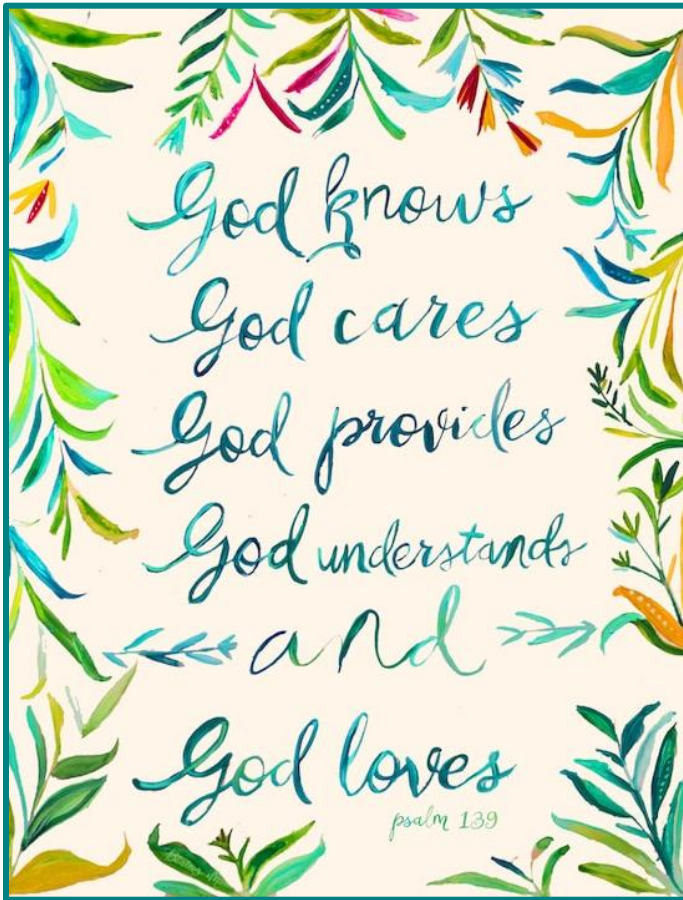


First Presbyterian Church  
Salem, Ohio

July 6, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



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](http://www.fpcsaalem.org).

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

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### PRELUDE

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name  
God Bless America (Brass)*

*Cindy Berry  
Ron Foster*

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

### PRELUDE

*America (Brass)*

*Stephen Bulla*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

At the end of one long week

**And the beginning of another**

We come to hear the good news:

**That we are loved just the way we are**

By a God who delighted in creating us.

**Let us love the one who loves us with songs of praise!**

### \*HYMN 248

*You Are Before Me, Lord*

### \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

God invites us to draw close to him and speak to him like our neighbor. But sin and shame tell us to stay away from God. Let us leave our sin and shame at God's feet, trusting Him to be merciful and loving.

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

**Creator God, we confess to a dire lack of love for our neighbor, our enemy, and even, especially, ourselves. And we confess that by not loving as you have loved we fail to love you. Give**

**us eyes that see your image in each of your children, and hearts that love others not as we wish they were but as you have made them to be. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*(Moments of Silent Prayer)*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Jesus calls us friends, not slaves or students but friends. He longs to walk through life with us, to lift us when we fall and encourage us when we tire.

**We have confessed our brokenness and now accept the mercy gifted to us through Christ.**

We do not walk alone in this life.

**But hand in hand with God.**

**\*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*)**

**Father God, you spoke all that we see and experience into existence. Now as we read your ancient words, show us that your word is living and breathing, moving all around us, being spoken in us and through us. Quiet us to hear your word, now and always. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Armed Forces Tribute*

*arr. Tom Holtz*

**THE SCRIPTURE READING**

*Psalms 139:1-18*

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, you have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. <sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down and

are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. <sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. <sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, <sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. <sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me," <sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. <sup>13</sup> For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. <sup>17</sup> How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup> I try to count them — they are more than the sand; I come to the end — I am still with you.

This is the Word of the LORD!

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*"I Like You Just the Way You Are"*

*Pastor Annie Parker*

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD IN OUR LIVES

\*HYMN 384

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Unison; from Romans 8:28, 38-39*)

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;**

**for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**MOMENT FOR CELEBRATION**

*Lynn Zocolo*

**CALL TO OFFERING / OFFERTORY**

*Spirit of the Living God*

*John Carter*

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

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

**With open and generous hearts we give you these gifts, God.  
Take them and bless them so they may be used for your holy  
work and bring your love to the ends of the earth. 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 562**

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** (*Hymn 432; Song of Hope*)

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace,  
Singing, share our joy with all,  
Working for a world that's new,  
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Semper Fidelis* (Brass)

*John Philip Sousa*

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

*\*Some of the Liturgy comes from Deep Well Worship.*

**Questions for thought:**

1. What does it mean to you that God knows you and loves you?
2. Do you love others, including their difficult parts?
3. How can you practice this accepting and affirming love?

**Western Reserve Brass**

Terry Gale, John Veneskey – Trumpets;  
Rob Cole – Horn; Jonathan Willis – Trombone;  
Benjamin Ammon – Tuba

**Head Ushers:** Wanda Navoyosky, Sandy Quinn

**Liturgist:** Lynn Zocolo

**Light-Bearer:** Nova Eichler

**Bulletins and Flowers** have been given by Goldie Burrier in memory of loved ones.

**Flowers** have been given with gratitude to God for the blessing of our wonderful country, His guidance to our founding fathers who sought His guidance through prayer, and the wonderful God-given freedoms we enjoy.

