

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

<sup>14</sup> "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins (Matthew 6:14-15 NLT).

Representing Salem Church on April 13th, I was invited to host the 9 am **daily prayer call-in program** for Christian radio station **WTGN 97.7 FM**. People called in their prayer requests, and they were immediately handed to me on-air to pray for them with the listening audience. A good number of requests were about forgiveness.

When the program was over, I had to remember that sometimes when I pray with the people whom I visit, they tell me that they also have trouble forgiving someone. They know it is wrong with God, but they have a hard time giving up carrying a grudge. Having grown up in a dysfunctional family, I likewise have struggled with forgiveness.

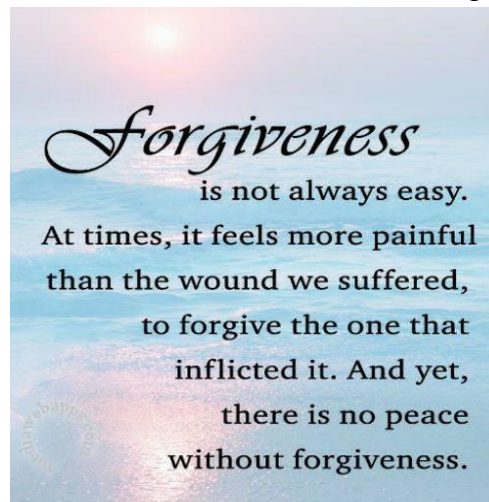
Yes, forgiving is commonly hard to do, because it is not natural for us. Our responses to hurt are usually anger, resentment, and taking revenge in many ways. The funny thing is that we may carry a grudge against someone who doesn't even know how much you have been hurt, so as they say, **"They live in your head rent free."**

God wants us to have lives that are more than abundant in happiness if we seek Him first. We need to soberly think of God's perspective from the parable given us by Jesus of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:

<sup>32</sup> Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> "That's

*what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."*

The problem is that we can't follow Christ if we can't forgive others. We disobey God when we withhold forgiveness.



Withholding forgiveness belittles Christ's sacrifice on the cross. There, Jesus paid the full price for our sins. When we forgive, we show that we are loving God, and we show that we are honoring what the cross did for us. We forgive others, not because others deserve it, but because God has forgiven us a much greater debt than can be owed to us.

When we set our eyes on the cross, we can obtain the strength to forgive. Place all your pain, hurts and scars at the foot of the cross. Just pray for Jesus to take your unforgiveness away from you. With your eye on the cross, you can supernaturally obtain the strength to pray for the one who offended you, and you can release them of their debt of sin against you.

*Pastor Tom*

## Mother's Day

Evangelicals have the highest regard for the calling of motherhood. After all, Jesus came into the world not as a fully-grown adult, but as a helpless baby. Jesus was formed in the womb of his mother Mary and dependent upon her for care and nourishment.

Evangelicals have found themselves on both sides of the "Mommy Wars." Many defend the combination of motherhood and career pursuits, while others promote stay-at-home motherhood as the best option for mothers and children alike. It really depends on your personal calling before God which path you choose.

## "For You Mum on Mother's Day"

I want to tell you, Mum  
That you're special to the Lord,  
And you are valued in His eyes,  
For no one loves you more.



And Mum, I want you to know  
How blessed you really are,  
For I know that it was never easy,  
Those past years were quite hard.

But even through the years gone by,  
I believe that God was there,  
Reaching out with loving arms,  
Though we were unaware.

And He is still beside you  
Longing to be a part  
Of all the things that interest you,  
For you're special in His heart.

For even in the daily struggles  
That seems to be part of life,  
The Lord longs to be involved  
And fill the void inside.

So Mum, on this Mother's day,  
I just want you to know  
That you were always appreciated  
And that Jesus loves you so.

-- M.S.Lowndes,

## The Meaning of Pentecost

*"Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths" ([Deuteronomy 16:16–17](#)).*

Christians from all theological traditions make at least a passing mention of Pentecost when it arrives during the liturgical year. Pentecost's importance under the old covenant, made it one of the three festivals each year when every Israelite male had to be in Jerusalem ([Deut. 16:16–17](#)).



Ancient Jews came to associate Pentecost with the revelation of God's law to Israel. This does make sense when we consider that Pentecost under the old covenant was primarily an occasion on which to thank the Lord for providing the grain the people needed for survival ([Lev. 23:15–22](#)).

God's law is likewise necessary for His people to thrive spiritually wherever they may be, so Pentecost was as good a time as any to rejoice in the revelation of the Torah to Moses.

