

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 20 Issue 08

August 2018

## 2018 Gymanfa Ganu

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 2, for our annual Gymanfa (Welsh Festival of Song). The event starts with a light supper from 4:00-6:00 pm. You will want to be in your seats by 6:45 to hear the Prelude. Singing starts at 7 pm.



Our director this year is Mr. Trevor Williams. Trevor was born in Wales and moved to Wisconsin in 1998 to help promote everything Welsh. He has directed us in the past and always transforms Venedocia back to Wales for a soul-filled and moving evening of music and traditions. We look forward to welcoming him back again.

For special music this year, we welcome a family with Venedocia ties. The family of the late Jane Letitia Morris Bates brings together an ensemble that will be sure to please your ears. Jane had two daughters, Mary Fancher and Bette Case, and they along with the help of their children and Mary's husband, Rev Jon Fancher, will delight us with their talents.

Of most importance will be the presence of our guest organist, Connie O'Neill, and on the piano, MaryAnn Mathews. Both ladies were raised in our church and continue to return and share their talents and love of



music. MaryAnn was Connie's first piano teacher!

Kathy McCollow, Salem Music Committee

Reserve **September 2** on your calendar for the **2018 Gymanfa Ganu**. Trevor Williams will direct and Connie O'Neill will be on the organ with Mary Ann Owens Matthews on the piano.

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

*For everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light (Mark 4:22 NLT).*

From somewhere, this story of a college experiment is making its rounds. The experiment took place in a psychology class over the duration of the course. The professor arranged to have someone come to the classroom door with a note that read only, "You have been found out."



It was given to a predetermined student. Before the class period was over, the student got up and left. Over the time of the course, every person in the class received the same note, unknown to the others, and nearly everyone left before the end of the class period. The professor found out that their consciences needed a little prodding to make them feel guilty.

God calls for us to live transparent lives. He called for us to live lives that our private lives were the same as our public lives. Jesus said that He came into this world so that we could live lives that were more than abundant. We can only do that by holding the things of this world loosely and seeking first the kingdom of God.

The funny thing is that God will often test you to show you how far you have grown in your spiritual development. When failing the test, it becomes the time to make a confession to God and to repent of any wrong-doing, and then to try again.

We are not on our own; God gave us the Holy Spirit to reside in us and to guide us as a warning light when going in the wrong direction. We need to heed those warnings from our loving God.

So, if you received that letter that said, "You have been found out." Would you chuckle about it, or would you get up and leave with panic over something hidden, something not right? Let us live open lives before God and others. Lives where we have nothing to hide.

*Pastor Tom*

### When I say, "I am a Christian"

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"  
I'm whispering, "I get lost!"  
That's why I chose this way".

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I don't speak with human pride  
I'm confessing that I stumble –  
Needing God to be my guide

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not trying to be strong  
I'm professing that I'm weak  
And pray for strength to carry on.



When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not bragging of success  
I'm admitting that I've failed  
And cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I don't think I know it all  
I submit to my confusion  
Asking humbly to be taught.

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect  
My flaws are all too visible  
But God believes I'm worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain  
I have my share of heartache,  
Which is why I seek His name.

When I say, "I am a Christian"  
I do not wish to judge  
I have no authority...  
**I only know I'm loved**

by Carol Wimmer

### The most humiliating thing that's ever happened in my marriage (so far)



In my first year of marriage, my wife and I got into a disagreement while visiting a family member's home. We went to the guest room to hash it out privately, but we had no idea how badly we were about to embarrass ourselves.

While in the guest room, our tempers flared. Unfortunately, I became particularly disrespectful until suddenly, my wife's face dropped, and she said, "Oh my gosh – the baby monitor is right next to you."

This was significant, because the baby monitor's speaker was sitting in the living room and our hosts were home. I was unfazed.

"Don't worry," I said, "I turned it off right before we came in here."

Without missing a beat, I continued rehashing my grievance until we got tired of arguing and my wife left the room. Then she immediately returned and said, with icy composure, "I just went to the living room. You didn't turn the baby monitor to the 'off' position. You turned it to *voice activation*."

We both felt like we were going to die, hoping that by some chance nobody had heard our nasty argument. In fact, we learned, they had. We were humiliated.

Even when there hasn't been a baby monitor broadcasting our tension, marriage has been humbling for my wife and me. It has often made us face our ugly

sides and it still does sometimes. Perhaps you can relate.

