

SOUNDS OF SALEM

Volume 17 Issue 7

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July 2015

July 2015 Revised Common Lectionary Year B

6th Sunday after Pentecost – July 5

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Psalms 48

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

7th Sunday after Pentecost – July 12

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalms 24

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 19

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalms 89:20-37

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

9th Sunday after Pentecost – July 26

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalms 14

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

The Flower Windows

Flowers blooming in prophecy point to Christ's coming and the new life Christ brings. The rose has come to symbolize Jesus' birth to the Virgin Mary. The lily, which grows from a bulb that looks dead, reminds us of Christ's resurrection.

"In Jerusalem, the LORD of Heaven's Armies will spread a wonderful feast for all the people of the world. It will be a delicious banquet with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat. There he will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth. He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign LORD will wipe away all tears."
-Isaiah 25:6-8b



Read: Isaiah 25

Reflect: How do you feel when you see the first flowers?

Pray: Give thanks to God for giving new life to you!

Source: The Salem Confirmation Class Handbook

Pastor's Thoughts

Some have a quiet faith that speaks volumes of a walk with God. In the early morning in a hospital, I prayed with a woman about to undergo cancer surgery. She did not have any idea how it would turn out that day. As we held hands during those moments of prayer, she said, *"I am blessed, and I don't worry. I have always known that each minute of life is a gift to me. I have always believed in God's loving care. I have no reason to change my mind now, no matter how the day turns out."*

I read of a man who died and left his possessions to his children. Everything was carefully listed in his will. The last paragraph made that will different from most others. This is what he had written: *"I desire also to bequeath to my children and their families my testimony to the truth and preciousness of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This heritage of the Christian faith, received in an unbroken line from the apostles and prophets and martyrs, is of infinitely more value than any house or automobile or land or material possession. I hereby bequeath it to them all."*

Both knew that this world and all its riches and diversions will soon pass away. All that will be left is our faith and our Lord Jesus Christ. Do you have faith and trust in God to carry you through life, and is this also something that you need to pass onto your loved ones before you go? The Christian life is a life that is good!

- Pastor Tom



The Little Auglaize River overflowed several times in June into fields at State Route 116 and Wren-Landeck Road.

From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.
1 Chronicles 12:32 NLT

Same-Sex Marriage and the Secularization of the Culture

David in the Old Testament, with his wisdom, surrounded himself with men of insight that could discern what was happening in history and how to act upon that knowledge. We are called to such a time as this. The country is turning more secular and some would say, anti-Christian, by court decisions and the non-enforcement of current laws on the books. We have seen Supreme Court decisions that created out of the clear blue national laws in 1963 that outlawed prayer in schools, in 1972 made legal abortion in all 50 states, and in 2015 redefined marriage definitions that stood for over 5000 years.

Several Biblical scriptures show God's clear direction about homosexuality: [Leviticus 18:22](#), [20:13](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9](#); and [1 Timothy 1:9](#). Some have attacked these verses as old fashioned, out of touch with the church catching up with the culture, and as merely Paul's own opinion. Several studies claim homosexuality is genetic and the person is born that way. Others have shown that those studies are flawed and that Political Correctness is on the side of promoting the false conclusions. But what is at the heart of the matter is that the culture has moved away from its Christian foundation. Further, anyone disagreeing with the Gay marriage agenda was labeled a bigot for expression of their opinion. Many are afraid to speak out against it for fear of losing their jobs or businesses.



Ohio Christian Marriage Advocate Phil Burress compares America to the pattern in Canada where same sex marriage became legal, and it

was backed by hate crime legislation that labeled dissenter's opinions as hate speech punishable by law. Fox News is banned on cable.

The Billy Graham organization and other evangelicals note that the Supreme Court has set our government on a collision course with America's cherished religious freedoms, explicitly guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution.

They hold that Americans will not accept the legitimacy of this decision. Truth is not decided by polls or the passage of time, but by the One who created time and everything that exists therein.



The Columbus Dispatch, Sunday June 28, 2015, wrote on the historic decision, where the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 on Friday that same-sex marriages are now permitted under the U.S. Constitution. Quoting Burress who said the case was really about "religious persecution." [Just like Canada,] "Many expect the ruling to spur lawsuits against churches, clergy members and religiously affiliated organizations. The most apocalyptic predictions project that within a few years, American pastors could be jailed for speaking against same-sex marriage."

"It's a matter of time until it will be a hate crime to read Romans 1 [like Canada], and until we're sued on not performing gay marriages," said Dudley Rutherford, senior pastor of the Shepherd of the Hills Church. The Dispatch wrote: "Assurances to the contrary, the majority in this decision has placed every religious institution in legal jeopardy if that institution intends to uphold its theological convictions limiting marriage to the union of a man and a woman. This threat is extended to every religious citizen or congregation that would uphold the convictions held by believers for millennia."

Ken Connelly, legal counsel for the Alliance Defending Freedom, "noted that the [Obama Administration's] U.S. solicitor general remarked during oral arguments earlier this year that religious entities' tax exemptions may become an issue if same-sex marriage is upheld, such as when a faith-based college refuses to offer married-student housing to gay couples."

