

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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June 2018

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

³⁶ *"Don't be afraid. Just have faith" (Matthew 5:36b NLT).*

Most of us struggle with stress, anxiety and fears. Perhaps, you have been told that your health has taken a wrong turn or a close loved one is in trouble or your finances are insecure. Even though you try to ignore the circumstances, they remain foremost in your thoughts, and they hinder your experience of peace and joy.

Stress and fear can hurt your ability to love people around you. They make minor problems so touchy that you might overreact to slight irritations. Worse still, your intimacy with God might fade or be forgotten.

Jesus tells us that it doesn't have to be that way. With everything that hits us in life, you have a choice between fear and trust. You can have peace in the storm. But, what keeps us from trusting God?

The reality is that it is more difficult to trust God the lesser amount of God's Word that you know. The Word of God not only reveals God to us, it also shows us what choices to make in given situations.

John 14:15 tells us, "If you love me, obey my commandments." Your faith will grow as you obey the commands of God. When you do, you become more intimate with God, and trusting God becomes more a part of whom you are. When you trust God, it begins to drive stress and fear out of your mind. Fear and faith can't control your mind at the same time.

But let's take things to another level. Job had everything taken from him – his health, his family, his finances, and all his possessions.

Yet, Job can say with confidence in Job 1:21 "I came naked from my mother's womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!"

Hebrews 13:5b-6 says: ⁵ For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

God's Word promises in Romans 8:28 "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."

If you have confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior from sin, you have joined God's family as one of His children. You see, God is holy and without fault. Job

knew that the all-powerful God controls both the blessings as well as the trials. Trials are given to refine us in turning back to God for strength and refreshment. After that, He invites us to join Him in a heaven that is beyond our imagination in blessings.

You see in this world, God is more interested in your holiness than He is in your comfort. God wants you more like Him so that you can spend eternity together.

During trials, let us trust fully in the holiness of God and His perfect goodness and His love for us. Let us thank Him for what He is doing even though we don't understand how things are working out for the good. Let us pray, "Oh Lord, give us the strength to face today and let us follow Your will. We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen."

Pastor Tom

Father

When I scratched my knee,
Or if I bumped my head.
When I was afraid of the dark,
Or that thing under my bed.
When I cried in the night,
Or even in the day.
You were there for me,
To make it all okay.

**Happy moments,
praise God. Difficult
moments, seek God.
Quiet moments,
worship God. Painful
moments,
trust God.
Every moment,
thank God.**

Inspire Us Daily

**THE PAIN THAT
YOU'VE BEEN FEELING,
CAN'T COMPARE TO
THE JOY THAT'S
COMING.**

Romans 8:18

You tickled my feet,
And laughed at all my jokes.
You taught me to believe,
In having high hopes.
You are my father



You did what you had to do.
But more than a father
You are my friend too.
You made everything good,
That was once bad.
I just want you to know
I love you Dad.

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Starting A Relationship with God

We all need to know these four things.

First, God Loves You. God loves you and wants you to know Him so He can fill you with peace and give you real life -- forever. "God loved the people of this world so much that He gave His only son, so that everyone who has faith in Him will have eternal life and never die." Jesus said, "I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest."

Since God planned for us to have peace and life, why are we so far from God?

Second, we are Separated from God. Since the beginning of time, we have chosen to disobey God and go our own way. We still make this choice today. This results in separation from God.

"All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's holiness." Sin is choosing to say or do or think things

that are against God's plan. "The result of unforgiven sin is death. But God's gift is eternal life given by Jesus Christ our Lord."

Third, there is only one way to reach God and that is that Jesus Christ died for our sins to be cancelled. Jesus Christ is God's Son. He is the only One who can bring us back to God. Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people.

"There is only one God, and Christ Jesus is the only One who can bring us to God." "Christ died once for our sins. An innocent person died for those who are guilty. Christ did this to bring you to God."

Fourth, God has provided the only way – we must make the choice. We Must Receive Christ. We must trust Jesus Christ to forgive our sins and receive Him as our Savior and serve Him as our Lord. "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believed on His name."

Would you like to give your life over to Jesus Christ right now? If you truly understand your sinful condition, you can pray the following prayer and accept Jesus as your Savior:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and rose from the grave to give me life. I know You are the only way to God. So now I want to quit disobeying You and start living for You. Please forgive me, change my life and show me how to know You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Did you pray this prayer and ask Jesus into your life? Please let Pastor Tom or one of the Salem Elders know so that we celebrate with you and can disciple you.

Adapted from "Know Jesus" by CBN

How Do I Know If I Am Right with God?

