

Salem Presbyterian Church

Sunday, July 23rd, 2017, 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery

Organist: LaDonna Allenbaugh

The flowers are given to the glory of God The Evans Family



Prelude
Lighting of the Candles
Welcome & Prayer

Call to Worship Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 566

*Hymn: Sweet Hour of Prayer 361

Prayer of Confession: Almighty God, You have set before us the path, but we have wandered on our own, to try to find our way. **At times, we are like children testing boundaries, ignoring Your call, until fear finally makes us look back.** And still other times, we are full of youthful rebellion, demanding to be cut loose and set free, not knowing how much we still need, to seek Your wisdom and guidance. **Help us to seek You every day, to acknowledge that we need Your wisdom and guidance; help us to return to the path and walk with You. We pray in Jesus' Name, who is our companion on this journey of faith. Amen.** *(Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our personal prayers of confession).*

Assurance of Pardon Response **Glory Be to the Father** Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church
Prayers of the People
Prayer Response **The Lord's Prayer**

Scripture Readings *Genesis 28:10-19a 24
 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 890
 Romans 8:1-11 1029

Time for Children

*Hymn: Blodwen *Welsh hymnal, 60*

Sermon: **"Heaven Opened Up"** Rev. Thomas Emery

*Apostle's Creed: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offertory – *ushers will receive our tithes and offerings*
*Response **Praise God** Inside Front Cover

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn: Sanctus *Welsh hymnal, 30*

*Taking the Light into the World

*Charge and Benediction
*Congregational Response **Three Fold Amen** Inside Back Cover

**Those who are able are invited to stand.*



Financial Update:

Needed Weekly:	\$1,934.00	Needed to Date:	\$56,086.00
Rec'd 07-16-17:	\$1,154.45	Rec'd to Date:	\$58,408.19

Sunday:

9:30 AM
10:45 AM

07-23-17

Worship (nursery with Rex & Lisa Lloyd))
Sunday School

Sunday:

9:30 AM
10:45 AM

07-30-17

Worship (nursery with Tuzz & Liz Hobbs)
Sunday School

Announcements:

The next Presbytery meeting is in Toledo, July 25 at 5:30 PM.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the newsletter. Submit them to secretary@saalemchurch.cc.

Upcoming Birthdays

24th-Evan Pugh
26th-Brent Price
29th-Doug Strickler
31st-Zach Wise

25th-Kent McClure
29th-Heather McClure
31st-Kristyn Jones

Upcoming Anniversaries

24th-Bill & Ruth Evans
27th-Jeff & Kelly Lloyd

25th-David & Nancy Jo Breese



Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | July 23, 2017

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@saalemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

Norma Adam (liver issues)
Elizabeth Adkins (liver issue)
Violet Ashton (broken leg)
Leona Browning
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
Doris Evans (cancer)
Colin Good (diagnosed with 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 - friend of Evelyn Martz)
Betty Lloyd
John Lloyd (recovering at home)
Elizabeth Markus (depression & salvation)
Marian Morris (stage two cancer)
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)
Dorthea Plikerd (Rehab at Roselawn)
Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)
Lewis Price (bladder cancer, stones, Paul Price's brother)
Joyce Profit (heart issues)
George Siler (physical therapy)
Bill Stewart (brother of Kim Coil)
Keith Stoller (surgical complications)
Thad Summersett (malignant brain tumor – grandson of Warren S.)
Warren Summersett (cancer treatments)
Natalie Wilkins (90 years old and failing in health)
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

Serving our Country:

Phoebe Eutsler (U.S. Army)
Nick Fuller (U.S. Air Force)
Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)
Pete McCollow (U.S. Marine Corps)

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Rev. Thomas Emery
"Heaven Opened Up" Genesis 28:10-22
Salem Presbyterian Church
July 23, 2017

It was one of those divine encounter moments of the presence of God. At Bethel, during a time of brokenness and loneliness, Jacob met the living God, and he experienced God's unconditional love. After that encounter, that memory motivated him. Whenever things started going unfavorably, Jacob remembered his meeting with the living God. For hundreds of years, this story has also been a source of insight and inspiration for people of faith. Some give it the shorthand of "*Jacob's Ladder*," and it is familiar as a song often sung in children's Sunday school. Also, you might not know that Sara Adams paraphrased the passage for her well-known hymn, "*Nearer, My God, To Thee*." "*Though like the wanderer, The sun gone down, Darkness be over me, My rest a stone; Yet in my dreams I'd be Nearer, my God, to Thee* (v. 2).

TEACHING POINTS

Point One – Jacob's ladder represents the distance from who we are and who God wants us to be.

Point Two –It is God who reaches out to each of us.

Point Three – God can use each of us for His purposes.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY PASSAGE

²⁰ Then Jacob made this vow: "If God will indeed be with me and protect me on this journey, and if he will provide me with food and clothing, ²¹ and if I return safely to my father's home, then the LORD will certainly be my God. ²² And this memorial pillar I have set up will become a place for worshiping God, and I will present to God a tenth of everything he gives me" (Genesis 28:20-22 NLT).

ACTION POINT

Jacob was not highly exalted as a very moral person, yet God still loved him. That is the point of this passage. As Frederick Buechner puts it, "*God doesn't love people because of who they are, but because of who He is.*" If that is the case, then God's love for you is not dependent on who you are, but on who God is. Why not come to Him as you are, and soon the Holy Spirit will change you into Christ-like joy filled Godliness and into the person God created you to be.

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