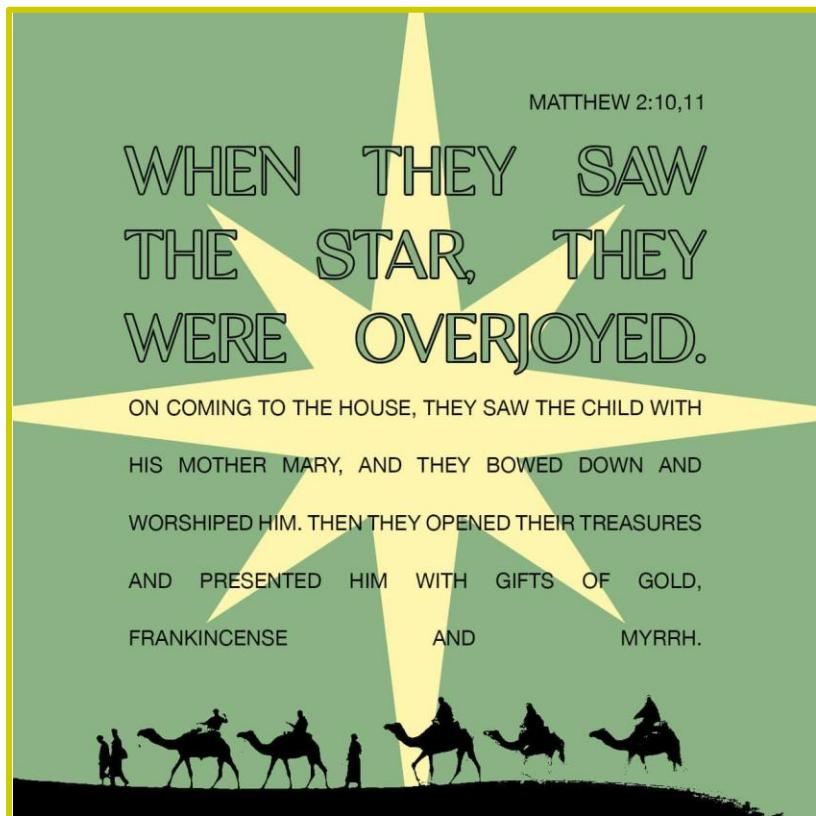


First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

December 28, 2025

10:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas



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

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Angels We Have Heard on High*

*Felix Mendelssohn
Arr. Harold DeCou*

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

PRELUDE

Chanson De Noel

P. Beaumont

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
The light has shined on the nations who live in the shadow of death.

The true light that enlightens every person is coming into the world. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

The Lord is our light and our salvation. We shall not be afraid.

*HYMN 66

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We long to walk in God's everlasting ways, but we stray and falter. Search us and know us God and lead us in your righteous paths.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Almighty and merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you**

and one another in both our actions
and our inactions.

We recognize that in Jesus our light
has come,
yet often we choose to walk in the shadows
and ignore the light.

Gracious God, forgive our sins
and remove from us the veil of darkness
which shrouds our lives.

Illumine us by your Word
so we may shine with the radiance
of Christ's glory. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, hear the promise of God: "You shall no longer be called Forsaken, but you shall be called My Delight."

In Christ, we are redeemed and restored.

Rejoice and be glad, for in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*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

**Our Lord and our God,
now as we hear your Word,
fill us with your spirit.**

**Soften our hearts that we may discern your ways.
Fill us with your light.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 19:1-6

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-15

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him

homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

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

SERMON

“A Guiding Star”

Rev. Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN SING

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**We are not alone,
we live in God’s world.**

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

(“A New Creed”, *The United Church of Canada, 1968*)

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

March of the Kings

Hughes Livingston

Christmas Joy Offering envelopes are at Sanctuary entrances.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**Generous God, we offer these gifts as a sign of our gratitude
for your steadfast love. Use them to bless others, that your
light may shine in every corner of the world. May our lives and
offerings bring glory to your name and hope to those in need.
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 53

What Child Is This

*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

In Dulci Jubilo

Wilbur Held

*Please stand if you are able.

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Mike Newman

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins for last Sunday were given by Fred and Phyllis Denton in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.

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 offering plates.

All Contributions received in the Church Office by Noon on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, will be credited to 2025 giving. Contributions received on or after Friday, January 2, 2026, will be credited to 2026 giving. The only exceptions are contributions mailed to the church and postmarked on or before December 31, 2025.

Annual Reports for 2025 are due in the Church Office by Thursday, January 15, 2026. Reports will be distributed on February 1 before the Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting on February 8.

2026 Flower and Bulletin Donors are needed. Vases are \$10 each and Bulletins are \$15 a Sunday. Please call the Church Office if you have a standing flower and/or bulletin order and wish to continue in 2026.

Per Capita Apportionment for 2026 is \$35.00 for each Active Member, an assessment paid to General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery.

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.*

Wednesday, December 31

9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours

Thursday, January 1, 2026 – Happy New Year!

Church Office Closed

Friday, January 2

9:00-12:00 Church Office Hours

Sunday, January 4

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

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship – *Ordination and Installation of Officers*

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, January 5

6:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

6:30 Troop 3 Scouts (Basement)

Tuesday, January 6

8:30 a.m. Investment Committee *via Zoom*

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

1:00-9:00 United Quilt Guild (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

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

Interim Organist Jan Cox, Jansalem1@yahoo.com

Audio/Video Tylor Bricker, Bob and Susan Merry

Administrative Secretary Phyllis Garlock, phyllis@fpcsalem.org

Financial Assistant Mary Banar, office@fpcsalem.org

Custodian Ed Tonkinson, mtonkinson@sbcglobal.net