

SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY PRINT AND DIGITAL NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

²⁴ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it (Luke 9:23-24 NLT).

There is an old story passed onto each generation about a believer in the times of the early persecuted Christian church who was brought before an angry Roman Emperor on charges of being a Christ-follower. We also can have the same solid confidence that this believer exhibited when he was called upon to reject Christ but politely stood firm with the confidence of his faith:

"I will banish you," raged the emperor. "You cannot," the Christian replied, "for the whole world is my Father's house."

"Then I will slay you," said the emperor. "Neither can you do that, for my life is hid with Christ in God. I fear not them who have power only to destroy the body but have no power to destroy the soul."

"Then," retorted the emperor, "I will take away your treasure." The Christian responded, "You cannot do that, for my treasure is in heaven where moth and rust do not corrupt."

Frustrated, the emperor finally said, *"I will drive you away from man, and you shall have not a friend left to be near you."*

The Christian quietly affirmed, *"No, you cannot do that either; for I have a Friend from whom you cannot separate me. There is nothing you can do to harm me for neither life nor death nor things present nor things to come can separate me from his love."*

In the account as by told by Charley Reeb about an exasperated Emperor, we are exposed to the attitude we should all tightly embrace. This is who we become when we allow God to saturate us with the wisdom and love found in his Word. So why don't we go to God more often?

There is no good reason we should put off spending time with God. We forget that God is closer to us than

our very breath. He is always ready and willing to give us everything we need for this life, and he offers us a beyond-expression joyous eternal life if we make his Son, the Lord of our life.

So, why not begin right now talking with God as your best friend who wants a deep relationship with you now and forever?

In the Stillness



In the stillness when it's just You and me
I can be candid, I can be free
To express what I'm feeling and going through
I don't have to hide anything from You

The doubts and worries slip away
My heart smiles when I start to pray
I can see Your face again and hear Your voice
I realize once more that I have a choice

I can look for the good, and treasure Your work
I can help others even when I hurt
You're taking care of me every day
I'm never alone, here with me You stay

In the stillness where some crave noise
I regain my strength, I regain my poise
I can stand tall on Your promises and Word
I can move forward because Your voice I've heard

So never let me get too busy not to be still
Keep me humble, mold my will
That I may follow You and serve You with all I am
That I may be useful to Your plan

You're taking care of more than just me
You have a world to love, a world to set free
From the sin and misery that capture us all
Until we believe in Your Son and answer Your call

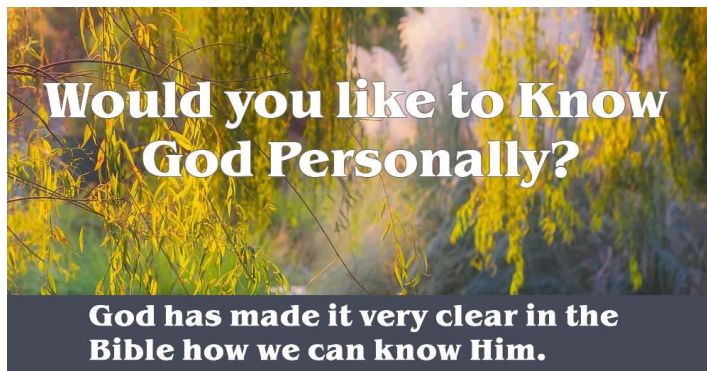
I set my heart on You to love You forever
I want to be with Your people and serve You together
In the stillness, remind me why I'm here
As long as I'm next to Your heart, I won't fear

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Four Spiritual Principles to Know God Personally

What does it take to begin a relationship with God?

Devote yourself to unselfish religious deeds? Become a better person so that God will accept you? You may be surprised that none of those things will work. But God has made it very clear in the Bible how we can know Him.



The following principles will explain how you can personally begin a relationship with God, right now, through Jesus Christ...

Principle 1: God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.

God's Love

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)

God's Plan

[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" [that it might be full and meaningful]. John 10:10

Why is it that most people are not experiencing the abundant life? Because...

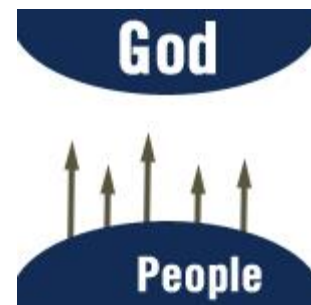
Principle 2:

All of us sin and our sin has separated us from God.