***These Days*** – There are copies of this Presbyterian devotional available at the east and west Sanctuary entrances.

**A Congregational Meeting** for the sole purpose of electing Carol Ricciardi as an Elder for the Class of 2026 will be held today immediately following worship.

**Café Justo's great Organic Coffee** is what we serve every Sunday during Coffee Hour. Cost is \$12 for a 1-pound bag of Regular, Decaf, or Whole Bean Coffee and can be purchased today in Fellowship Hall.

**Chime Project** – The Carillon was launched on Friday, June 13 and is running its normal schedule of 4 hymns per day: 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. Each chime starts with 3 bells, then 1 minute later, a random hymn plays.

### **All Hands on Deck for the 2025 Denise's Big Back Yard Events!**

An exciting addition for this summer is that we will have a large tent to use for our weekly picnics. Sign-up sheets for side dish and dessert donations will be posted in Fellowship Hall closer to the start-up date of July 9. Wednesday evening programs are listed below. **Any and all help is appreciated!**

- **July 9** – All About Pollinators!
- **July 16** – Salem Police Department
- **July 23** – Live Music with Jesse and Lulu Reeks
- **July 30** – Historian John Barnett on 'Chief Logan's War'
- **August 6** – Learn about our Scout Troops
- **August 13** – Reptile Rescue

### **Hymn Sing – July 20**

Join us outside as we share our favorite hymns and a picnic lunch together.

## **Do You Have Old, Unused and Unwanted Electronics Lying around the House and Taking Up Space?**

I know we all probably have drawers with unused electronics. You don't have to throw it away and have it add one more item to the local garbage dump. Instead, you can do something good for the earth and help a local, small business. Summit e-Waste Recycling Solutions at the Walborn Reservoir located at 11324 Price St NE in Alliance has a dumpster where you can bring electronics for recycling. Call them at 330-800-6657. They take computers, modems, routers, servers, DVD players, VCRs, game consoles, stereos, cell phones, small printers, cables, wires, power adaptors, and computer monitors.

**Recycling News:** John Repella is looking for any metal he can recycle. Give him a call to arrange a pickup, 234-320-1144. Mention you are from First Presbyterian Church.

**Troop 3** is seeking adult leaders and young persons ages 11-18. Qualifications are adherence to the Scout Oath and Law, a love of adventure, learning, and teamwork. Perks are a world-class team, adventure, and learning amazing things. For more information, see Mark Smith or Frank Lewis.

**The First Presbyterian Church Preschool is now accepting students for the 2025-2026 school year.** The five day a week program combines the very best elements of a Preschool for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children. The Preschool staff is dedicated to maintaining a positive, nurturing environment promoting creativity, curiosity, and kindness. Our Preschool follows a Christian theme and participates in Ohio's "Step Up to Quality" system. We have an Early Childhood degreed teacher and experienced staff. Financial assistance is available through Job and Family Services for those qualifying. Children will develop skills needed for kindergarten readiness. Call 330-332-8620 for more information.



**The First Presbyterian Preschool** is continuing an initiative to provide financial assistance to preschool aged children whose parents may need some monetary help in attending preschool this fall. A separate church fund has been established as a means for church members, community members as well as organizations to contribute to this fund to support this project. The fund is called “Preschool Scholarship Fund”. The Preschool Board is also discussing ways to support the funding through fundraisers, etc. If church members wish to help in this effort to assist parents who need some financial support to send their child to our preschool this fall, you may do so by contributing through your church contributions. Putting the words “Preschool Scholarship Fund” on your check would indicate that you are supporting this fund. Money in church envelopes could also be designated on the envelope with the words “Preschool Scholarship Fund”. The Preschool Board thanks you in advance for your consideration in supporting this important preschool scholarship initiative. If you have any questions concerning this initiative, contact any member of the Preschool Board – Jennifer Gillis, Chelsey Hovanic, Alice Jackson, Jean McCool, Wanda Navoyosky, Ruth Newman, Carol Ricciardi, Annie Parker, Cara Stephens.

### Vision Statement

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

Tuesday, July 8

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, July 9

**6:00 Denise's Big Back Yard – All About Pollinators!**

Thursday, July 10

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, July 13

9:00 Adult Bible Study (Library)

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

10:30 Service of Worship

Tuesday, July 15

9:30 Holy Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, July 16

**6:00 Denise's Big Back Yard – Salem Police Department**

Sunday, July 20

9:00 Adult Bible Study (Library)

10:00 Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

**10:30 Hymn Sing Outside followed by Picnic Lunch**

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Pastor..... Rev. Annie Parker, 330-720-5884

[pastorannie@fpcsalem.org](mailto:pastorannie@fpcsalem.org)

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Director of Music..... John Krauss, [wjohnkrauss@gmail.com](mailto:wjohnkrauss@gmail.com)

Organist ..... Nancy McNeal

Dir. Handbells/Youth Choirs ..... Cheryl McDevitt, [chermcd@aol.com](mailto:chermcd@aol.com)

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