On the outside, you're this decent person who's easy to get along with. You'd never tell off a coworker or post an insult on someone's Facebook page. You're likeable, respectful and kind. You're even admirable. But when the doors close at home, someone else emerges: the real you.

Sure, you're a good spouse overall, but then there's that other side.

Maybe you're constantly critical of your spouse but you're hypersensitive to any negative comment. Maybe you slam doors when you're angry or raise the volume of your voice to shut the other person up. Or perhaps you're the icy, cold type who body slams your spouse with the silent treatment.

What if people got to listen to *that* person on the other end of the baby monitor? You'd probably offer the same feeble excuse you tell yourself: "I'm not really like that – I'm just reacting to the other person." Whatever. That's just another way of admitting that your spouse brings out who you really are.

If the real you, the best you, is going to emerge in your marriage, it will require dealing with yourself first – that doesn't come naturally to any of us and it sure doesn't for me. But when I'm at my best, here are some things I'm willing to do to move in the right direction:

1. **Apologize:** Own my part – even – if it's just a small part.
2. **Forgive:** Follow the example of Jesus, who forgave when nobody had apologized yet ([Romans 5:8](#)).
3. **Pray:** Internally confess to God that I don't know what to do and I need His help.
4. **Listen:** Focus on understanding my wife's position instead of shooting it down as fast as possible.
5. **Touch:** Eliminate the physical distance by touching my wife's hand, which makes it harder for me to be emotionally distant.

This isn't a magical formula for conflict resolution – I haven't found that formula yet. These are just small, but monumental, steps we can take as we seek to resolve our differences in marriage.

They're steps to becoming the kind of spouse we'd like to be if other people were listening to the other end of the baby monitor.

Adapted from Blog: [joshuarogers.com](#)

## 5 Ways to Teach Kids about God at the Beach



As summer vacations are still happening before school starts, daydreams about beach-time will start to become realities for many families. And nothing beats a trip to the ocean—or a hike in the woods or a splash under the lawn sprinkler—as the ultimate classroom for teaching young children about God.

Here are five natural ways to give such pleasurable pastimes with your child a spiritual quality that will inform his or her lifelong understanding of the God who made them:

### 1. Ask what they think.

Questions galvanize thoughts and help us sort out what we believe. You can spur your child's thoughts about God merely by asking them what they think about Him: Why do you think God made the ocean? What do you think He is like? What does He see down deep in the water? Sometimes the answers are funny, but try to sincerely appreciate and honor them. Don't worry about correcting, and don't insist on an answer. Let the questions linger as food for thought because they also share important truths about God's qualities.

### 2. Notice the details.

Can you believe the amazing variety of birds, fish, plants, and bugs? What about seashells? Is it possible to find two that look exactly alike? God's infinite creativity is on full display at the beach, and He surely made it for all to enjoy. Dig into sand, study insects, compare shells, feel the slime of seaweed. Talk about



the details. Thank God, and say how much God must enjoy it, too!

### 3. Play "I Wonder..."

Use your child's natural curiosity—and exercise your own—by playing "I wonder" in a variety of situations to connect your child's life with God. For example, wonder out loud about Jesus' life as a little boy and what his days were like. "I wonder if Jesus enjoyed going to the beach? I wonder if Jesus liked riding in a boat?" Leave pauses for your child to wonder or respond too. You could say, "We're doing the same sort of things Jesus did!"

### 4. Share what you know

My young daughter actually taught me this strategy of sharing information by starting with the phrase did you know. Often her comment would be something I did not know, such as a detail about the fairy world. So my response would be one of pleasant surprise. "No! I had no idea! Tell me more." Did you know lead-ins are a way to share information while inviting a response, which pulls children in and might lead to their own questions. Did you know that God is everywhere at once? Did you know that God is Spirit?

### 5. Start a round of "God Made"

Pick a natural time, like sitting on a beach blanket and watching the ocean waves, to start a round of God made. You lead with an example like, "God made salt water." Pause to see if your child offers an example. If not, offer another one, "God made seagulls." Some children will jump in with their own ideas. Others might need to be asked: "What do you think God made?" The possibilities are endless, of course, and sometimes funny. Have fun with it and be silly too.

Keep in mind games and conversation starters like these are usually very brief. You'll know when a child is ready to move on. That's fine! You are creating golden moments that enrich a child's inner life and help them grow from the inside, out. You are making God a natural part of your world; He's part of the company you keep. And you are taking time out to praise God for all He has made.

