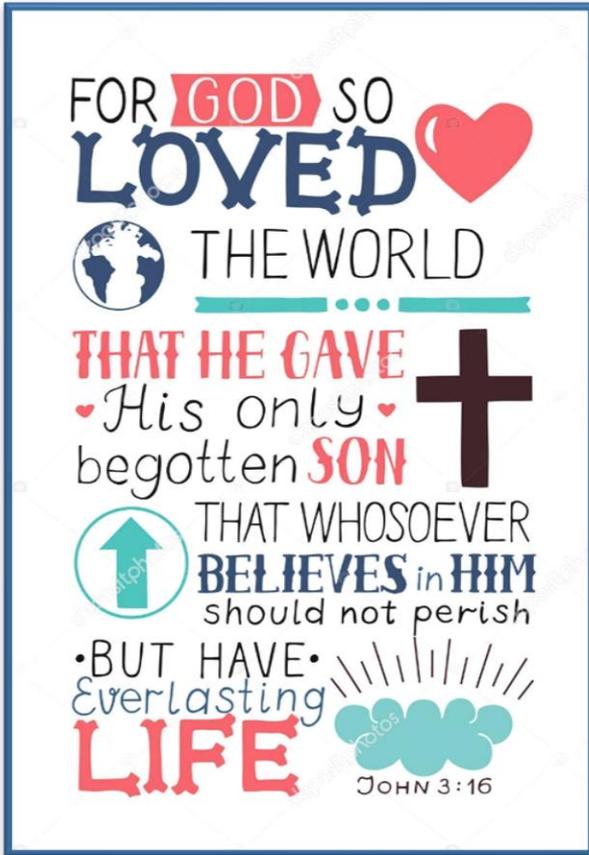


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

March 1, 2026

10:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday in Lent



Worship will be live streamed on
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio,
You Tube: 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

*Please stand if you are able.

PRELUDE

Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed
A Lenten Prelude

Arr. Robert J. Hughes
Giovanni Pergolesi

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

PRELUDE

Now Peace Abides

David Hegarty

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

I lift up my eyes to the hills –

From where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

Let us gather in worship for the Lord,

The creator, sustainer and redeemer!

*HYMN 77

Forty Days and Forty Nights

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We need God's help. Therefore, let us approach God's throne of grace and honestly confess all that keeps us from a right relationship with God and our neighbor.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Gracious God, as we wander through the wilderness this Lent, we are aware of our need for your presence, your love, your guidance on life's journey. Forgive us for turning away from

you. Forgive our doubt and uncertainty that led us to place our faith in worldly comforts that don't run deep enough and don't last. We come to your well this Lent desperate and thirsty for Christ's living water. Quench our thirst, we pray. Grant us your forgiveness and your grace. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” Know that you are forgiven in Jesus Christ and be at peace.

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*)

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving Word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts – a spring of hope for a thirsty world. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Draw Me Nearer

The Haviland Choir

Arr. Jack Schrader

Hope Publishing Company, CCL#2595933

Draw me nearer, O nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where thou hast died.

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice,
And it told thy love to me.
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to thee.

Draw me near, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where thou hast died,
draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to thy precious, bleeding side.

There are depths of love that I cannot know
till I cross the narrow sea.
There are heights of joy that I may not reach,
till I rest in peace with thee.

Draw me near, nearer, blessed Lord,
to the cross where thou hast died,
draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
to thy precious, bleeding side.
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, nearer, dear Lord,
nearer, dear Lord.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can

see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Hush Hush”

Rev. Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 357

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Unison*)

**God chose one people for the sake of all.
To the world in its rebellion and sin
God promised blessing and restoration.
The Lord chose Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants
as bearers of that promise for all peoples.
They had done nothing more than others
to deserve the Lord's favor,
but God loved them and made them God's own.
We acknowledge God's freedom and grace.
Though we are unworthy,
we are God's own people in Christ.
God has chosen us as servants for the sake of the world,
and destined us to be God's daughters and sons,
giving us love and life,
calling us to worship and honor God.**

(from "A Declaration of Faith," 1977)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

One Great Hour of Sharing

Mark Smith

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

The Wanderer

Herman Beefink

Cheryl McDevitt, Flute; Jan Cox, Piano

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*Unison*)

God of grace, you provide for all our needs. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the despairing, and the destitute. 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 485

To God Be the Glory

*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

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross *Arr. Albin C. Whitworth*

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Mike Newman

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given anonymously to honor St. David who said, "Do the little things."

Flowers have been given by Steve and Kathy Stewart in loving memory of Kathy's parents, Rex and Dorie Mitchell and her sister, Karen Wilson.

Order Easter Plants Today in Fellowship Hall

Daffodils, Lilies, and Tulips are \$11.00 each. Tulip color choices are Orange, Purple, and Red. You can also order by calling the Church Office at 330-337-9555, or e-mailing phyllis@fpcsaalem.org. Orders will also be taken on Sundays, March 8 and 15.

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. Cooperative members own the entire business from 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.

2026 Church Membership Directory (no pictures) will be available soon. To enhance communications, please let the Church Office know if you no longer have a landline phone and are using a cell phone number: 330-337-9555 or e-mail phyllis@fpcsaalem.org.

Lent Study continues Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

The class meets in the Library through March 31 and is led by Pastor Annie, discussing the book, "An Unexpected Lent".

Daytimers – Wednesday, March 4

Frank and Trina Lewis will be guest speakers sharing their travels to England, Scotland, and Wales. Frank calls their talk "*Country Mice Visit Western Great Britain.*" The monthly potluck begins at Noon. No time to make a dish? Come anyway. There is always plenty of food!

Soup Lunch – Sunday, March 15

Bring your favorite soup to share. Sponsored by the Congregational Care Committee.

Lent and Easter

at First Presbyterian Church of Salem



Sermon Series
Heart to Heart Talks

Bible Study
An Unexpected Lent
Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Library
through March 31

Maundy Thursday Worship
April 2 at 7:30 p.m.
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Service of Tenebrae

Easter Worship
April 5
Sunrise Service at 8:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship at 10:30 a.m.

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

Monday, March 1

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, March 2

1:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

6:30 2003 Family Troop (Basement)

Tuesday, March 3

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 Bible Study, *An Unexpected Lent* (Library)

Wednesday, March 4

12:00 Daytimers (Fellowship Hall) – *Program: Frank and Trina Lewis*

6:00 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

Thursday, March 5

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, March 7

Turn Clocks Ahead One Hour

Sunday, March 8

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

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:00 Service of Worship – *Communion*

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, cheracd@aol.com

Organist Jan Cox, Jansalem1@yahoo.com

Audio/Video Tylor Bricker, Bob and Susan Merry

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