How do I know that I am right with God? Here's the measure, when Christ is in our hearts and lives: What kind of man or woman have I become? Not how many honors, not those plaques and trophies, not the accolades.

What kind of person? I can't help occasional disappointment, even jealousy on rare occasion, because I'm a human being, raised in a competitive society. Perhaps, I'll need to turn to my Savior for

forgiveness and charity of spirit. But that's all part of the life-long process of becoming a Christian.

Many of us are familiar with Henry Van Dyke's story of "The Mansion." Remember? It's about a very wealthy man who dreamed he died and went to heaven. Met there by an angel, he was escorted to the home in which he was informed he would spend eternity.

His spirits fell a bit as they passed beyond a neighborhood of grand homes to one a bit more modest. But he supposed those must be where the saints lived. However, as the quality of the neighborhood declined he became more concerned.

Finally, at the edge of town, the angel pointed to a run-down shack and informed the man that he was to live there. The man protested, saying he'd been a very wealthy and powerful man all his adult life. It was outrageous, he contended, that he should be treated in such a shabby way.

But the angel quietly informed the man that in heaven, it didn't matter how wealthy and important and successful a person had been in earthly life. "You see," the angel explained, "we built the best we could with what you sent us."

There it is, not "what did I win?" But, what did I do for others?

Paul wrote, "Put on, as God's chosen ones ... compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience"

Are those qualities in evidence? Jesus taught, "Love your neighbor." Did I do that? What kind of person have I become? Not how much do I have? Not rewards received, however deserved, but what kind of person?

Adapted from "Times of Refreshing" by E. Carver McGriff

How to Make Godly Decisions

First of all, be a person of prayer and a student of the scriptures. In other words, spend time daily with God. Do not wait until a moment of crisis or when you are facing a difficult decision. Pray daily to "have the same mind in you which was in Christ Jesus" as Paul writes in Philippians 2:5. It's a simple starting point, but it will put you on solid ground.

Friends, you can't disregard your feelings, but they are a poor guide to knowing the will of God. People are continually being led into bad decisions by their feelings. Pray and study that you will discover the mind of Christ. That way you're more apt to make better decisions in every situation, not just when you're confronting an especially challenging choice.

Secondly, if you have a really difficult decision to make, consult someone who's judgment you trust.

Remember how Jesus said, "Whenever two or three of you agree, then it will be done" (Matthew 18:19). Sometimes we have too much invested in a decision personally to see clearly what God's will may be. We need someone else's viewpoint who is not as emotionally involved. If it is a matter of a relationship to a person of the opposite sex, do not ignore possible warnings of Christian friends or of parents or whomever. Feelings when you are head over heels in love cannot be trusted.

You know the old story about a person who bought a car that turned out to be a lemon. A friend who was very knowledgeable about cars asked, "Why didn't you ask me for advice?" And the person said, "I was afraid you would tell me not to buy it." That happens. The last thing some of us want to do is to ask for advice, particularly when our hearts are set on a certain course. But that is the very reason we need advice.



If you're facing a difficult decision, here's what to do: Pray daily. Know the Scriptures. Consult with people whose opinion you respect and listen to their counsel. Pray over your specific decision and go ahead and make it. And finally, and most important, trust God to help you turn that decision into the right decision. Living according to the will of God always puts you on the winning side.

Third, after you have done all that, pray that God will help you make the best decision possible. Then make your decision. Don't look for a sign. Don't consult the morning astrological forecast. Don't put out a fleece. Take the three steps which we have listed, make your decision, and then take one more step the most important step of all.

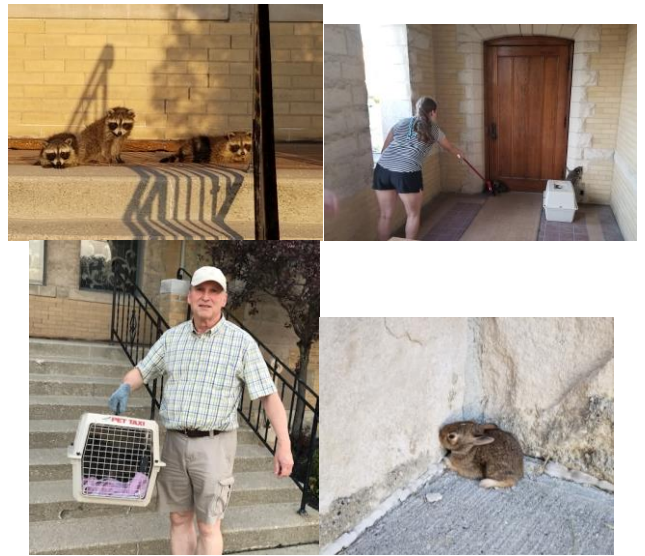
After you have made your decision, trust God to help you turn that decision into the right decision.

