

Sunday: 09-30-18
9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Todd & Jayne Morris)
10:45 AM Adult Sunday School

Tuesday: 10-02-18
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

Sunday: 10-07-18
9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Gwenda Blackmore)
10:45 AM World Communion
Adult Sunday School

Announcements:

The **Adult Sunday School** is today after the service. The **Women's Bible Study** will start October 2, at 7 PM; it will go through the Book of Matthew. All are welcome.

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

Upcoming Birthdays

30th-Jack Blackmore
8th-Bob McCollow

Oct 2nd-Kory Mullenhour

Upcoming Anniversaries

Oct 2nd-Kevin & Heather Matthews
7th-Jason & Sarah Kimmet



Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | September 30, 2018

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@saalemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

Jerry Agler
Peggy Burnett
Mark Davis
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Doris Evans (cancer)
Daniel Fisher (rectal cancer)
Brenda Foust (serious stomach problems)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Bill Harmon (cancer)
Jeff Hines (kidney transplant)
Bob Hundley (cancer)
Tim Hurbert (cancer in lungs & pancreas-friend of Barb Good)
Jan Jones (health issues)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)
Beverly Koenig (cancer treatments)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer - friend of Evelyn Martz)
Barbara Lewis (heart attack, friend of Evelyn Martz)
Linda Lissey (cancer)
Bob Louth
Becky Martz (health problems)
Sarah Miller (health issues)
Marian Morris
Kim Owens
Dorothea Plikerd
Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)
Brent Price (recovering from heart attack)
Joyce Profit
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Marjorie Rhodes
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Shelly (vertigo)
Bobbie Spyres
Natalie Wilkins (failing in health)
Noah Wyatt (Shoulder surgery)

Serving our Country:

Phoebe Eutsler (U.S. Army)
Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)

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Rev. Thomas Emery
“God’s Unfailing Presence” Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Salem Presbyterian Church
September 30, 2018

Power can be abused. Could Queen Esther have ever wondered where is God when her life began to crumble, and her burdens were overwhelming? Gaining perspective, Esther has not gone to the king to seek an exception for herself; nor is she only the spokesperson for her people. She has merged her identity—and destiny—with theirs. “My people and I have been sold for destruction,” she says, and then continues by using the word “we.” Mordecai’s questions in 4:13–14 appear to have brought about some soul-searching in the young Jewess. Courage and loyalty have replaced timidity and self-protection.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – Power can be corrupting.

POINT TWO – We might wonder where God is when life crumbles.

POINT THREE – We can develop courage when we remember God’s unfailing presence.

THIS WEEK’S KEY PASSAGE

³ Queen Esther replied, “If I have found favor with the king, and if it pleases the king to grant my request, I ask that my life and the lives of my people will be spared. (*Esther 7:3 NLT*).

ACTION POINT

The king was furious, and that was the end of Haman. Who would become the next prime minister? Who else? The irony of ironies - it was Mordecai. As for the decree about killing the Jews on the thirteenth of Adar, that could not be changed - a royal decree is irrevocable even by the royal who decreed it. But a second decree was issued allowing Jews to defend themselves against any attack. That was enough to prevent the Holocaust. To this day, the Jewish people remember the treachery of Haman, the wisdom of Mordecai, and the bravery of Esther in the annual joyful celebration of Purim. Where was God in all that? While God is never mentioned in the narrative, the story turned out all right, evil was defeated, and justice triumphed. What can we conclude, but that God was there all the time, making things come out right? Why not turn your cares over to the God who is in charge and who loves you!

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