We Are Sinful

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
Romans 3:23

We were created to have fellowship with God; but, because of our stubborn self-will, we chose to go our own independent way, and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is evidence of what the Bible calls sin.



We Are Separated

"The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God]. Romans 6:23

This diagram illustrates that God is holy and people are sinful. A great gulf separates us. The arrows illustrate that we are continually trying to reach God and the abundant life, through our own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion — but we inevitably fail.

The third law explains the only way to bridge this gulf...

Principle 3:

Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through Him, we can know and experience God's love and plan for our life.

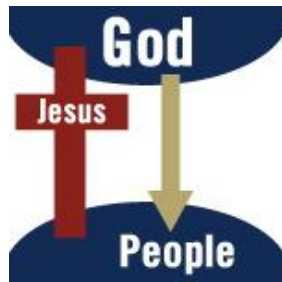
He Died in Our Place

"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

He Rose from the Dead

“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day, according to the scriptures... He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred...” 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

He Is the Only Way to God



“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.’” John 14:6

This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the gulf which separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.

It is not enough just to know these three principles...

Principle 4:

We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God’s love and plan for our lives.

We Must Receive Christ

“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.” John 1:12

We Receive Christ Through Faith

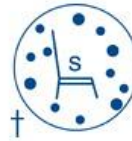
“By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.” Ephesians 2:8,9

When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth

We Receive Christ by Personal Invitation
[Christ speaking] “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him.” Revelation 3:20

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for your sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. You receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will.

These two circles represent two kinds of lives:



Self-Directed Life

Self is on the throne, directing decisions and actions (represented by the dots), often resulting in frustration. Jesus is outside the life.



Christ-Directed Life

Jesus is in the life and on the throne. Self is yielding to Jesus. The person sees Jesus’ influence and direction in their life.

Which circle best describes your life? Which circle would you like to have represent your life?

The following explains how you can receive Christ:

You can receive Christ right now by faith through prayer

Prayer is talking to God. God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

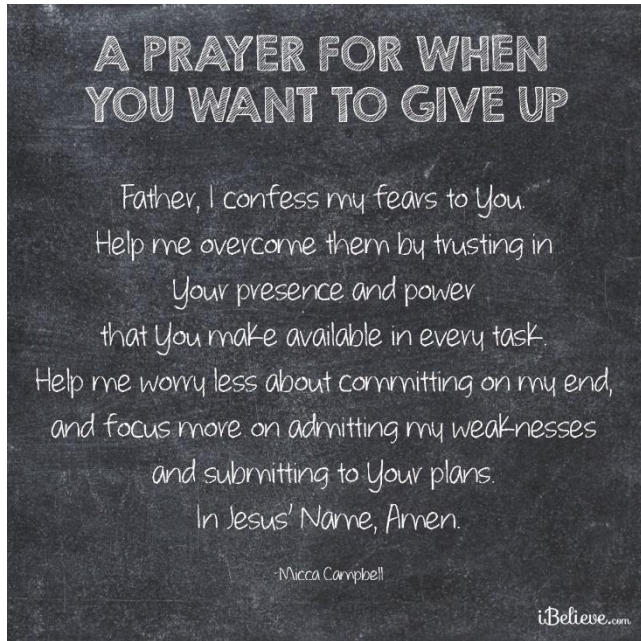
“Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.”

If this prayer expresses the desire of your heart, then you can pray this prayer right now and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?

If yes, pray now and according to his promise, Jesus Christ will come into your life. Afterward, please let other Christians know that you prayed the prayer. I’m sure that they will be excited!

Adapted from *Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws* and *Would You Like to Know God Personally*, by Dr. Bill Bright, co-founder of Campus Crusade for Christ. © Campus Crusade for Christ.



Short Prayer for Hope and Trust

Father, sometimes it does feel that you have left us in the battle. We know that you are with us, but so are our feelings of aloneness. The Enemy seems to be taking ground. Our crying out to you seems to go unanswered. We know you are at work, but help us trust you in the midst of our questions. In Jesus' Name, Amen. ~ Ron Moore

Short Prayer for Thankfulness

God, sometimes life gets me down and I find it hard to see things to be thankful for. Open my eyes to see the gifts you've given me in my life. I'm going to start by thanking you for loving me enough to come to earth and die so we can live together forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen. ~ Wendy van Eyck

