

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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September 2018

## Salem September Events

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>.** The Gymanfa Ganu kicks off at 4:00 PM with a light meal in Fellowship Hall. It's a time for to renew acquaintances with friends and old neighbors. All are welcome.

The Gymanfa singing begins upstairs at 7 PM with **Mr.**



**Trefor Williams** conducting. Trefor 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. Our guest organist, **Connie O'Neill**,

and on the piano, **MaryAnn Mathews**, return and share their talents and love of music. 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.

**September 9.** At 7 PM, Salem is hosting the **Van Wert County Area Prayer Meeting**. Many area churches will visit Salem. It is a time to thank God for our blessings of health, family, community, and our livelihoods. Other special topics will be the significant number of county opiate addictions, suicides, broken families, and the need for area revival back to Christian principles of living.



**September 16.** Salem is again holding the **Blessing of the Tractors / Drive Your Tractor to Church** event wherein the area farmers are asked to drive their tractors to the lot across from the church. A short prayer service of

gratitude for the blessings of the harvest will be followed by the fellowship of a potluck meal. One gentleman farmer with the biggest tractor was asked why he got a tractor so large. He answered tongue in cheek, "I needed something with air conditioning."

**September 26.** The **Senior Luncheon** and bingo begin again at noon at the air-conditioned Lions Club. It's a time for homemade meals, socializing, bingo and unpredictable entertainment from the loving hosts. The event is open to all. Bring a gift in a handled bag for the prize gift exchange.



## Pastor's Thoughts

*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18).*

When my family and I moved into Venedocia several years ago, one local person told me that they knew "a new family moved into town because kids were wearing helmets." There's a story behind that.

A few years back before we moved here when our children were younger, we were going for a family evening ride as the street lights were turning on. My wife had worked for Children's Hospital where she saw many childhood preventable head injuries. We decided to have our family use helmets. But that evening, near the playground, my son quickly pedaled across the street where he thought that the handicap curb was and hit the regular street curb straight-on. He went flying over the handle bars and landed on his head on the sidewalk. We quickly ran over to him to see how bad he was hurt with the blood on his face, and we immediately prayed over him in the Name of Jesus.



He had just had braces put on. He was fine except a bloody lip and a cracked helmet. By the mercy of God that could have been his cracked head.

In Matthew, there is an account of a Roman Commander who came to Jesus to heal his servant who was at his home. Jesus offered to go home with him. But, he told Jesus that he was unworthy to have Him go there. The Commander said that all he needed was to have Jesus say the word. Jesus said the word and his servant was healed miles away. The resurrected Jesus doesn't have to be physically with us to exercise our faith. If you trust Jesus' promises and commands and act on them, you too can have such great faith.

The celebrated promise of Jesus to hold dear is **Matthew 28:28** that "**All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.**" By prayer, all of us can go to Jesus by faith for our needs and our comfort. Why not do it today!

*Pastor Tom*

#### God's Love for Us

Will I ever understand?  
Can I even comprehend?  
Will I ever believe?  
Can I make this heart see?



Just how much You love me  
Just how much You care  
That no matter what,  
You are always there.

Show me the way,  
To Your love and grace.

Teach me to stay,  
And to not run away.

I may not be ready, I may never be  
But if You could show me  
Just how to let go  
I might be able to let Your love flow

I know it won't be easy  
Or over in a night  
But I'm in it for the long haul  
And I'm ready to fight

I know it's a journey down a long road  
With twists and turns at every go  
But I'm willing to stick it out you will see  
Because I've realized it's not just me

I want to understand  
To be able to comprehend  
I want to believe  
To make this heart see

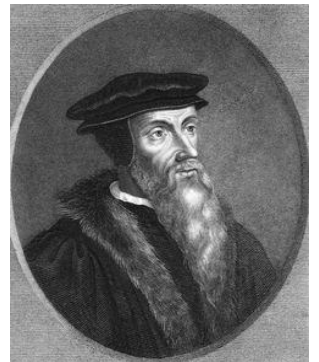
Just how special I am  
The way You made me

By Cholee Clay

#### History and Beliefs of the Presbyterian Church

At every Gymanfa, someone asks about, "What is Presbyterianism? Being Presbyterian refers to a theological heritage started by Martin Luther and refined by John Calvin.

