

First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

April 19, 2026

10:30 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Easter / Earth Sunday
"Leave Them a Flower"



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.fpcsaalem.org.

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Please stand if you are able.

PRELUDE

Pastoral Scene

W.A. Mozart

My Song is Love Unknown

Dale Wood

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

PRELUDE

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

James Denton

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Eternal God, whose breath is the universe,
whose Word is the world –

Amazed, we praise you.

Creating God, who with delight and play,
with wisdom and beauty fashions every creature –

In love, we thank you.

Loving God, you weave us into the great web of life,
which is our shared home, our common body,
our one belonging.

Grateful, we worship you.

*HYMN 469

Morning Has Broken

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We confess our brokenness before God and one another,
trusting God to grant us grace and new life.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Responsively*)

Creator God, we celebrate your gift of Earth, your gift of all Creation.

We give thanks that you embodied your love in Jesus, made your compassion real with the dust of the earth, and so blessed our lives, our breath and our bodies.

Loving Creator, we renew our reverence for your gift.

We look to Earth not as a “resource” for our use, but a temple of your presence,

A living being that we are part of and in relationship with.

God, we praise you; we confess our self-centeredness.

We open our hearts to your Spirit, that we may love as you have loved us.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

People of God, children of the earth, know that the God of Life forgives all our sin, and heals our brokenness.

As the earth receives us made from the dust and returning to the dust, so God receives us and includes us.

As spring renews the face of the earth, God renews the Holy Spirit in us,

That we may have life, and have it abundantly, in the great ecology of grace.

By the grace of God, in the name of Christ, the oneness and the blessing and the beauty of all Creation are yours, now and forever.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. 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.

ANTHEM

All Things Bright and Beautiful

The Carillon Ringers

Arr. Susan E. Geschke

THE WORD OF GOD AMONG US

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

Holy God, you spoke all of creation into existence and in your mercy and love made all things good. We thank you for your creation and the wisdom and goodness you infused into creation. As we hear your word, remind us that your wisdom and goodness surround us everywhere we go and in every good thing we experience. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 7:1-5, 17-21; 8:1-3, 6-11

¹Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. ²Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; ³and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. ⁴For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." ⁵And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

¹⁷The flood continued forty days on the earth, and the waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ¹⁹The waters swelled so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; ²⁰the waters swelled above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. ²¹And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings;

^{8:1}But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark. And God

made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; ² the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, ³ and the waters gradually receded from the earth. At the end of one hundred fifty days the waters had abated;

⁶ At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷ and sent out the raven, and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸ Then he sent out the dove from him to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground, ⁹ but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. ¹⁰ He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark, ¹¹ and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Let's Take Care of the Earth
Jesus Loves Me

The First Presbyterian Preschool

Debbie Clement

CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

Hinshaw Music Inc., CCL#2595933

The Haviland Choir

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies, over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise, our hymn of praise.

THE SECOND READING

Psalm 19

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.

⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and

righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹² But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults. ¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Creation Tells of the Glory of God"

Rev. Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*HYMN 267

All Things Bright and Beautiful

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ
embraces the whole of [human] life:**

**social and cultural,
economic and political,
scientific and technological,
individual and corporate.**

**It includes [humanity's] natural environment
as exploited and despoiled by sin.**

**It is the will of God
that his purpose for human life
shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ
and all evil be banished from his creation.**

(from The Confession of 1967)*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Carol Ricciardi

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

This Is My Father's World

Franklin L. Sheppard

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Every part of nature is connected. Every gift we receive comes from you. Every moment of time is ready to burst open with new creation. We return this offering to you in wonder and gratitude. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR OUR TIME AND FOR THE EARTH AND LORD'S PRAYER

Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share; Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation. Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family. Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land and to hear and understand those who extract its resources. Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities and to heal the wounds we have inflicted. Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people and to shape beloved community. For you are the One who seeks the lost, binds our wounds and sets us free, and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray...

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

SPECIAL MUSIC
If I Were the Wind

The First Presbyterian Preschool
Myra Marshall

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*We Have the Whole World in Our Hands*)
(*adapted from the traditional spiritual*
“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”)

We have the whole world in our hands.
We have the whole world in our hands.
We have the whole world in our hands.
We have the whole world in our hands.

We have the rivers and the oceans in our hands...

We have the air we breathe in our hands...

We have the flowers and the trees in our hands...

We have all of God’s creatures in our hands...

We have all of God’s children in our hands...