Adapted from "How Can I Know God's Will?" by King Duncan

Salem May Happenings



The Senior Luncheon with MaKenna Kimmet entertaining the meal



Field tilling brought a few little animal friends to the Salem porch



Elijah Martz lighting the service candles



Session Members serving Communion



Carol Emery, as the children's Sandy skit, explaining sin



Jan Jones spoke about Memorial Day and sang "God Be with You"



Retired Naval Officer, Pete Weir, speaker at the Memorial Day Service

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)

Zucchini Pie from an Anonymous Member

- 1 C. Cooked Zucchini (peeled, seeded, drained)
- 1 C. Sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 heaping T. flour
- 1 ½ T. melted oleo
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup carnation milk

Directions:

- Blend all ingredients in blender and pour into unbaked pie shell.
- Sprinkle with nutmeg & cinnamon
- Bake 10 minutes at 400 degrees.
- Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees

2018 Ice Cream Social



Annual Ice Cream Social



Sycamore Ice Cream,
Venedocia Sausage,
dinner items, pies,
cakes and cookies

Friday, June 15th, 4:30 – 7:00

Located at the Lions Club, Route 116, Venedocia

Everyone invited

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$40,467.00
Received to Date: \$37,736.55

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

The Meadows
800 Ambross
Delphos, Ohio 45833

Cory McCollow

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

Micah Linger

Grandson of Doris Evans
(U.S. Marine Corps)

Phoebe Eutsler (Army)

Birthdays

2 Barb Owens	4 Chad Pugh
6 Cassy Emery	8 Tammy Lloyd
10 Dillon Ellerbrock	13 Kevin Price
14 Sandra Caffro	18 Charlie Good
25 Tamara Mullenhour	29 Tom Evans
30 Shania Profit	

Anniversaries

2 Ron & Barb Owens	14 Jeff & Kim Coil
17 Bill & Elgarda McGee	22 Todd & Jayne Morris
24 Owen & Karen Pugh	25 Rex & Lisa Lloyd
28 Larry & Sandra Caffro	

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

Andrew Emery – University of Cincinnati

Christina Emery – University of Cincinnati

Condolences

No Condolences listed in May- Thank God for our many blessings.

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)
Lori Hunter (amputation)
Tim Hurbert (cancer in lungs & pancreas)
Jan Jones (health Issues)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)

Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
Carol Lee
Jim Lloyd (healing from leg surgery)
Bob Louth
Becky Martz (health problems)
Evelyn Martz
Marian Morris
Ronnie Neate (throat cancer)
Kim Owens (cancer)
Dorothea Plikerd
Walter Poling
Brent Price (recovering from heart surgery)
Joyce Profit
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Bobbie Spyres
Kristin Todd
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)
6 Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

June 2018

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship with guest Speaker Kevin Clancy No Sunday School	4	5 7 PM Bible Study	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 Worship. (Graduate Recognition) 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 pm Trustee meeting	11	12 7 PM Bible Study	13	14	15 Ice Cream Social 4:30-7:00 pm	16
17 9:30 Worship-Father's Day Recognition 10:45 Sunday School 1:30 Session Meeting	18	19 7 PM Bible Study	20	21	22	23 Spencerville Summerfest Parade 4:30 pm Fireworks 10 pm
24 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 12:00 Session Meeting	25	26 7 PM Bible Study	27	28	29	30

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
June 3	Kevin Clancy	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Doris Evans
June 10	To be determined	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Doris Evans
June 17	To be determined	Jeff & Kim Coil	Doris Evans
June 24	Lannie Jones	Todd & Jayne Morris	TBD
Ushers	Dan & Jim Lloyd Jeff & Don Owens	Greeter:	Jeremy Morris

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



Memorial Park artillery piece

Sounds of Salem ***Newsletter***

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

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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

June 2018
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR B

2nd Sunday after Pentecost – June 3

1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 2 Cor. 4:5-12 Mark 2:23-3:6

3rd Sunday after Pentecost – June 10

1 Sam. 8:4-20 Psalm 138
 2 Cor. 4:13-5:1 Mark 3:20-35

4th Sunday after Pentecost – June 17

1 Sam. 15:34-16:13 Psalm 20
 2 Cor. 5:6-17 Mark 4:26-34

5th Sunday after Pentecost – June 24

1 Sam. 17:57-18:5, 10-16 Psalm 133
 2 Cor. 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41