

Salem Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 4th, 2018, 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery

Organist: LaDonna Allenbaugh



Prelude
Lighting of the Candles
Welcome & Prayer

Call to Worship Psalm 147:1-11 570

*Hymn: The Solid Rock 272

Prayer of Confession: **God of tenderness and love, breathe Your grace into our lives. Forgive our wandering ways, and guide us along your paths of peace. When we lose our way, and forget the reason and purpose of this Lent season, carry us back to you. Lead us up to that high mountain of faith and hope, that we might truly proclaim: "Here is our God!" In Jesus' Name we pray. 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**

Special Music Shonda Pugh Marley

Scripture Readings *Isaiah 40:21-31 65
4
Mark 1:29-39 911
1 Corinthians 9:16-23 1044

Time for Children

Hymn: I Need Thee Every Hour 318

Sermon: "Not Hope Against Hope" 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: Great Is Thy Faithfulness 40

*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:	\$1,927.00	Needed to Date:	\$7,708.00
Rec'd 01-28-18:	\$1,773.30	Rec'd to Date:	\$6,259.95

Sunday: **02-04-18**
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Bill & Ruth Evans*)
10:45 AM Congregational meeting following the service
Sunday School

Tuesday: **02-06 -18**
7:00 PM Teens for Christ (Spencerville)

Sunday: **02-11-18**
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Eric & Jenny Pugh*)
10:45 AM Sunday School
5:00 PM Trustee Meeting

Announcements:

Today is the Souper Bowl of Caring. Please put your canned goods in the prayer room.

The **Teens for Christ** meeting is on Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Spencerville Nazarene Church. If you need a ride, call Pastor Tom to carpool.

Ash Wednesday is on **February 14** with a meal preceding at 6:00 pm and at 7:00 pm the Ash Wednesday Service.

This year, we are continuing the **Lenten Season Pulpit Exchange** of Spencerville area churches. Our Pastor will present at 7 pm, **February 25th**, at Agape Fellowship Church at 9250 Armstrong Rd. in Spencerville, Ohio (just off 117). We are hosting at Salem Rev. Jim Fletcher, of First Baptist Church, on **March 4th** with a light meal reception to follow.

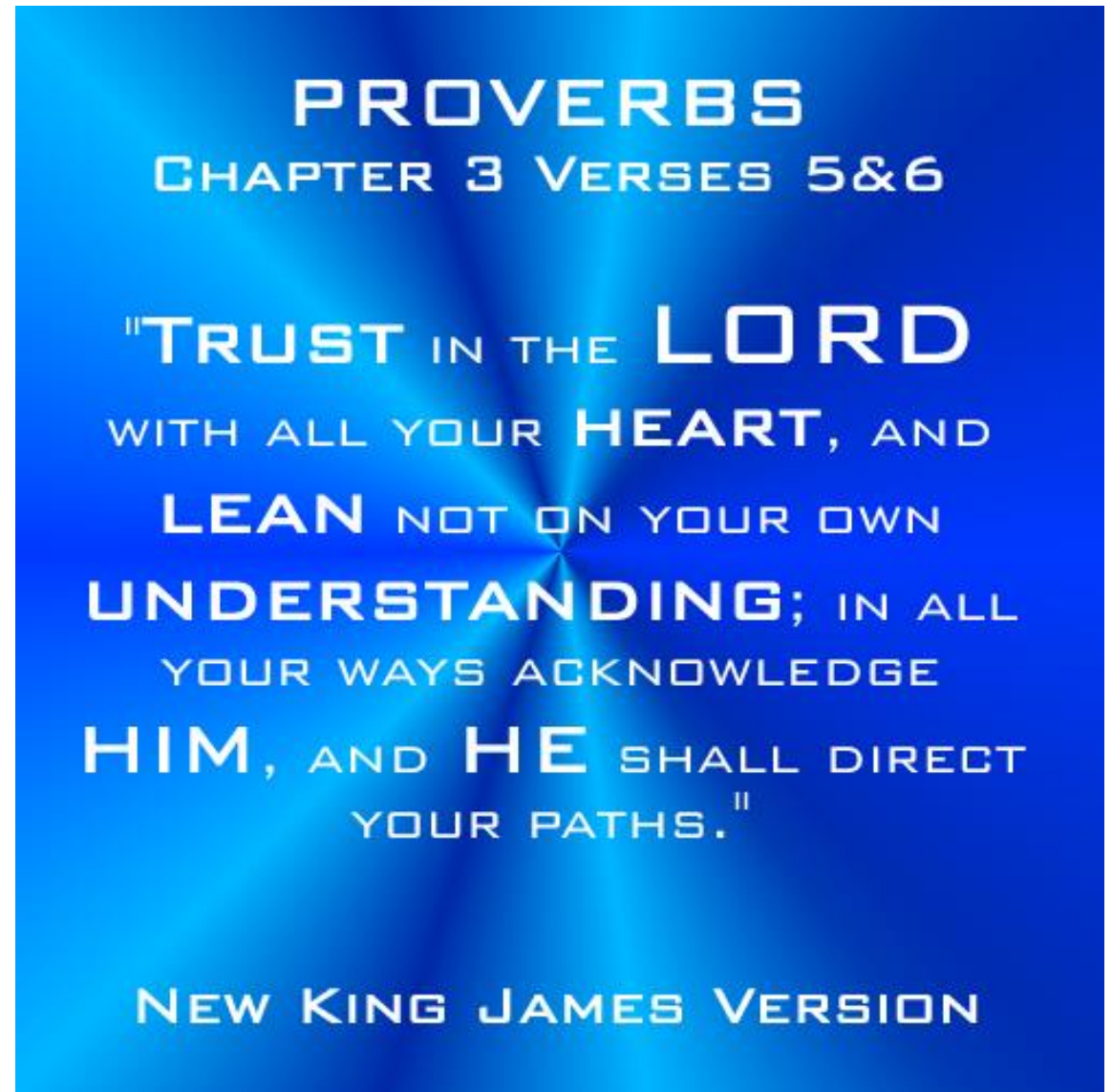
The next **Session Meeting** is at 11:45, February 18. The next **Presbytery Meeting** is at 9:30 – 3:30, February 20 at First Presbyterian of Tiffin.

