

Rev. Annie Parker, Pastor

THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

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<p>2nd Sunday of Easter <u>April 12</u></p> <p>Scriptures Acts 2:22-32 John 20:19-31</p> <p>Sermon <i>Do Not Doubt, But Believe</i></p> <p>Liturgist Judy Herron</p>	<p>3rd Sunday of Easter <u>April 19</u> <i>Earth Sunday</i> <i>"Leave Them a Flower"</i></p> <p>Scriptures Acts 2:36-41 Luke 24:13-35</p> <p>Sermon <i>On the Road Again</i></p> <p>Liturgist Lynn Zocolo</p>	<p>4th Sunday of Easter <u>April 26</u> <i>Western Reserve Brass</i></p> <p>Scriptures Acts 2:42-47 John 10:1-10</p> <p>Sermon <i>Finding Where You Belong</i></p> <p>Liturgist Mickey Buck</p>	<p>5th Sunday of Easter <u>May 3</u> <i>Communion</i></p>  <p>Scriptures 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14</p> <p>Sermon <i>Living Stones</i></p>
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I hope this newsletter finds you in a season of warm weather after our mercurial March. Not knowing what to expect can be jarring and cause us to recoil and stay away. During the crazy weather we've had the benefit of forecasts and weather reports to help us to prepare, but there are other situations we walk into not knowing what will happen or how people will respond. Serving God often calls us into this unknown. If we share a story of our faith, we don't know how our audience will respond. When we reach out and offer to help, we don't know if this will be accepted or rebuffed. When we offer a program to our community, we don't know if anyone will attend. People can be mercurial; you can catch someone on a bad day or a time when they are radiating joy. But our fears of what if cannot hold us back from continuing to spread our hands out in help and love. We talked about this at our Lenten Bible study and I brought up one of our successful outreaches, Denise's Big Backyard, and how before that began, we had questions and fears. We worried that no one would come, or that people would not like the programs we picked. But our fears did not stop our efforts and because of that we now have a wonderful outreach that feeds our neighbors and hopefully touches their lives with God's joy! Following God means putting our heart on the line sometimes. We will meet people happy to hear about our faith, fascinated by God's love and those who will block their ears at the mere mention of God. We will help people who are grateful and kind and people who turn down our help or push us for more and more. We will reach out to neighbors who will come and be fed and some who will never come. All these outcomes do not undo what we do or the heart of God calling us to continue to reach out again and again. The book for our Lenten Bible study encouraged us to look at the problems we see in the world, and with God's love, look to how to solve them. Let us go into the world, with God's love to fuel and carry us and reach out as God's hands and feet in the world. Amen.

Rev. Annie Parker

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

CHURCH INFORMATION:

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You Tube: www.youtube.com / FPCSALEM (Service streamed 10:30 am on Sunday)



Thank you to Sandy Quinn for delivering flowers. It was a beautiful day, and her visit made it even nicer. ~ Lois Dunn

The Christian Education Committee would like to thank Paul Fennema for leading the high school youth in their soup-making service project recently. With his help and the support of Phyllis and Fred Denton and Phyllis Garlock, our young people made chicken noodle soup and delivered it to a dozen of our church's shut-ins. Those who received the soup appreciated being remembered as part of our church family, especially by our young people. "For it is in giving that we receive."

Café Justo's great Organic Coffee we serve every Sunday during Coffee Hour is for sale on the 1st Sunday of the month in Fellowship Hall. You can also purchase through the Church Office during the week. Cost is \$15.00 for a 1-pound bag of REGULAR, DECAF, or WHOLE BEAN.

Earth Sunday 2026

The Environmental Team is busy planning for the next Earth Sunday which will be celebrated on April 19. Please wear either green or very colorful clothes that day in celebration of the beauty of our world. Our Preschool will be sharing music during the service. Our theme this year is "Leave Them a Flower." Just as a flower needs clean air, water, and a clean place to live, so too will those who come after us. It is our responsibility to leave them a world with clean air, clean water, and a clean and safe world in which to live. Just who will reap the benefit of the "flower"? All the children on earth, especially our children, our grandchildren, and for some of you, your great grandchildren. We invite you to bring photos of these special people to display around the Sanctuary on Earth Sunday. You can bring them on April 12 or 19 when you come to church or any day during the week. Leave them on the front pews if you bring them before April 19. Why don't you also BRING your special young family members with you to church on Earth Sunday? That would be a perfect addition to our celebration. It's going to be another great celebration.