However, since the Law of Moses by itself produced death and not life in the nation ([Rom. 7:7–12](#)), it also makes sense that our Creator would later choose Pentecost as the occasion on which He poured out the Holy Spirit ([Acts 2:1–10](#)). During a festival when the people thanked God for giving them grain and for giving them His law, the Lord gave the Spirit of life, who alone can enable us to fulfill His holy standard (Gal. 5).

On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon those followers of Jesus who had gathered together in Jerusalem. What happened on the first Pentecost continues to happen to Christians throughout the world today, though usually not in such a dramatic fashion. We rarely get a heavenly wind and tongues of fire anymore. Nevertheless, God pours out the Spirit upon all



who put their faith in Jesus Christ and become his disciples (see [Romans 8:1-11](#)).

Christians are meant to live in the presence and power of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit helps us to confess Jesus as Lord (1 Cor 12:3), empowers us to serve God with supernatural power (1 Cor 12:4-11), binds us together as the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-13), helps us to pray (Rom 8:26), and even intercedes for us with God the Father (Rom 8:27). The Spirit guides us (Gal 5:25), helping us to live like Jesus (Gal 5:22-23).

Pentecost presents us with an opportunity to consider how we are living each day. Are we relying on the power of God's Spirit? Are we an open channel for the Spirit's gifts? Are we attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Is the Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) growing in our lives?

Most Christians live in the presence and power of the Spirit, but only to an extent. We are limited by our fear, our sin, our low expectations, not to mention our tendency to be distracted from God's work in us. Pentecost offers a chance to confess our failure to live by the Spirit and to ask the Lord to fill us afresh with his power.

Matthew Henry comments that at Pentecost "none must appear before God empty, but every man must bring some offering or other, in token of a dependence upon God and gratitude to him." It can be easy to think that our blessings are things owed to us and then to forget to thank the Lord for all that His good hand has provided. Let us strive not to fall into this sin but to thank Him for giving us everything we need.

Adapted from: Mark D. Roberts "What is Pentecost – Why Does It Matter" and Ligonier "The Importance of Pentecost."

### Westminster Shorter Confession

[The Westminster Shorter Catechism](#) is a 107-episode podcast that features Ligonier Teaching Fellow Sinclair Ferguson reading each question and answer in its entirety. This catechism has been beloved by Christians around the world for generations. Listen on [iTunes](#), [Google Play](#), [Spotify](#), or [RSS](#).

### Salem Easter and April Happenings



Venedocia residents Allyssa (Hill) and Evan Dasher' wedding at Salem April 14.



March 28 Senior Luncheon



Palm Sunday





Darryl Strawberry Van Wert County April 15 church event against the epidemic of opioid addiction



March 29<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday Service and Communion



Children's Bells on Easter



Lining-up for the Easter Flowering of the Cross



April 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Early Meal Together



March 31<sup>st</sup> Venedocia Egg Hunt



April 7 Tamara Mullenhour Special Music

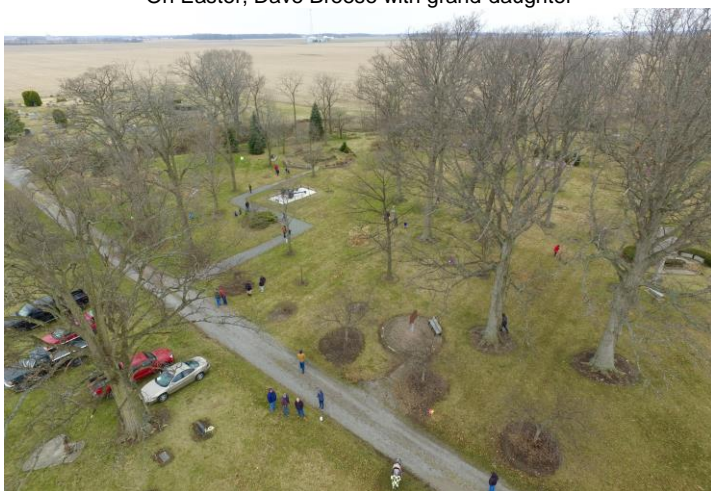




For Special Music on April 22nd, Landon and Ashlyn Price and Jackson and Carter Dunlap performed their first-year piano recitals.



On Easter, Dave Breese with grand-daughter



Venedocia Easter Egg hunt from a Bird's eye view.

## Music Committee Update

Mark your calendars for the 2018 Gymanfa Ganu to be held Sunday, September 2, 2018.

The director this year will be Trefor Williams, who has not been to Venedocia since 2014. Trefor currently resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin but is talking about returning to Wales for retirement. We look forward to having Trefor return to Venedocia and direct the best Gymanfa in the USA!