The roots of the Presbyterian Church go all the way back to Protestant Reformation, led by Martin Luther. In 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 "theses" or questions for discussion on the church door (the town bulletin board) of his town in Wittenburg, Germany. Because of the recent invention of the printing press, within two weeks Luther's disagreements with existing church doctrine were circulating all over Europe.



Calvin

The Protestant Reformation had begun. The new reforms within the church soon attracted a bright young student in France, named **John Calvin**. Calvin, a lawyer by trade, wrote a brilliant articulation of this "reformed" faith, at age 29. He called it, The **Institutes of the Christian Religion**. People

now refer to it as **Calvin's Institutes**. His work attracted great attention because of its insight, depth, and clarity. Calvin eventually would settle in the town of Geneva, Switzerland and become an important figure in the new reformation of the church. The Presbyterian Church today finds its theological roots in the writings of John Calvin.

The first Presbyterian Church was organized in America in the early 1700's in Philadelphia. Just preceding the Civil War, the church broke into two separate denominations, which reunited in 1983. Salem's denomination's official name is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). This is the "mainline" Presbyterian denomination, a body of 2.6 million believers in 11,000 congregations.

Martin Luther thought the greatest danger to the Christian's life was legalism. John Calvin believed the greatest danger was idolatry, the pursuit of, longing for, and trust in things and persons in place of God.

### Our Form of Church Government

The word "**Presbyterian**" comes from the Bible, from the Greek word for "**elder**." The Presbyterian denomination takes its name from its form of church government, which is to be governed by elders. There are various types of church government, such as "**hierarchical**" – the Roman Catholic, Episcopal and Methodist churches; "**congregational**" – Baptist and Congregational churches; and "**representative**" – Presbyterian Churches. The Presbyterian Church is a representative form of church government in which the congregation elects church officers to lead the congregation. The Presbyterian Church is representative at every level – Congregations elect elders to serve on the Session, Sessions elect commissioners to go to Presbytery meetings, and Presbyteries elect commissioners to go to Synod and General Assembly meetings. Our nation's government was patterned after the Presbyterian representative model. Elders in the Presbyterian Church seek to discern the will of God for a congregation and vote their conscience before God. Our congregation has three classes of three elders serving on a rotating basis. Congregational elections for new elders are held each year in the fall.

All **members** of the congregation are entitled to vote on the electing of their officers. The Vision Statement for Salem's Session is – "*Rooted in our heritage and called*

*into God's future, we proclaim in new ways the unchanging Good News of Jesus Christ in a changing world."*

### What Presbyterians Believe

Presbyterians Are:

- Protestant. We come from the protestant Reformation that began in the 1500's with the theological thought of Martin Luther and John Calvin.
  - Reformed and always reforming. We try to always reform our life and practice, both individually and corporately, according to the teachings of scriptures.
  - Elected by God's grace. We believe we have been chosen by God's grace. However, this election is not primarily for privilege, but rather for service. It leads us to gratitude and assurance in our faith, and is best recognized in retrospect.
  - Saved to share the good news with the world around us. Missions have always been a strong emphasis of Presbyterians.
  - Bible centered. The scriptures of the Old and New Testament are our only authoritative guide for faith and life.
  - Yielded to God for God's work in the world. This means being good stewards of God's creation.
  - Thinkers of our faith. We believe that God has given us minds to use for his service. We believe that the life of the mind is a service to God. Therefore, we study our faith to love God with our mind, as well as our heart and soul.
  - Encouraged by what we believe God can do. Presbyterians tend to balance an undue pessimism about the world with a sense that, with God, all things are possible. We pray for and work for the kingdom of God in the world, knowing that all good things ultimately come from God.
- Relying on God's grace by faith for our salvation. It is not our works, nor our righteousness that saves us. Our salvation is by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. No matter how much good we do, we are always sinners saved by grace.
- Inspired to worship God in all we do. Worship is our #1 priority. Our primary reason for existence is to "**glorify God and enjoy him forever.**" We make personal prayer a priority and regularly gather to worship with God's people.
- Attached to one another by bonds of love. Every person matters to God. Every person's gift is



needed in the church. Everyone is of value and worth in God's sight. We believe that the church is built up by the exercise of God's peoples' spiritual gifts therefore we encourage everyone to find a place to serve.