"I don't think it's much of a stretch to say that churches shouldn't be too comfortable about their tax-exempt status," Connelly said. The ruling "created a fundamental right out of whole cloth" that potentially could trump churches' First Amendment rights. Burress said traditional-marriage supporters know the stakes. "Pastors are willing to go to jail rather than violate God's word," he said. "This is about biblical values."

The Columbus Dispatch, June 28, 2015

Vacation Bible School 2015

“Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid, for the Lord your God goes with you. He will never leave you.”
Deuteronomy 31:6

Held on Thursday and Friday evenings, June 18-19, VBS at Salem Church was enjoyed by several children this year despite being rained out of the park. The theme's mascot was the strong and courageous lion, beautifully painted by Ashley McClure. Children had a blast roaring like a lion!



Carol Emery thanks God for the inspiration and for all

those who helped in the many ways to make this year's VBS an especially fun and meaningful VBS for the children.

Thank you:

Jen Pugh
Kathy McCollow
Marylin Foust
Evelyn Martz
Christina Emery
Catie Emery
Pastor Tom
Ashley McClure
Doris Price
Jean Owens
Elaine Siler
Gloria Leiter



The mission this year was to raise money for Samaritan's Purse. We gave a total of \$152.00 to purchase chickens for needy families to have food and profit.



Bible Story #1: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego face the Fiery Furnace. With God's help, these three friends remained strong and courageous even when it meant they would be killed in the fire. They remembered God's promise to never leave them. So they were not afraid! And God took care of them (Daniel 3). To go along with this story, we made a lion craft as a reminder that we can say a prayer to God to help us be *courageous and not be afraid*.



Bible Story #2: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus had a brief moment when He became afraid to go through with the plan His Father had for Him; to die on the cross for us (Matthew 26:36-46). It was going to be very painful and He would be alone. He prayed to God, His Father, and God gave Him the *strength and courage to not be afraid* so He could do what He needed to do for us. He wasn't afraid anymore. We made a "Do Not Be Afraid" sign to remind us that Jesus is always with us and will never leave us so we don't have to be afraid.



Bible Story #3: Paul was someone who hated Christians but became someone who told many people about the saving love of Jesus! There are several stories in the Book of Acts that tell of times when Paul had troubles. He was blinded, beaten, thrown into prison, shipwrecked, and bitten by a poisonous snake. Many times he could've died. Through all this he stayed *strong and courageous and was not afraid* because he remembered God's promise to be with him and never leave him. God took care of Paul through all these scary times. We painted a snake to remember how Paul was not afraid when he was bitten.





Looking Ahead

We welcome **Coach John Zerbe** to worship with us as guest speaker on **July 12**.

Communion will be observed on **Sunday, July 19**.

Our church **Ice Cream Social** will be on **Friday, July 31** from **5:00 – 7:30 pm** at the Lion's Club Building in Venedocia. Lion's Club Sausage, Sycamore Ice Cream, and other dinner and dessert items will be served!



The 100th Celebration of Gymanfa Ganu is on **Sunday, September 6**. A light supper will be served from 4:00 – 6:00 pm and the Festival of Song will begin at 7:00 pm.

A Letter to Alumni Choir Members



Dear Alumni Choir Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Salem Presbyterian Music Committee. As you may already know, this year on Sunday, September 6, we will be hosting our 100th Gymanfa Ganu!

We consider ourselves so blessed to have participated and grown up with such a great Welsh heritage. We have had strong church leaders, family members, and a loving God who has blessed us to be a part of this wonderful song festival.

Our Gymanfa director this year will be Eric Foster, who many of you know. Maggie Morris Lopez will also be coming to help celebrate.

Maggie has agreed to lead past choir members in a special music presentation for the **Sunday 9:30 am** worship service on **September 6**. We are excited about a great return of "Bartie's Choir Kid's" and hope that you will join us. Maggie says she will keep the song simple and fun (and we know she always delivers on the fun part)! A practice is to be set for Saturday, September 5 at 1:00 pm with a second practice on Sunday before church at 8:30 am.

We would appreciate hearing from all of you, no matter what your voice range is or age may be! Please let me know if you can attend and feel free to add anyone that has not heard from us yet. You may contact me through the church which will be forwarded to me: secretary@salemchurch.cc or 419-667-4142. You can also follow our Gymanfa Ganu 100th year celebration on our church website, www.SalemChurch.cc. Hope to see you on September 5 and 6, 2015!

Sincerely, Kathy McCollow

Favorite Memories of Salem

"One of my favorite memories growing up at Salem was making homemade ice cream for the church ice cream social at our house. We used Johnny Lloyd's big ice cream maker that mounted on the back of an old John Deere tractor. Jason Lloyd and I would catch Johnny Lloyd sleeping on our hammock out back and we would sneak up and flip him out of it and then run away!"

