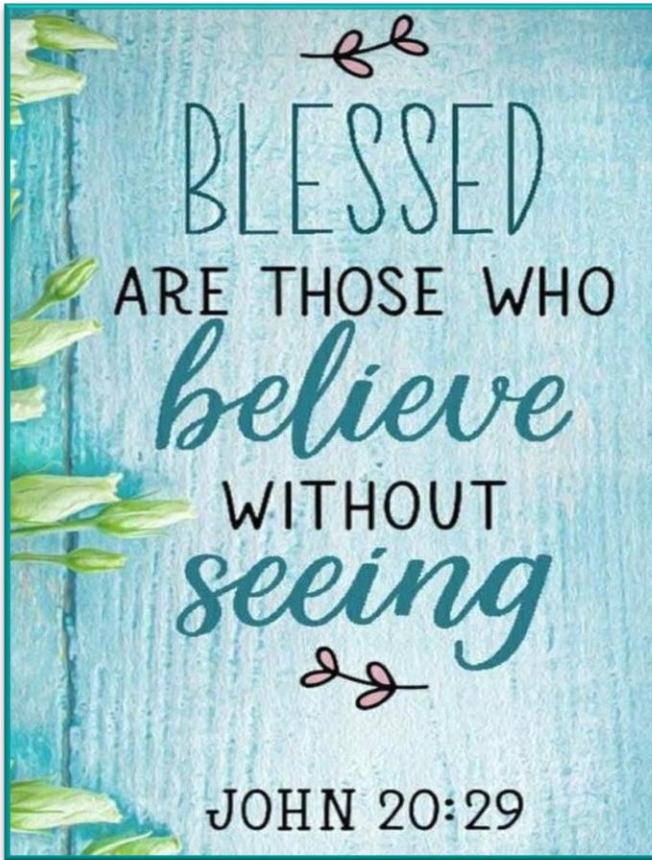


First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

April 12, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter



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

*Children of the Heavenly Father
God So Loved the World*

*Arr. Don Hustad
John Stainer*

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

PRELUDE

Prelude on Cwm Rhondda

John Hughes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The joy of the resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ is with us.

We rejoice in the blessing God has poured into our lives.

Even though we hear words of doubt, we are called to believe.

**Even though the world would draw us back again into
darkness, we focus on the Light.**

Thanks be to Christ who gives us the victory.

Alleluia! Amen.

*HYMN 106

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let us confess our sin before God and one another, trusting in God's gracious promise of forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Eternal God, your Word teaches us that whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. Forgive us for forgetting your gracious promise of life. We live in fear, thinking death has the final say. We follow our own ways rather than your life-giving path in Jesus Christ. Help us put our trust in you, our God who has the power of life over death. We believe, Lord; help our unbelief. In the name of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead never to die again, we pray. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The psalmist says,

**“I am sure I shall see the goodness of our God
in the land of the living.**

Wait for the Lord;

be strong,

and let your heart take courage;

wait for the Lord!”

Know that you do not wait alone.

**God has given us one another for this journey of faith,
to help one another.**

Know that you do not wait alone;

Christ is with us.

Be encouraged and encourage one another.

We will go and share the Good News. 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*)

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Acts 2:22-32

²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know — ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³² “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Never a Step Will You Walk Alone

The Haviland Choir

Pepper Choplin

Lorenz Publishing Company, CCL#2595933

Faith will lead down a road less traveled.
Faith will lead down a road unknown.
But though you travel on a way uncharted,
never a step will you walk alone.

Faith will lead down a road less traveled.
Faith will lead down a road unknown.
But though you travel on a way uncharted,
never a step will you walk alone.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
Don't lean on your own understanding.
In all of your ways, acknowledge Him
and He will direct your paths.
He will direct your paths.

Faith may lead down a road that's lonely.
Faith may lead down a road of your own.
But though you travel on a way uncharted,
never a step will you walk alone.

Don't turn back when the road is dark.
Don't you turn back when the wind is strong
Just take one step and then another
and through your faith you'll press on.
Through your faith, you'll press on.