Short Prayer for Restored Relationships

Father God, open my eyes to see the ways I'm like [Cain](#). What conflicts am I allowing to brew in my family? What anger is bubbling into murderous rage in my relationships? Thank You for the clarity to see how hatred kills relationships. I choose instead the way of love. Love protects. Help me to protect those I love by loving them. Your way is always best, Father. I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen. ~ James MacDonald



Pastor Tom spent his study leave at the 5000 attendance Ligonier Ministries 31st annual National Conference. The Reformation Theology talks are offered free for a limited time if you go to this link:
<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/conferences/awakening-2018-national-conference/>



Pastor Jim Fletcher and wife Penny from the Spencerville First Baptist Church came to Salem along with the Spencerville-area seven churches that participated in the Lent pulpit exchange. A light meal and social time followed in the adjoining Prayer Room that also celebrated St. David's Day.



Palm Sunday



Dave and Jean Owens' great grandchildren celebrating with palms



Kelly Lloyd as the "Woman at the Well"



Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday



Junior Bells

Upcoming Passion Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday – Meal at 6 pm
and the Service at 7 pm

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday at 1 pm at Memorial
Park (bags passed out if raining)

Easter Sunday – Breakfast at 8 am, Flowering the
Cross at 9 am and the Service at 9:30 am

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

Natalie Morgan Wilkins

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur
Van Wert, OH 45891

Marjorie Rhoades

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

Bob Louth

15113 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Marian Morris

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

Warren Summersett

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur
Van Wert, OH 45891

David Hugh Evans

PO Box 696
Venedocia, Ohio 45894

Serving our Country**Cory McCollow**

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

Phoebe Eutsler (Army)**Pete McCollow**

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

Micah Linger

Grandson of Doris Evans
(U.S. Marine Corps)
Cpl. Linger, Micah
9th ESB 3MLG /H+S Co.
Unit #38430 FPO AP96385

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

Andrew Emery – University of Cincinnati

Christina Emery – University of Cincinnati

Condolences

Condolences to the family of Thad Summersett.

Birthdays

2	Lyndi (Breese)Forsythe	6	Carol Emery
8	Andy Breese	12	MaKenna Kimmert
13	Sami Jones	16	Bill Evans
20	Kevin Matthews	22	Elgarda McGee
23	Grant Zielke	25	Julia (Morris)Molitor
26	Gwenda Blackmore	29	Jenny Pugh
30	Bob Bolton	30	Ruth Evans

Anniversaries

21 John & Mary Ellen Lloyd

Prayer Concerns

Peggy Burnett (cancer)
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)
David Hugh Evans (Vancrest room G1)
Doris Evans (cancer)
Lynn Fell (immune deficiency)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Mike Hammons (recovering from a stroke)
Bill Harmon (cancer)
Larry Howell
Linda Howell
Bob Hundley (cancer)
Tim Hurbert (cancer in lungs & pancreas)
Jan Jones (health Issues)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)

Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
Carol Lee (cancer)
Bob Louth
Becky Martz (health problems)
Marian Morris
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)
Kim Owens (cancer)
Dorothea Plikerd
Walter Poling
Joyce Profit
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Bobbie Spyres
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

April 2018

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER SUNDAY Great Hour of Sharing 8:00 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Flower the Cross 9:30 AM Worship	2	3 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Bible Study	4	5	6	7
8 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	9	10 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Bible Study	11	12	13	14
15 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:45 AM Session Meeting	16	17 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Bible Study	18	19	20	21
22 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School	23	24 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Bible Study	25 Senior Luncheon 12:00 noon	26	27	28
29 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	30					

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
April 1	Adult Singing Group	Available-not staffed	Gwenda Blackmore
April 8	Alexander Hudson/ Tamara	Ross & Alyssa Evans	Gwenda Blackmore
April 15	To be determined	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Gwenda Blackmore
April 22	Bell Choir	Dave & Carla Breese	Rex & Lisa Lloyd
April 29	LaDonna-Organ	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Rex & Lisa Lloyd
Ushers	Todd & Jayne Morris family	Greeter:	Evelyn Martz

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



Palm Sunday excitement

Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc
www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia

Secretary E-Mail: Secretary@SalemChurch.cc

Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131

Pastor's Email: PastorTomEmery@live.com

April 2018 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
Resurrection of the Lord/Easter – April 1	
Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2,14-24
1 Cor. 15:1-11	John 20:1-18
2nd Sunday of Easter – April 8	
Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
3rd Sunday of Easter – April 15	
Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
4th Sunday of Easter – April 22	
Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
5th Sunday of Easter – April 29	
Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8