



**Sunday:**

9:30 AM  
5:00 PM  
7:00 PM

**12-10-17**

Worship (*nursery with Liz Hobbs*)  
Meet at the church for caroling  
Open house at the Manse

**Tuesday:**

10:00 AM  
7:00 PM  
7:00 PM

**12-12-17**

Women's Bible Study  
Women's Bible Study  
Teens for Christ (Spencerville)

**Sunday:**

9:30 AM  
  
10:30 AM  
10:45 AM  
2:00 PM

**12-17-17**

Worship (*nursery with Ross & Alyssa Evans*)  
Children's Christmas Program  
Sunday School  
Session Meeting  
Santa visiting the Lion's Club

**Announcements:**

We have a goal of donating 250 packages of stuffing to the Salvation Army, please help us reach this goal. Last day to bring in is today, **December 10<sup>th</sup>**. In the past, we have provided volunteers for the Salvation Army at the Van Wert Walmart. If you want to volunteer this year, call Lt. Josh Morales at (419) 910-9332.

The Session Meeting will be at noon on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Bring a snack to share.

The Teens for Christ will continue to meet through the holidays at Tues. 7 pm, but are off on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Christmas Eve service is at 10 pm and will feature Communion.

Women's Bible Study began and is running on Tuesdays at 10 am and at 7 pm. Our goal is to fellowship and have fun experiencing God together!

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the January newsletter. Submit them to [secretary@salemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc).

**Upcoming Birthdays**

13<sup>th</sup>-Marilyn Stockton

17<sup>th</sup>-Jeremy Morris

**Upcoming Anniversaries**

16<sup>th</sup>-Kent & Heather McClure



*Salem Presbyterian Church*

Venedocia, Ohio | December 10, 2017

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

[www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc) | [secretary@salemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc)

**Prayer Concerns:**

Elizabeth Adkins (liver issue)  
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)  
Doris Evans (cancer)  
Larry Howell  
Linda Howell  
Tim Hurbert (cancer in lungs & pancreas-friend of Barb Good)  
Jan Jones (health Issues)  
Paula Jones (healing from fall)  
Sami Jones (health issues)  
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer - friend of Evelyn Martz)  
Jason Lloyd (appendix removed)  
Becky Martz (health problems)  
Janet Mohr  
Marian Morris  
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)  
Kim Owens  
Dorothea Plikerd  
Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)  
Lewis Price (bladder cancer, stones, Paul Price's brother)  
Joyce Profit  
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)  
Randy Richards (mowing accident)  
Laura Saylor (Viral Meningitis, wife of Pastor Mike Saylor)  
Keith Stoller (surgical complications)  
Thad Summersett (malignant brain tumor – grandson of Warren S.)  
Warren Summersett (cancer)  
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  
“Get Ready, the Messiah Is Coming” Isaiah 40:1-11  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
December 10, 2017

The people had transgressed God's law; they had ignored the warnings of the prophets whom God had sent one after the other to warn the people and help them to return to the proper path. However, their failure to heed the numerous warnings resulted in their Babylonian exile because of their sins, but Isaiah affirms that the exile will end. The exile is an expression of God's judgment. Judah not only had abandoned Yahweh but also had detracted from Yahweh's glory by giving it to idols. The exile was a time in which God's people could reflect on what they had done; this period of reflection was a way of paying the damages in order to be restored to fellowship with Yahweh. The statement “she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins” (40:2) is an allusion to the Old Testament laws of restitution (Exod. 22:4, 7, 9).

Despite the situation, however, God would never abandon His chosen people and, thus, Isaiah was sent to proclaim the message of peace and new life. We hear, "*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins*" (Isaiah 40:1-2). It will be a new day for Israel; God has forgiven the transgressions of the people. Their term of exile will soon end.

#### TEACHING POINTS

*First. Jesus, of course, is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies.*

*Second. Still, the Lord gives us free will and will never enter where he is not welcome.*

*Third. This Advent season we wait for Jesus to return to our world.*

#### THIS WEEK'S MEMORY PASSAGE

<sup>3</sup> Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting, “Clear the way through the wilderness for the LORD! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God (Isaiah 40:3 NLT)!”

#### ACTION POINT

Having told the people that God would give them a new day, the prophet then begins to explain about the journey home. He predicts the voice of one speaking from the wilderness of the need to prepare the way for the Lord. At the same time, he speaks of what is necessary for the Hebrew people to return home. They are to build a highway that is straight and level. All valleys must be filled in and all mountains made low; the uneven ground is to be made level and the rough places smooth. From our twenty-first-century perspective, Isaiah is telling the people to build a superhighway that will allow them to return home quickly and safely. This, of course, is not a real road but a very important thoroughfare of the mind. The physical movement cannot be accomplished until the people understand and can create a straight path between themselves and God. In the past, many hurdles, obstacles, and detours, all of which were human-generated, were placed between the people and God. Now, during Advent, perhaps you can prayerfully deal with your obstacles so that the relationship between God and you, His chosen one, will once again be whole.

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