- 1st Lt. Peter L. McCollow (USMC)

"Some of my favorite memories of Salem Church is hearing my grandfather, Daniel O. Evans; father, Daniel J.; sister, Eleanor; and brother, Daniel John, singing lovely songs. Also, I remember hearing Charlie Boroff's solos too. I enjoyed playing the piano for their practices. In past years, my father, sister, and I sang as a trio. The Men's Glee Club of 50, under Hayden Morgan's leadership, is a very special memory as well."

- Marilyn Evans Stockton

Session Meeting - June 2015

Session met on June 28. VBS and the new sound system were reviewed among several items. Communion will be July 19. Assignments for the upcoming Ice Cream Social were made and ads are to be submitted in local newspapers. The Ice Cream Social will be from 5:00 - 7:30 pm, Friday, July 31. The Venedocia Lion's Club will be serving their famous sausage and Sycamore Ice Cream will be featured among other dinner and dessert items.



Please remember our elderly members, soldiers and college students with cards & visits.

Violet Ashton

c/o Roselawn Manor
420 E. 4th Street, Apt. 109
Spencerville, OH 45887

Betty Lloyd

Van Wert Manor
160 Fox Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Gordon Morgan

Vancrest of Convoy
510 Tully Drive
Convoy, OH 45832

Warren Summersett

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Lee Lare

P.O. Box 654
Venedocia, OH 45894

Evelyn Hoverman

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Drive
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marian Morris

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Drive
Van Wert, OH 45891

Evelyn Pugh

Vancrest Healthcare, 100
10357 VW—Decatur Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Becky Zirkle

Vancrest Health Care, A8
10357 VW—Decatur Rd.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Away at College



Cassy Emery Box 564

c/o Cincinnati Christian University
2700 Glenway Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45204

Sammi Jones

Serving our Country



Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)

311 Oak Street #109
Oakland, CA 94607

2nd Lt Pete McCollow (U.S. Marine Corps)

116 HAC Street
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Will Morrison (U.S. Army Reserves)

Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)

Grandson of Doris Evans

Prayer Concerns



Norma Adams (diabetic issues)
Brendan Daily (friend of Morgan Pugh)
Ralph Du Cheney (father of Stacia Profit)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
Jeannie Etzler (daughter of Warren Summersett)
Hope Eutsler (leukemia)
Judy Foust (knee surgery)
Bev Hefner (aunt of Jenny Pugh)
Jesse (recovering from heroin addiction)
Margaret Keltner (mother of Jan Jones)
James Marshall (mysterious ailment and M.S.)
Tina Mayes
Tim Morris (liver transplant)
Aaron Ries (received heart transplant –Bruce Ries' son)
Marjorie Rhoades (leg pains)
David Slygh (organ transplant problems)
Taylar Stephens & Family
Tim (cancer – friend of Barb Good)
Steve West (son-in-law of Jeff & Marcia Pollock)
Haydn Williams (esophagus cancer treatment)
Noah Wyatt (post-surgery – son of Stuart Wyatt)
Betty Lloyd (broken hip)
Evelyn Pugh
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)

In Mourning



The Family & Friends of Ruth E. Morris
The Family & Friends of Gloria Jean Ruddock



Birthdays

7/1	Gloria Leiter	7/1	Owen Pugh
7/2	Lynette Lloyd	7/6	Charles Boroff
7/6	Herman Wienken	7/10	Tuzz Hobbs
7/10	Mark Zielke	7/13	Cory McCollow
7/15	Barb Good	7/16	Ron Owens
7/18	Marjorie Eutsler	7/20	David H. Evans
7/23	David Leckrone	7/24	Evan Pugh
7/25	Kent McClure	7/26	Brent Price
7/29	Heather McClure	7/29	Doug Strickler
7/31	Kristyn Jones	7/31	Zach Wise

Anniversaries




7/1 Jack & Gwenda Blackmore
7/4 Toby & Elizabeth Adkins
7/15 Tuzz & Lizz Hobbs
7/24 Bill & Ruth Evans
7/25 David & Nancy Jo Breese
7/27 Jeff & Kelly Lloyd





JULY 2015 EVENTS



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4  Independence Day
5 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am Sunday School	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Coach John Zerbe 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Communion 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 4:00pm Session Meeting	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School	27	28	29	30	31  Ice Cream Social with Lion's Club Sausage 5:00 – 7:30 pm 	

Week of	Greeter*	Ushers	Acolyte	Nursery	*Besides greeting with a smile, greeters should be at the outside landing to watch the steps and parking lot as well as assist with the elevator to help those in need.
July 5	Kim Coil	Dan & Jim Lloyd Don & Jeff Owens	Elijah Martz	Mark & Missy Zielke	
July 12				Gwenda Blackmore	
July 19				Carol & Catie Emery	
July 26				Kent & Heather McClure	



Salem Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 678
Venedocia, Ohio 45894-0678

Music for July

Church Phone: 419-667-4142
Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc
www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia

Rev. Thomas Emery cell: 419-863-9131
Email: PastorTomEmery@SalemChurch.cc
Church E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc

Sunday, July 5
Special Music: Battle Hymn of the Republic

Sunday, July 12
Special Music: Maddie Dunn

Sunday, July 19
Special Music: Lindsay Newlove

Sunday, July 26
Special Music: Tamara Mullenhour