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

POSTLUDE

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Franz Joseph Haydn

Cover Photo – Children of the Presbyterian Preschool

*Reprinted with permission from The Book of Confessions, Part I of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Copyright © 2016 by the Office of the General Assembly Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Dr. Lewis attempted to update the paragraph with gender-sensitive language.

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Lynn Zocolo

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Bulletins have been given 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.” Bulletin Donors needed for May 10, 17, June 14, 21, July 5, 12, 19, and 26, August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Cost is \$15 a Sunday.

Flowers have been given by Ellen Maticcik in memory of Frank’s birthday; and by Michael and Sandra Quinn to the Glory of God. Flower Donors needed for May 10 (1 vase), June 14 (1 vase), July 5 (2 vases), July 12 (1 vase), July 19 (1 vase), July 26 (1 vase). Cost is \$10 a vase.

Flower Seeds Available Today – As you leave today, please take with you a few packets of flower seeds to grow in your gardens to attract the pollinators. The names are marked on the packets.

The Book Study, sponsored by our Environmental Team, will meet today following worship in the Gazebo (weather permitting). A light lunch will be provided as we begin our study and discussions on the book, *The Serviceberry*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The book discusses reciprocity, gratitude, and aligning human law with ecological law. The study will be led by Grace Smith.

Soup to Go – Sunday, April 26

We will be making Vegetable Beef Soup this Saturday, April 25 at 9:30 a.m. in the Kitchen. Quart containers of Vegetable Beef Soup will be available next Sunday for \$8.00 for 1 or \$15.00 for 2 in the Kitchen. If at all possible, please consider adding a small donation when you purchase your soup. Please return jars and lids.

Daytimers – Wednesday, May 6 at Noon

Come join us for a covered dish luncheon in Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be James Stitt, Chief Executive Officer at the Family Recovery Center in Lisbon.

Limited Deacon Scholarship Funds are available for students from our church who are enrolled in College or University and who have not previously received Deacon assistance. Requests should be sent to the Church Office stating the name of the college or university attending, and course of study by June 30.

Compassion Has No Bounds

JEWAN RAKSHA KENDRA (LIFE SAVING CENTER)

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."

Mahoning Valley Summer Mission Program 2026

Sponsored by the Canfield Presbyterian Church

- The mission of this program is to foster fellowship among disparate communities, and educate mission groups about poverty, environmental stewardship, and other social issues.
- The program provides support, guidance and accommodations for those who are called to serve.
- Participants can range from youth groups and mixed age groups to all adult groups.
- CPC has a newly renovated facility with a fully equipped kitchen, restrooms with showers, youth room with games, and outdoor spaces.
- The program curators plan service itineraries for each group based on interest and abilities.
- Each day has a new service experience with plenty of free time to relax and focus on fellowship.
- Activities are coordinated with non-profits around Northeast Ohio's Mahoning Valley.

Choose from 3-5 day programs, Sunday-Friday, June-August

Contact Information

- canfieldpresbyterian.org/summer-mission
- Emily Greve, CPC Mission Housing Coordinator
140 W. Main St., Canfield OH 44406
330-533-5509 ext. 2107
- summermission@canfieldpres.org

Learn.

Serve.

Worship.

Connect.

Grow.

Keynote Speaker
Rev. Dr. Anne Zaki

Rev. Dr. Zaki grew up in Cairo in a pastor's home and has dedicated her life to teaching, ministry, and cross-cultural engagement. She holds degrees in Social Psychology and Theology, including a PhD in Preaching from Fuller Theological Seminary. After serving churches in Egypt, Michigan, and British Columbia, Anne returned to Cairo in 2011, where she now teaches Preaching, Communication, and Spiritual Formation at the Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Would you consider attending the
New Wilmington Mission Conference
with a group of people from our church?

Friday, July 17 – Wednesday, July 22, 2026
at Westminster College
New Wilmington PA

Vision Statement

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

Sunday, April 19

11:30 Book Study (Gazebo, weather permitting)

2:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (Basement)

Monday, April 20

6:30 2003 Family Troop (Basement)

Tuesday, April 21

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, April 22

6:00 Carillon Ringers (200)

7:00 Haviland Choir (S)

Thursday, April 23

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, April 25

9:30 Making Vegetable Beef Soup in Kitchen

Sunday, April 26

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) – *Western Reserve Brass*

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

Organist Jan Cox, jansalem1@yahoo.com

Audio/Video Tylor Bricker, Bob and Susan Merry

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