Book Study: Our Environmental Team would also like to invite anyone interested to join us for a Book Study. We have chosen the book *The Serviceberry*, written by Robin Wall Kimmerer. It is a book about abundance and reciprocity in the Natural World. Grace Smith has offered to lead our study. **The first session of our study will take place following our worship service on Earth Sunday, April 19.** Books for the study will be ordered soon. If you are interested in joining the Book Study, please let Phyllis know by April 7th so we can get the books ordered and to you by April 12.

Daytimers – Wednesday, May 6

Bring a small dish for the potluck at noon in Fellowship Hall. Program by James Stitt, Chief Executive Officer at the Family Recovery Center in Lisbon.

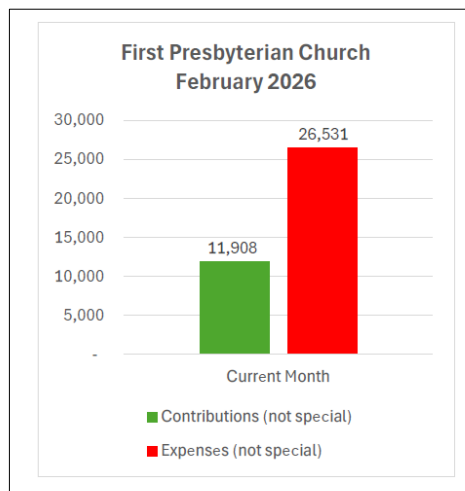
Vision Statement

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

Your Session at Work

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio meeting on March 19, 2026:

- Learned that the average weekly worship attendance for February was 100 in person and via YouTube.
- The theme of this year's Earth Sunday on April 19 is "Leave Them a Flower."
- Learned that the Environmental Team will be conducting a book study of *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Members are invited to participate beginning April 19 after church.
- Approved more funds to address leaks in the church roof.
- Heard the Nominating Committee is seeking additional members. Interested members should contact Pastor Annie or Jan Cox.
- Approved the use of the church parking lot all day July 3 for the Salem City Parade July 3.



Salem Community Pantry – Mondays from 9-11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 3-5 p.m.

Free groceries for residents of the Greater Salem Area (serving 44460 Zip Code)
Income guidelines apply to determine eligibility. Bring Photo ID and Proof of Residency.

First Presbyterian Church Preschool

Dear Church Family,

Greetings from the Preschool!

We would like to invite you to our upcoming "Pop Into Preschool" Open House on May 19th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This will kick off our recruitment night for new families, and we are excited to welcome members of our church and community to see the wonderful things happening in our preschool. We hope you will stop by, visit our classroom, and help us spread the word about our preschool ministry by sharing the flyer (see back of calendar included with this newsletter).

We are also looking to borrow a popcorn machine for the evening. If any church members would be willing to let the preschool use one, we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Ashley Davidson in the preschool office or Phyllis in the church office if you can help.



We would also like to share a few highlights from our recent preschool events. March was a busy month; we held a wonderful Family, Faith, and Fellowship night where families came together to build leprechaun traps and learn about the Holy Trinity using a shamrock representing three in one, a special reminder of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It was a fun, faith-filled evening for our preschool families with pizza so kindly donated by the Preschool Board.

We also had a joyful time celebrating Easter together before our short break. The children participated in an Easter Egg hunt made possible by you, the loving congregation. The children made beautiful "He is Risen" stained glass crafts and helped decorate the school as we learned about the resurrection and celebrated the King of all Kings. "He is not here; He has risen, just as He said." *Matthew 28:6*



Looking ahead, First Presbyterian Preschool will be sponsoring a basket at the Quota Clubs Annual Quarter Auction on Sunday, May 3rd at 1:00 p.m. Doors open at 11:30 for lunch and shop with the local Vendors. We are honored to support Mrs. Anne Smith and her wonderful organization, which has such a large impact on our preschool and the community. Please consider joining us at the West Branch Booster Building at 26701 US Rte. 62, Beloit, Ohio 44609 for an afternoon of fun; all proceeds benefit "The Salem Area Speech and Hearing Clinic."

It is such a blessing to share the love of Christ with the children each day.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and love for our preschool ministry. We are grateful to be a part of the First Presbyterian Church family.

Ashley Davidson, Administrator and Teacher