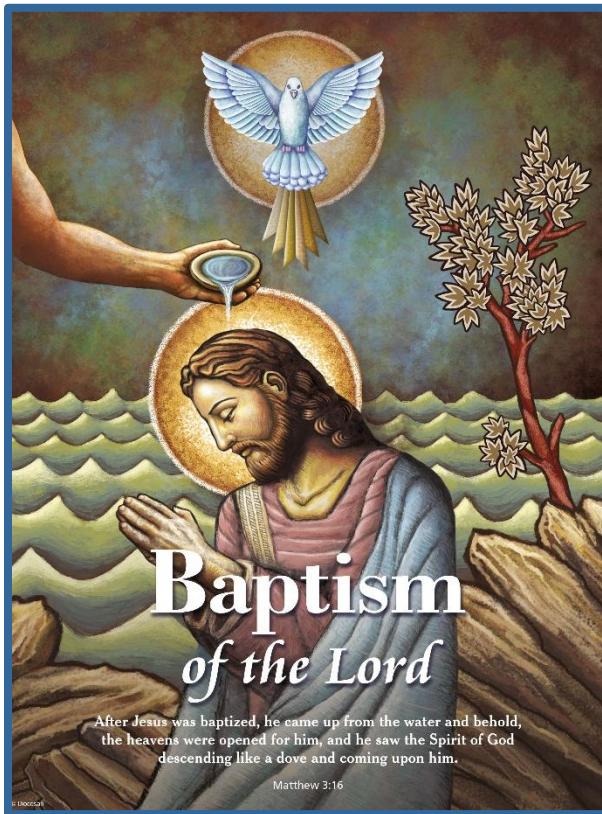


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

January 11, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord



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

“We are centered in Christ and powered by love.”

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

*Like a River Glorious
Faith*

*James Moun tain
Felix Mendelssohn*

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

PRELUDE

More Love to Thee

David H. Hegarty

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we celebrate a special baptism;
the baptism of Jesus of Nazareth.

God says:

Look! See my chosen servant,
the One in whom I utterly delight;
**I have placed my Spirit on him,
he will bring true justice to the nations.**

When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up,
and Spirit came down like a dove;
and there was a voice from heaven saying:
**“This is my dearly loved Son,
with whom I am delighted.”**

The joy of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

***INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

Even as we enter into the presence of God, we exclaim with Isaiah: “Woe is me, I am a person of unclean ways, dwelling among a tainted people.” If we claim we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Trusting in the steadfast love of God in Christ Jesus the Lord, let us pray,

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

Father God, in baptism you joined us to Christ in his death that we might be raised with Christ in new life; but we cherish old ways and fail to embrace the risen life of righteousness, justice, and love. In baptism you united us with all the baptized who confess your name; but we foster division in the church. We refuse to live as one people, and so fail to witness to your reconciling love before the world. In baptism you gave us the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us, but we rely on ourselves and refuse to trust your direction. Lord, have mercy on us. Remember the promises you made to us in baptism, forgive our sinful ways and heal our brokenness. Set us free from all that enslaves us, and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ, that we may be your faithful servants, showing forth your healing love to the world, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ lives in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is of the New Creation. The old life is finished, gone. Behold, new life has begun. Brothers and Sisters, believe the good news: **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

Creator Spirit, who hovered over the waters at creation's birth, who descended in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism, who was poured out under the signs of fire and wind at Pentecost: Come to us, open our hearts and minds, so that we may hear the Word of life and be renewed by your power, for you live and reign with God and Christ now and forevermore. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Come to the Water

The Haviland Choir

arr. by Jack Schrader

Hope Publishing Co., CCL#2595933

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.

And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
without money, without price.

Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord, the Lord?

And let all who seek, let them come to the water.

And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord:
without money, without strife.

Why should you spend your life, except for the Lord, the Lord?

And let all who toil, let them come to the water.

And let all who are weary, let them come to the Lord:
all who labor, who labor without rest.

How can your soul find rest, except for the Lord, except for the
Lord, the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water.

Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:
bring the children without might.

Easy the load and light: Come to the Lord, the Lord.
Come to the water; come to the Lord.

