

SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

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June 2017

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

At Salem, we have a lengthy weekly-updated Prayer List. It is for those who have health, spiritual, emotional, relational, and financial needs as well as for those who want loving prayer for their unique circumstance.

During our Sunday Service, we speak out their first names asking God to meet their needs, and we also lift *"those names who are in the silence of our thoughts."*



We know that Christ said when two or more are gathered in his Name at Salem, He is there among us (Mat. 18:20). He also said in John 14:14, to ask anything in His Name and He will do it, according to His will. As church members, we also pray during the week over the list.

Have you ever wondered *"Why do prayer? Does it work? Or, are we just wasting our time?"*

A secular cardiologist, Randolph Byrd at San Francisco General Hospital, decided to try to answer those questions about the effectiveness of prayer when he had a hunch that prayers were working in his practice for his patients under his care. The doctor tried to settle the issue once and for all, if prayer was indeed effective. While practicing at the hospital, he initiated his study of healing. He took a list of his 393 critically ill cardiac patients and chose randomly a group of 192 for study.

For the 192, he arranged for anonymous people from around the country to pray for each of these patients.

Their conditions were given to those praying. They were to pray for "healing and quick recovery." The other control group of patients were given the usual best medical care, but without prayer.

The cardiologist examined the results ten months later. To his surprise, the patients who were prayed over showed considerable lower incidences of cardiac infections and pulmonary edema. Further, the mortality rate was lower than the 201 patients not chosen to be prayed over."

Even more amazing to note is that the patients selected for prayer were not informed that they were being prayed for by those around the country. They also never met those who were praying for them. Those praying for them were only given a name and a condition that needed healing.

As followers of Christ, we don't realize the incredible power of God that has been delegated to us to use for the glory of God. Prayer even at a distance can have amazing results that even non-Christians need to admit.

Why not earnestly use our time with God to pray over our Salem List daily. Furthermore, why not also expand it to include a personal list for those around you. At Salem, let us truly be the Church that takes our faith and puts it into action.

Byrd, R .B. (1988). Positive therapeutic effects of intercessory prayer in a coronary care unit population. Southern Medical Journal, 81, 826-829.

Pastor Tom

My Earthly Dad

With these three words,
"Dear Heavenly Father,"
I begin my every prayer,
But the man I see
While on bended knee
Is always my earthly dad.

He is the image
Of the Father divine
Reflecting the nature of God,

For his love and care
And the faith he shared
Pointed me to my Father above.

By Mary Fairchild



Thank You, Dad

Thank you for the laughter,
For the good times that we share,
Thanks for always listening,
For trying to be fair.

Thank you for your comfort,
When things are going bad,
Thank you for the shoulder,
To cry on when I'm sad.

This poem's a reminder that
All my life through,
I'll be thanking heaven
For a special dad like you.

Anonymous

How to Pray

We often think prayer depends on us, but that's not true. Prayer does not hinge on our performance. The effectiveness of our prayers depends on Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father. So, when you think about how to pray, remember, prayer is part of our relationship with God.

How to Pray with Jesus We do well to keep in mind that when we pray, we don't pray alone. Jesus is always praying with us and for us (Romans 8:34). We pray to the Father *with* Jesus. And the Holy Spirit helps us, too:

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the

saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26-27, ESV).

How to Pray with the Bible When we wonder how to pray, we seldom look to the Bible for guidance. The truth, however, is that the Bible is packed with praying people, and we can learn much from their examples. Sometimes we have to dig through Scripture for models. We don't always find an obvious tip-off, such as, "Lord, teach us to pray..." (Luke 11:1, NIV) Instead, we can look for *strengths* and *situations*. Many Bible figures showed courage and faith, but others found themselves in situations that brought out qualities they didn't know they had, just as your situation can do today.



How to Pray When Your Situation Is Desperate What if you feel backed into a corner? Your job, finances, or marriage may be in trouble, and you wonder how to pray when danger threatens. David, a man after God's own heart, knew that feeling, as King Saul pursued him across the hills of Israel, trying to kill him.

The slayer of the giant Goliath, David understood where his strength came from: "*I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth*" (Psalm 121:1-2, NIV).

Desperation seems more the norm than the exception in the Bible. The night before his death, Jesus told his confused and anxious disciples how to pray at such times:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me" (John 14:1, NIV).

When you feel desperate, trusting in God calls for an act of the will. You can pray to the Holy Spirit, who will help you overcome your emotions and put your trust in God instead. This is hard, but Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit as our Helper for times like these.

How to Pray When Your Heart Is Broken Despite our heartfelt prayers, things don't always go the way we want. A loved one dies. You lose your job. The outcome is just the opposite of what you asked for. What then? Jesus' friend Martha was brokenhearted when her brother Lazarus died. She told Jesus so. God wants you to be honest with him. You can give him your anger and disappointment.



