

First Presbyterian Church
Salem, Ohio

May 25, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Worship will be live streamed on
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio,
You Tube: [www.youtube](http://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

Eternal Father, Strong to Save
God Bless America (Brass)

Robert J. Hughes
Irving Berlin

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

PRELUDE

A Hymn of the Nation:
Eternal Father, Strong to Save (Brass)

Gilbert Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Psalm 67*)

May God be gracious to us; may God bless us.

We gather in worship, knowing God is here.

May God's face shine upon us. May God call us into the joyful
work of creating peace.

Let us worship our God in praise.

*HYMN 464

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

We come to God as we are: messy, joyful, imperfect, guilty, or
righteous. But most of all, we come to God as ourselves, human,
in need of confessing and forgiving, in need of community. Let
us come to God with all we are.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**God of all times and places, you call us to come to you in the
world, but we disobey you. We choose power and profit over
the acts of love that you exemplify for us again and again. We**

are content to work within systems that oppress, instead of working to change things. We forget that everything comes from you, and that we are just stewards of what you have graciously given to us. Forgive us Lord, for the times that we forget your call to fully follow your example in the world. Embolden us to live fully in your call to love our neighbor. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Our God who knows us and calls out to us when we falter or misstep, is the same God who embraces us, reminds us of our belovedness, and forgives us our sins. Hear the Good News and treasure it always:

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 (*Unison*)

God, speak loudly through your text. May we hear your truth, especially when it challenges us. Be the loud voice of love that we need to hear. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Acts 16:9-15

⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. ¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace,

the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³ On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

This is the Word of the LORD!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Battle Hymn Of The Republic

William Steffe/Wilhousky

Choir, Piano, Brass

Bob Barnett, Side Drum; Cheryl McDevitt, Piccolo

Carl Fischer, Inc., CCL#2595933

Choir

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage
where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on!

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and
damps;
I can read His righteous sentence in the dim and flaring lamps,
His day is marching on!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on!

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me:
As He died to make men holy, Let us live to make men free,
While God is marching on.

Congregation

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on!
Amen! Amen!

THE GOSPEL READING

John 14:23-29

²³ Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵ “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

This is the Gospel of the LORD!
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

“Hearing God Clearly”

Pastor Annie Parker

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN OUR LIVES

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives**

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, and sets us free
to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor.**

(from "A Brief Statement of Faith," 1991)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Pentecost Offering

Ryan Gillis

CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY

New World Symphony

A. Dvorak

Pentecost Offering envelopes are in Pew Racks.

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

**Father God, we appreciate the many blessings that you have
provided us with. Empower us to bless others through our
actions, words, and resources so that we may support and love
others as you have loved us, so we can truly be your people.
May we use this offering to reflect you in our world today and
always. 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 403**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE (2166, *Sing the Faith*)**

Christ beside me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me – King of my heart;
Christ within me, Christ below me,
Christ above me – never to part.

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

POSTLUDE

My Country, 'tis of Thee

arr. Stephen Bulla

**Please stand if you are able.*

Questions for thought:

1. What are the voices that you hear loudly and give the most authority to?
2. What do you hold tightly to in times when you are tempted to be afraid?
3. Where do you experience and know the peace of Christ in your life?

Geraniums were delivered early this year. **PLEASE DO NOT TAKE ANY HOME UNTIL PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 8.** Thank you!

~ Congregational Care Committee

Head Ushers: Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

Liturgist: Geoff Goll

Light-Bearer: Joseph Seefeldt

Musicians: John Veneskey, Terry Gale – Trumpets;
Rob Cole – Horn; Jonathan Willis – Trombone;
Benjamin Ammon – Tuba; Robert Barnett – Percussion

Bulletins and Flowers have been given by Tim and Melissa Costa – The battlefields and cemeteries around the world are hallowed grounds and holy to every American. We respectfully pause this Memorial Day weekend as we remember with gratitude the sacrifices of so many for our nation.

Bulletin Donors are needed for June 8, 15, 22, July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24. Cost is \$15.00 a Sunday.

Flower Donors are needed for July 6 (1 vase), July 13 (1), July 27 (1), August 10 (1), August 17 (1), August 24 (1), August 31 (1). Cost is \$10.00 a vase.

Missing Globe – On Earth Sunday, we displayed many world globes. Please check to see if you took the right one home. We are missing a rather large beige globe sitting on a square base. If you know where it is, please contact Sandy Quinn at 440-487-2000. Thank you.

The Church Office will be closed tomorrow for the Memorial Day Holiday.

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. The deadline is June 30.

Pollinator Garden – As part of the requirements for becoming an Eagle Scout, a scout must plan, develop, and lead a significant service project that benefits the community. Sydney Thompson has chosen to create a beautiful and vital pollinator garden to be housed on our church property. This pollinator garden will serve as a crucial habitat for bees, butterflies, and other essential pollinators that play a vital role in our ecosystem and food production. To bring this important project to fruition, Sydney is seeking financial donations from our church members to support the purchase of essential materials for the pollinator garden. Please make any checks out to the church, and in the Memo Line add Pollinator's Garden so that they can go towards Sydney's garden.

Salem Community Foundation Ministerial Scholarship – This program is extended to those who wish to enter the fields of the Ministry, Christian Education, Youth ministry, or a closely related field. The Ministerial Scholarship application and guidelines are on www.salemcommunityfoundation.org and by calling the Foundation office at 330-332-4021. The Scholarship Committee, under established guidelines, will determine the amount of each scholarship awarded. All applications must be received by Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

Vision Statement

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

Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, May 27 and Thursday, May 29
9:00 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, June 1
10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall; *Worship Committee hosting*)
10:30 Service of Worship

Monday, June 2
7:00 Board of Deacons (Library)

Tuesday, June 3
10:00 United Quilt Guild setting up for Challenge Night (FH/L)

Thursday, June 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)

Sunday, June 8 – Pentecost
10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall; *Worship Committee hosting*)
10:30 Service of Worship – *Communion*

Pastor..... Rev. Annie Parker, 330-720-5884
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Clerk of Session..... Barbara Loudon, bloudon@neo.rr.com
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Organist Nancy McNeal
Dir. Handbells/Youth Choirs Cheryl McDevitt, chermcd@aol.com
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