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw

God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

"The Beloved"

Rev. Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM LITANY (*responsively*)

Lord and life-giving Spirit, who charged the waters with life when first the world began:

Make us dead to sin, but alive to you.

Saving Lord, who sheltered us with Noah in the ark upon the flood:

Drown our sin and raise us to new life.

Giver of freedom, who led your people out of slavery through the waters that did not overwhelm:

Drown our sin and raise us to new life.

O God, our provider, who gives thirsty people water from a rock:

Make us dead to sin, but alive to you.

Holy Lord, who gives water to purify what is unclean:

Drown our sin and raise us to new life.

Brooding Spirit, who anointed Jesus with your power of life no death could conquer:

Make us dead to sin, but alive to you.

Risen Lord Jesus Christ, who poured yourself out as a drink offering on our behalf, filling us with your Spirit:

Make us dead to sin, but alive to you.

Spirit of the Living God, who charges the waters of baptism with resurrection power so we might live as part of God's New Creation:

Drown our sin and raise us to new life.

Drench us once more in your life-giving Spirit, Almighty God, that we might be cleansed, sustained, and anointed with your power as we proclaim with boldness and live with joy the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to whom be all honor and dominion and glory now and forevermore. Amen.

PRAYER

Spirit of the Living God, hover once more over us as you did at creation, energizing us with your life, that as we remember our baptism in Christ, we may be an open conduit of your Holy Spirit flooding all of creation with blessings of your abundant, redeemed life. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus, the living water, to your glory we pray. Amen.

*You are invited to take a stone from the baptismal font
to remember your baptism and the promises made
God makes to you in baptism.*

*HYMN 499

Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison; The Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Tom Burchwood

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

O Lord, we give you thanks with all we are for all you have done for us. In your divinity you have come to dwell with us in the muddy waters of humanity, and comingled your glory with our sin so that the ribbon of corrupting time is becoming a sparkling River of Life flowing through our days. Take all we are, Lord, and use it for your purpose. Bless the gifts we give this day that the church might stand as shining witnesses to your glory, planted by your living water to bring healing to all peoples. Use us as you will to the praise of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

GOD'S WORD IS SEALED

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*All who seek the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ
are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, *including PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION /* THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sins*)

The Lord be with you. / **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. / **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise...

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again...

Until that day, we lift our prayer to you,
using the words recited by all generations, saying:

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.

BREAKING OF BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

The bread and the cup will be received by coming forward and given a piece of bread, taking the cup, and returning the cup to a tray. If you cannot come forward, you will be served in the pew.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*Unison*)

You are a good God who creates, gives birth, redeems, feeds, and encourages us to grow. Thank you for your many blessings to us. May those blessings now flow out to others in your name, we pray. Amen.

WE ENTER THE WORLD AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN 492**

Baptized in Water

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Now, remember your baptism as you go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that Christ has commanded you.

May God's Spirit flow through us to bless the world.

And remember that God's promise goes before you. For thus says the Lord, "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Unison; Hymn 2130, The Summons*)**

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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

POSTLUDE

Allegro

George Frederick Handel

*Please stand if you are able.

**Some of today's liturgy came from or was inspired
by the PCUSA's Office of Theology and Worship.*

Star Cards are in a basket if you missed getting a random card last Sunday.

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Kara Craig

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given anonymously for the Blessings of God. Please call the Church Office if you have a standing bulletin order and wish to continue in 2026. *Open Dates for Bulletins* – February 8, 15, 22, March 1, 15, 22, 29.

Flowers have been given by Tom Mercer in memory of his wife, Marilyn. Please call the Church Office if you have a standing flower order and wish to continue in 2026. *Open Dates for Flowers* are February 15 (1 vase), 22 (2 vases), March 15 (2 vases), 22 (2 vases). Cost is \$10.00 a vase.

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

Vision Statement

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

Sunday, January 11

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, January 12

6:30 Troop 3 Scouts (Basement)

7:00 Congregational Care (Library)

Tuesday, January 13

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, January 14

6:15 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

7:00 Finance and Administration via Zoom

Thursday, January 15 – Annual Reports due

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, January 18

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

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:00 Service of Worship

Tuesday, January 20

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

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