What Jesus told Martha applies to you today:

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26, NIV).

Of course, we should not expect Jesus to raise our loved one from the dead, as he did Lazarus. But we should expect our believer to live eternally in heaven, as Jesus promised. God will mend all our broken hearts in heaven. I don't know how he will do that, but I believe with all my being that he will.

Jesus promised in his Sermon on the Mount that God does hear the prayers of the brokenhearted:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted" (Matthew 5:3-4, NIV).

We pray best when we offer God our pain in humble sincerity, and Scripture tells us how our loving Father responds:

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3, NIV).

How to Pray When You Are Ill Clearly, God wants us to come to him with our physical and emotional illnesses. The Gospels, especially, are filled with accounts of people coming boldly to Jesus for healing. Not only did he encourage such faith, he delighted in it. When a group of men couldn't get their friend close enough to Jesus, they made a hole in the roof of the house where he was preaching and lowered the

paralyzed man down to him. First Jesus forgave his sins, then he made him walk.

On another occasion, as Jesus was leaving Jericho, two blind men sitting by the roadside shouted at him. They didn't whisper. They didn't talk. They shouted! *"The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us'"* (Matthew 20:31, NIV)!

Was the co-creator of the universe offended? Did he ignore them and keep walking?

"Jesus stopped and called them. 'What do you want me to do for you?' he asked. 'Lord,' they answered, 'we want our sight.' Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him" (Matthew 20:32-34, NIV).

Have faith in God. Be bold. Be persistent. If, for his own mysterious reasons, God does not heal your illness, you can be sure he will answer your prayer for supernatural strength to endure it.

How to Pray When You Are Thankful Life has miraculous moments. The Bible records dozens of situations where people express their gratitude to God. Many forms of thanks please him.

When God saved the fleeing Israelites by parting the Red Sea:

"Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing" (Exodus 15:20, NIV).

After Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, his disciples:

"...worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God" (Luke 24:52-53, NIV).

God desires our praise. You can shout, sing, dance, laugh, and cry with tears of joy. Sometimes your finest prayers have no words at all, but God, in his infinite goodness and love, will understand perfectly.

Adapted from How to Pray: Learn How to Pray With Tips From the Bible, Jack Zavada, Updated August 12, 2016, ThoughtCo

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$42,548.00
Received to Date: \$42,813.04

May Events



Mother's Day Photo



High wind storm damage to the cooper upper copula of the tallest steeple



May Senior Luncheon with Bingo games



Youth Bells certificate awarded to 10 youth



Marylyn Foust AKA "Scarecrow" playing thumb piano



Veterans Day 'Veteran of the Year' awarded to John Lloyd, Jeff Lloyd receiving



'Veteran of the Year' award to John Lloyd

Trustees Report

- Will replace the ceiling fans at the church in the near future.
- Plan to repair the steeple
- Plan to paint the front porch of the manse



Special music Marie Winfield and daughter

Wise's Pumpkin Fritters

A breakfast favorite with the Windward Islands School of Evangelism missionaries partially supported by Salem:

- 3 ½ cups grated pumpkin
- 2 ¼ cups flour
- ½ cup brown sugar 1 ¼ tsp spice
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla essence

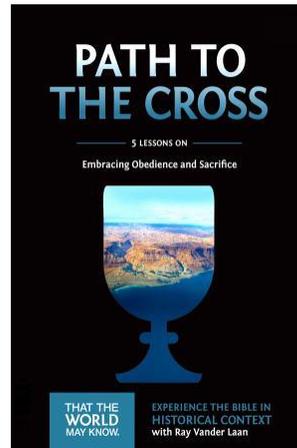
Mix all ingredients together Put in some oil and fry to golden brown.

Adult Sunday School

The June Adult Bible Study is reviewing the Ray Vander Laan series, *The Path to the Cross*.



Bulletin board announcements



God's story culminates with the intense devotion of his people in this volume of the Faith Lessons series. We are discovering how passionate faith prepared the way for Jesus and his ultimate act of obedience and sacrifice at the cross.

Then, we are challenged in our own life to live by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

As we begin June, we will cover the Passover topic again as the group found that there was too much interesting insightful symbolism found in the material to cover in one sitting. It is the story of God making Himself known to His people, and Passover is a foundational element.

As the continuation of this redemptive process, the Lord's Supper finds its most profound meaning when taken in the context of Passover imagery.

We will try to unpack the full meaning of the Last Supper and learn how to engage it in deep celebration, commemorating Jesus' redemptive work on our behalf.