Kim Owens will be 60 on February 18. We would like to have a card shower to encourage her in her battle against cancer. Her address is: 13373 Jonestown Road, Van Wert, OH 45891

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

Upcoming Birthdays

4th-Andrew Emery
11th-Evelyn Martz
4th-Jerry Foust
12th- Madison Pugh



Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | February 4, 2018

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142
www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@salemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

Tim Adams (cancer)
Peggy Burnett
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
Doris Evans (cancer)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Bill Harmon (cancer)
Larry Howell
Linda Howell
Bob Hundley (cancer)
Tim Hurbert (cancer in lungs & pancreas-friend of Barb Good)
Jan Jones (health Issues)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer - friend of Evelyn Martz)
Carol Lee
Bob Louth
Becky Martz (health problems)
Marian Morris
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)
Kim Owens
Dorothea Plikerd
Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)
Joyce Profit
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Randy Richards (mowing accident)
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Bobbie Spyres
Thad Summersett (malignant brain tumor – grandson of Warren S.)
Natalie Wilkins (90 years old and failing in health)
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

Serving our Country:

Phoebe Eutsler (U.S. Army)
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
“Not Hope Against Hope” Isaiah 40:21-31
Salem Presbyterian Church
February 4, 2018

Our passage is set in the time after the deportation of Judeans to Babylon in 587 BC. God had punished them for their wickedness. Now, Yahweh reverses the declaration that they are no longer His children, and God speaks in a way that presupposes that a loving relationship still exists. God is giving words of comfort through Isaiah. The Judeans’ sin has been paid for. The city’s desolation, its subjection to Babylon, and its abandonment by its God have gone on long enough. She has received from Yahweh’s hand, double for all her sins. Looking at the bigger picture, Yahweh, the covenant God, the Creator of heaven and earth, tirelessly works out His plan of salvation for His people. Their restoration is based on His loving nature. He will renew the strength of His people, but this is dependent on their willingness to submit themselves to Him.

TEACHING POINTS

First. God cares about our fallen world.

Second. God is Lord over all.

Third. If we want the comfort of God, by faith, we need to prepare for it.

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY PASSAGE

But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31 NLT).

ACTION POINT

Isaiah is calling the Judeans to look behind their present despair and depression to their convictions about Yahweh that they surely still affirm. They are called to set their hope on the fact that the God, in whom they believe, is also sovereign in the world’s political and military events. Here the word, “*Hope*,” means “*not hope against hope*,” but it means being convinced that your expectation has reasons to have hope. Such hope means that the weary find new resources of energy and perseverance, because they know that they have an exciting future. Instead of despairing, they have a good future to look forward to fulfilling. Your situation may now seem hopeless, but remember God sometimes uses bad circumstances to teach you things that you would not have learned in prosperity. When people realize their own powerlessness, it is then that they will be open to the power that saves -- God's power.

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