Connie O'Neill will be on the organ with Mary Ann Owens Mathews returning to her homeland to play the piano.

Please plan to join us! (cool weather has been pre-ordered)

## Potato Rusk Recipe from the kitchen of Ruth Duprey

### Ingredients:

1 C. Butter	1 C. Sugar
1 C. Mashed Potatoes	2 t. Salt
4 Eggs, Beaten	2 Packages Yeast
2 C. Potato Water	Dissolver in $\frac{1}{4}$ c. water
9 C. Flour	

### Directions:

- Mix in order given and let stand overnight
- Pat or roll out  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. Cut with biscuit cutter and put in greased pans
- Let rise again about 2 hours.
- Bake 20-25 minutes at 325 degrees.
- Ice when cool, sprinkle with powdered sugar.

**Icing:**  $\frac{1}{2}$  C. Butter, 1 C. Powdered Sugar, 2 T. Flour

## Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$30,832.00  
Received to Date: \$28,153.65

# IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

## Serving our Country

### **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

### **Dorothea Plikerd**

418 East 4th Street  
Spencerville, OH 45887

### **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

### **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)

## Birthdays

2 Audrey (Hobbs)Menker	3 Kim Coil
3 Deb Fair	3 Eric Pugh
4 Rod Eutsler	4 Heather Matthews
6 Emma Jones	7 Josh Lloyd
8 Bob Pugh	9 Linda Fisher Howell
10 Rex Lloyd	12 Sandy Clayborn
14 Bob Louth	15 Dane Ebel
16 Chance Mosier	17 Mary Jane Haines
17 Delayna Profit	17 Stacia Profit
18 Ione Owens	19 Holden Price
22 Dawson Kimmet	23 Carolyn Girod
25 Taylor Hoehn	

## Anniversaries

13 Jerry & Marilyn Foust	19 Bart & Rosemary Strick
20 Mark & Missy Zielke	

## Away at College

**Evan Pugh** – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

**Andrew Emery** – University of Cincinnati

**Christina Emery** – University of Cincinnati

## Condolences

Condolences to the families of Dean Swygart  
and Frances Simindinger

## Prayer Concerns

Peggy Burnett (cancer)  
Jeff Coil  
Mark Davis  
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
Natalie Ellerbrock (Stacia Profit's niece)  
David Hugh Evans  
Doris Evans (cancer)  
Jim Francis  
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)  
Mike Hammons  
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  
Bob Louth  
Becky Martz (health problems)  
Marian Morris  
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)  
Kim Owens (cancer)  
Dorothea Plikerd  
Walter Poling  
Brent Price  
Joyce Profit  
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)  
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)  
Bobbie Spyres  
Suzie Thompson  
Kristin Todd  
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)  
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

# May 2018

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Bible Study	2	3 Noon National Day of Prayer – Van Wert City Hall	4	5
<b>6</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 Trustee Meeting 7:00 Van Wert County-Wide Prayer meeting – Countryside Church of the Nazarene	7	<b>8</b> 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Bible Study	9	10	11	<b>12</b> 10 am Clean up at Memorial Park
<b>13</b> 9:30 Worship. (Mother's Day Recognition) 10:45 Sunday School	14	<b>15</b> 10 AM Bible Study 3 PM Presbytery Meeting 7 PM Bible Study	16	17	18	19
<b>20</b> 9:30 Worship-Communion Pentecost Offering 10:45 Sunday School 1:30 Session Meeting	21	<b>22</b> 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Bible Study	<b>23</b> Noon-Senior Luncheon	24	25	26
<b>27</b> 9:30 Worship Recognize Veterans 10:45 Sunday School	<b>28</b> 11:00 am Service at Memorial park	<b>29</b> 10 AM Bible Study 7 PM Bible Study	30	31		

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
May 6	To be determined	Bob & Denise Pugh	Lisa Lloyd
May 13	Jr. Choir Recognition	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	Marylin Foust
May 20	Communion	Bill & Ruth Evans	Marylin Foust
May 27	Jan Jones	Eric & Jenny Pugh	Marylin Foust
<b>Ushers</b>	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins family	<b>Greeter:</b>	Marylin Foust

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



*Sounds of Salem*  
*Newsletter*

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[www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia](http://www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia)  
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Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032  
Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131  
Pastor's Email: [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com)

May 2018 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 6	
Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 13	
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
Day of Pentecost – May 20	
Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Rom. 8:22-27	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Trinity Sunday– May 27	
Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29
Rom. 8:12-17	John 3:1-17