPARKLE and Music at Daytimers on Wednesday, December 3 at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. At 11:30 sharp, our Preschoolers will entertain with delightful holiday songs. Potluck dishes will be served at noon. The sparkle follows when our own Jenny Wilms brings her collection of beautiful brooches and pins to show off, and also a bit of her jeans jacket collection. Jenny is an avid collector of many things. She has brought several of her collections to Daytimers before and is fun to listen to. Jenny is Trish Jackson's mother and grandmother to our Tegan and Tyson Jackson. Plan to bring some of your own favorite pins and brooches to show Jenny. Dress it up with several pins. You can't get too sparkly around Christmas.

On Saturday, December 6, The Brass Band of the Western Reserve will be performing a holiday concert in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. The free performance will include many of our holiday favorites.

Donations toward this event may be made to the Music Fund. This will be our regular BBWR on steroids for an early holiday celebration to remember.

Our Advent Music Program will be on Sunday, December 14 at the 10:30 service. This year's Cantata will feature our Haviland Choir, guest musicians and vocalists presenting "FANTASIA NOEL." Invite your friends and family to come share your pew for this event. This special Sunday service is a perfect reason to call an FPC member you haven't seen in a while and invite them to come and enjoy.

Bells, Carols, and Cookies is returning on December 21 at 6:00. Everyone is encouraged to submit titles of Christmas carols that you would like to have included in the program, not necessarily restricted to songs in the hymnal. Papers will be available at the entrances to the Sanctuary to write your requests, which can be put in Cheryl's mailbox or left in the Blessings jars baskets. Participants in the program are also needed. Our bell choir will perform and several other individuals are planning to share Christmas tunes with performances on piano, instruments, and voice. Perhaps you or a friend or family member have a Christmas song, poem or story to share. Beginners and musicians of all ages are welcome and encouraged to be included. Just let us know who is participating and the title of their piece so that programs can be created. Deadline for inclusion in the program is Wednesday, December 17. Everyone is asked to bring cookies to share afterward. Come and enjoy a relaxing, fun evening.

CHURCH ORGANIST – The Personnel Committee is accepting applications for Church Organist. It has been decided to prioritize this position to a member of our congregation first and then extend the request outside if necessary. Applications should include a letter of intent, a resume to include organ experience, and three contacts who can give reference to the applicant's experience on the organ. Applications are due by December 14, 2025, addressed to the Personnel Committee, and delivered to the Church Office.

Non-Perishable Food Drive – Scout Troop 2003G of this church is having a food drive through December 14 to benefit Salem Community

Pantry and Harvesting for Hope serving Beloit and Sebring. Items should be placed in marked boxes on the stage.

The First Presbyterian Preschool has been a cherished part of the First Presbyterian Church for over fifty years. Many church members and area residents have been students of our early childhood education program and have fond memories of their year or years they spent enjoying the Christian centered activities the staff have provided. The current staff are currently involving the congregation in some of the children's activities to demonstrate the type of Christian concepts the students are learning.

Our preschool is funded entirely by student tuition, preschool board fundraising, and donations by caring individuals who understand the need for a Christian based learning center for area young people in our community. Our preschool board truly appreciates those within our church who have seen this need and continue to provide monetary support for our preschool to continue in the years ahead.

Charitable end of the year income tax contributions can be a way to assist the First Presbyterian Preschool to continue its excellent work in providing a faith-based preschool education for our young people. If you are looking for a charity to support at the end of the calendar year, please consider the preschool. A notation on your check (Preschool Education Fund) would direct the donation to the designated account. Thank you for your support!

Vision Statement

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

Monday, December 1

6:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

6:30 Troop 3 Scouts (Basement)

Tuesday, December 2

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Congregational Care Committee making angels (FH)

5:00 Experiencing Christmas Bible Study (Library)

Wednesday, December 3

11:30 Preschool Program at Daytimers (Fellowship Hall);

followed by Lunch and program by Jenny Wilms

6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

Thursday, December 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)

Saturday, December 6

7:00 Concert: The Brass Band of the Western Reserve (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 7

9:00 Sunday School for Pre-K to 12th Grade / Adults (Library)

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

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

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

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