Adapted from Callie Grant, contributor to CBN and her site [www.grahamblanchard.com](http://www.grahamblanchard.com) with board books for children

## Salem Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$57,810.00  
Received to Date: \$53,905.29



Salem at the Venedocia Lions Swim Day at Camp Clay Lake



Four houses are being torn down to improve the village housing stock, and in the fall, the State grants will install new sidewalks and redo the street.



2018 Vacation Bible School at Salem with 30 children learning about Jesus





Arriving and coloring lots of Bible illustrations



Four songs with hand motions learned



"Jesus Blesses the Children" and "Zacchaeus" stories and an "Understanding the Cross talk"



Social time



Decorating personal "Crosses" and "Zacchaeus in the Tree" craft



Talks about missions and feeding the hungry for Jesus. VBS raised \$46.00 and many can goods for the Salvation Army in Van Wert.

# 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

**Dorothea Plikerd**

418 East 4th Street  
Spencerville, OH 45887

**Marian Morris**

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

**Warren Summerse**

Vancrest Healthcare  
10357 VW—Decatur  
Van Wert, OH 45891

**David Hugh Evans**

The Meadows  
800 Ambrose Dr. Room#306  
Delphos, OH 45833

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**Away at College**

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

**Andrew Emery** – University of Cincinnati

**Christina Emery** – University of Cincinnati

**Swab Madison Pugh**- U.S. Coast Guard Academy  
15 Mohegan Ave  
8785 Chase Hall  
New London, CT 06320

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**Serving our Country****Cory McCollow**

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

**Phoebe Eutsler** (Army)

**Micah Linger**

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

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**Birthdays**

4 Phillip Eutsler

6 Brooke Coil

11 David Hobbs

22 Jan Jones

30 Kelly Lloyd

4 Don Owens

9 Denise Pugh

20 Austin Kimmet

27 Barb Owens

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**Anniversaries**

12 Dave & Carla Breese

17 Kory & Tamara Mullenhour

27 Tom & Carol Emery

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**Condolences**

Condolences to the families of Carol Lee and  
Ronnie Neate

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**Prayer Concerns**

Peggy Burnett (cancer)  
Mark Davis  
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
David Hugh Evans  
Doris Evans (cancer)  
Brenda Foust (serious stomach issues)  
Jim Francis  
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)  
Bill Harmon (cancer)  
Jeff Hines (kidney transplant)  
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)  
Barbara Lewis (heart attack)

Iris Linton (newborn with blocked bowel issues)  
Linda Lissey (cancer)  
Jim Lloyd (healing from leg surgery)  
Bob Louth  
Becky Martz (health problems)  
Marian Morris  
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  
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)  
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

# August 2018

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Vacation Bible School 9:30- 11:30	2	3	4
<b>5</b> 9:30 Worship, VBS Special Music, and Communion	6	7	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Music Committee meeting	9	10	11
<b>12</b> 9:30 Worship with guest Speaker, Kevin Clancy, and Gideon Offering 5:00 pm Trustee meeting	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>19</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Session meeting	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>26</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	27	28	29	30	31	

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
August 5	To be determined	Bob & Kathy McCollow	TBD
August 12	To be determined	Bob & Denise Pugh	TBD
August 19	Connie O'Neill	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	TBD
August 26	To be determined	Bill & Ruth Evans	TBD
<b>Ushers</b>	Marylin Foust, Evelyn Martz Makenna & Elijah	<b>Greeter:</b>	Kelly Lloyd

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



Lucas, as future Acolyte, with dad, Cory Mullenhour



View behind Salem Church

## *Sounds of Salem* *Newsletter*

Church Phone: 419-667-4142  
Church Web Pages: [www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc)  
[www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia](https://www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia)

Secretary E-Mail: [Secretary@SalemChurch.cc](mailto:Secretary@SalemChurch.cc)  
Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131  
Pastor's Email: [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com)

### August 2018 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 5

2 Sam. 11:26-12:13a	Psalm 5:1-12
Eph. 4:1-16	John 6:24-35

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 12

2 Sam. 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	Psalm 130
Eph. 4:25-5:2	John 6:35, 41-51

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 19

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14	Psalm 111
Eph. 5:15-20	John 5:51-58

#### 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 26

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11)	22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84	
Eph. 6:10-20	John 6:56-59