Springtime back view of Salem from old bridge

Prayer Concerns

Norma Adam (liver issues- VW Manor)
 Elizabeth Adkins (liver surgery)
 Violet Ashton (dementia)
 Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
 Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
 Doris Evans (cancer)
 Colin Good (emphysema – son of Charlie Good)
 Larry Howell
 Melanie Huddleston (cancer – sister of Kim Coil)
 Jeremy Hughes (recovering from MRSA)
 Noell Hunter (Type 1 diabetes)
 Sami Jones (shoulder surgery)
 Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
 Betty Lloyd
 John Lloyd (rehab at Van Crest) put In Our Thoughts...
 Elizabeth Markus (depression and salvation)
 Byron Mohr doing much better-Thanks for the Prayers!
 Marian Morris (stage two cancer)
 Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)
 Dorthea Plikert
 Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)
 Joyce Profit (heart issues)
 Chris Reichert (health issues)
 George Siler (physical therapy)
 Bill Stewart (heart issues)
 Keith Stoller (surgical complications)
 Thad Summersett (brain tumor)
 Warren Summersett (cancer)
 Natalie Wilkens (90 years old and failing in health)
 Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

Condolences to the family of Rees Davies
 Condolences to the family of Simon Ibell

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Remember our elderly members, soldiers, and college students with cards and visits.



Violet Ashton
 Roselawn Manor
 420 E. 4th St. - Apt. 109
 Spencerville, OH 45887

Marian Morris
 Hearth & Home
 1118 Westwood Dr.
 Van Wert, OH 45891

Betty Lloyd
 Van Wert Manor
 160 Fox Road
 Van Wert, OH 45891

Marjorie Rhoades
 Hearth & Home
 1118 Westwood Dr.
 Van Wert, OH 45891

John Lloyd
 20155 Venedocia-Eastern Rd
 Venedocia, OH 45891

Warren Summersett
 Vancrest Healthcare
 10357 VW—Decatur
 Van Wert, OH 45891

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow
 (U.S. Coast Guard)
 311 Oak Street #109
 Oakland, CA 94607

Pete McCollow
 (U.S. Marine Corps)
 116 HAC Street
 Jacksonville, NC 28540

Nick Fuller
Grandson of Dave & Ann Rees

Micah Linger
 Grandson of Doris Evans
 (U.S. Marine Corps)
 LCTL Linger, Micah
 9 phesb 3mlg H&S Co.
 Unit 38430 FPO AP96385

Phoebe Eutsler
 (U.S. Army)

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Lourdes University

Andrew Emery – University of Cincinnati

Birthdays

2 Barb Owens	4 Chad Pugh
6 Cassy Emery	8 Tammy Lloyd
10 Dillon Ellerbrock	13 Kevin Price
14 Sandra Caffro	18 Charlie Good
25 Tamara Mullenhour	29 Tom Evans
30 Shania Profit	

Anniversaries

2nd Ron & Barb Owens
 14th Jeff & Kim Coil
 17th Bill & Elgarda McGee
 22nd Todd & Janye Morris
 24th Owen & Karen Pugh
 25th Rex & Lisa Lloyd
 28th Larry & Sandra Caffro

Graduates

Christina Emery – Spencerville High School
 Cassy Emery – B.S. Cincinnati Christian University
 Katie McClure – Crestview High School

June 2017

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30 AM Worship Graduate Recognition Pentecost Offering 10:45 Sunday School	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	12	13	14 Music Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	15	16 Ice Cream Social 4:30-7:00	17
18 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Sunday School Noon Session	19	20	21	22	23	24 Spencerville Summerfest Parade 6:30
25 9:30 AM Worship- 10:45 Sunday School	26	27	28	29	30	

Week of	Greeter	Special Music	Ushers	Flowers	Nursery
June 4	Jeremy Morris		Jim & Dan Lloyd Jeff & Don Owens	Gwenda Blackmore Doris Evans	Liz Hobbs
June 11		Hymn Sing			Dave & Carla Breese
June 18		Connie O'Neil			Bob & Kathy McCollow
June 25		Miah Katalenas			Bob & Denise Pugh



Salem Presbyterian Church
 P.O. Box 678
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Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142
 Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc
www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia
 Church E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc
 Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131
 Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com



Boys Group

June 2017 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR A	
Day of Pentecost – June 4	
Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34,35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
Trinity Sunday – June 11	
Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8
2 Cor. 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
2nd Sunday after Pentecost – June 18	
Gen. 18:1-15(21:1-7)	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Romans 5:1-8	Mat. 9:35-10:8 (9-23)
3rd Sunday after Pentecost – June 25	
Gen. 21:8-21	Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Rom. 6:1b-11	Matt. 10:24-39