Faith will lead down a road less traveled.
Faith will lead down a road unknown.
But though you travel on a way uncharted,
never a step will you walk alone.

Never a step, never a step,
O never a step will you walk alone.
Every single step you will walk with the Lord.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin^[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the LORD.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Do Not Doubt, But Believe"

Rev. Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**We believe and teach
that the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
in his true flesh in which he was crucified and died,
rose again from the dead,
and that not another flesh was raised other than the one
buried,
or that a spirit was taken up instead of the flesh,
but that he retained his true body.
Therefore, while his disciples thought they saw the spirit of
the Lord,
he showed them his hands and feet
which were marked by the prints of the nails and wounds,
and added: "See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself;
handle me, and see,
for a spirit has not flesh and bones
as you see that I have." (Luke 24:39)**

(from the Second Helvetic Confession, 1561)*

MOMENT FOR CELEBRATION

Lynn Zocolo

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Larry Shackley

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Lord, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings we pray, that through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our King and our God. 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 371

Lift High the Cross

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*Hymn 118*)

The Day of Resurrection!

Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth the song begin,
Let the round world keep triumph,
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen,
Our joy that hath no end.

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

POSTLUDE

Christ Has Triumphed, Alleluia!

Arr. Lani Smith

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Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Judy Herron

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given anonymously with thanks to the Deacons and all they do to reach out to our shut ins, serve funeral luncheons, and to foster a loving community within our church family.

Flowers have been given by Rich and Pat Eichler in memory of all loved ones and church family, and in honor of Rich's birthday; by Alice Jackson in honor of Megan Wilson's birthday; by Fred and Phyllis Denton in memory of our beautiful daughter-in-law, Terri Denton; and by Tim and Melissa Costa in loving memory of Nick and Georgiana Costa. "Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed, and very dear."

Open dates are April 26 (2 vases), May 3 (1 vase), May 10 (1 vase). Cost is \$10.00 a vase.

Paper Shredding Event – April 18

The Salem Public Library Community Paper Shred will take place on Saturday, April 18, from 10:00 to 12:00 in the library parking lot.

Vision Statement

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

JEWAN RAKSHA KENDRA (LIFE SAVING CENTER)

The Session approved this special offering for Nepal.

(The Pentecost Offering has been eliminated.)

Sita's Story

Sita lives in a remote village in Far Western Nepal. She became pregnant as a teenager, her lack of protein and health knowledge put her baby's life at risk. Now because of *Jeewan Raksha Kendra*, her family now uses better seeds to grow more potatoes, providing more food and extra income. A new greenhouse in her village ensures they have fresh vegetables all year long. Soon, her child will eat healthy meals and eggs at school to stay strong and focused in class. This will help Sita's child to learn better in school, her family to have a better income, and for her children to have a brighter future.

The Problem

In Sudurpashchim Nepal, the statistics tell a devastating story. The region currently records the highest child mortality rates in Nepal:

In Dadeldhura and Baitadi, inadequate nutrition and low crop yields lead to chronic hunger, creating barriers to children's growth and development. Geographic isolation with a nearby clinic, often being a several-hour trek, as well as low maternal literacy and adolescent pregnancy can result in illness and death of infants and young children.

How You Can Help

Your support allows them to expand their greenhouse initiatives, provide more protein-rich meals, and reach the most isolated families in Far Western Nepal. This is your opportunity to share God's love with a broken world! Make checks out to First Presbyterian Church and write 'Nepal' on memo line.

"By improving nutrition today, we are securing the leadership and health of the community tomorrow."

Sunday, April 12

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, April 13

6:00 Congregational Care Committee (Library)

6:30 2003 Family Troop (Basement)

Tuesday, April 14

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, April 15

6:00 Carillon Ringers (S)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

Thursday, April 16

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

6:30 Regular Session Meeting (Library/Hybrid)

Saturday, April 18

9:00-4:00 Salem Music Study Club Auditions (Sanctuary)

Earth Sunday, April 19

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

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall) – *Property & Maintenance*

10:30 Service of Worship (S)

Book Study following Worship – *The Serviceberry* by R. Kimmerer

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 ChoirsCheryl McDevitt, cheracd@aol.com

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