## Presbyterian Principles

Presbyterians believe in a sovereign God. The Presbyterian Church has a strong view of the majesty, power, and omnipotence of God. This informs many things we do. Our worship is reverent and seeks to focus our hearts and minds on God. We believe God works in peoples' hearts in God's own timing, and therefore we do not try to orchestrate the when's and how's of people's salvation. The belief in a sovereign God is also foundational to the difficult and often misunderstood doctrine of predestination. **Predestination** states, simply put, that God chooses us first before we ever even think about responding to God. **God's choice and our response complete our salvation.**

Presbyterians are formed and reformed by the Bible. Presbyterians believe in the Bible and use it as **the unique and authoritative guide for how to live and what to believe. The sermons on Sunday try to explain and interpret the Bible rather than the preacher's latest ideas.** We use the Lectionary to go through the Bible every three years. We encourage people to read the Bible in their own devotional times and participate in group-settings such as Sunday School. For Presbyterians, the Bible is not just to be read by preachers and scholars. We believe that the Bible is so clear, in its major themes and principles, that everybody can understand the story of salvation, primarily by reading the Bible in a regular and consistent discipline.

Presbyterians are a people of community. Presbyterians believe that you cannot live the Christian life effectively apart from other people. God has given us the church for our mutual support, connection, and encouragement. We need a relationship with other Christians to be all that God intends us to be. This is one of the reasons the Presbyterian Church has a connectional form of church government. Through the Presbyteries, Synods, and the General Assembly each local congregation stays connected to the larger church. It is also one of the reasons we work together in teams for ministry. We need to do the work of Christ with other people. We believe God calls people to be connected with a local congregation, and church **Membership** is the way we recognize and celebrate that calling.

Presbyterians are a people of mission. Presbyterians believe that we cannot simply live in our own sheltered world. God has called us to take the gospel to the entire world. God has called us to exhibit the kingdom of Christ to our community. The Presbyterian Church sends missionaries into all corners of the globe, through the regular offerings of local churches. Our denomination has been instrumental in taking the gospel to many other countries in this century. Each local congregation participates in mission activities in its specific community, on a national level, and on a global scale. Presbyterians have always looked outside themselves and their own concerns to work to fulfill Christ's **Great Commission**. Today the mission field is also in our own backyard as we seek to share the gospel with the almost 50% of Americans not connected with any local church.

God has given us our minds as gracious gifts. Our reasoning faculties ought to be trained for the service of God. Therefore, ministers in the Presbyterian Church are held to the highest academic standards with at least a three-year Master of Divinity degree. It is why the training of elders and Sunday School teachers is so very important in the Presbyterian church. It is why we encourage everyone to grow in knowledge of the Bible, church history, theology, and an understanding of the spiritual disciplines of the Christian life.

Presbyterians have two sacraments. The Presbyterian Church does not have many ceremonies and rituals. This is because we do not want to distract from the two most important ceremonies Christ left to the church, **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**. We believe these are the only two ceremonies, which we call sacraments, which Christ instituted for the church throughout the ages. Baptism replaced the Old Testament circumcision. **Baptism** is administered only once as a sign of our forgiveness from sin and our entrance into the family of God. We administer baptism to infants and children in anticipation of their faith and with the promise of parents to raise them in the **"training and instruction of the Lord"** and future **Confirmation Classes** for early teens. We administer the Sacrament of Baptism to adults upon their public profession of faith.

The **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** is repeated often in the Presbyterian Church. This ceremony reminds us, over and over, that we need the spiritual nourishment Christ brings to us and that Christ, our living Savior, is present with us, now and in the future.

Adapted from <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/>



August 1<sup>st</sup> Vacation Bible School crafts



Pastor Tom Praying over the Offering and over the Time for Children



August 12, Gideon Sunday, speaker, Robert Cooper, and Guest speaker, Kevin Clancy



Vacation Bible School reception cupcakes



August 5 Jeff and Kelly Lloyd Communion preparation

## Trustee Updates

In 2017 \$7,866.50 was spent on elevator repairs and inspections. An awning was installed over the outside elevator door at a cost of \$2,812.00. Adding insulation to the church attic was \$1,900. Six ceiling fans were replaced at a material cost of \$948.01. ServiceMaster charge was \$1,696.59 to dry out basement after flooding. \$1,024.00 was spent on repairs to the bell tower.

In 2018, Elevator costs have been \$485, a new screen door was added to the north side of the church, and highly efficient LED lights were placed above the sanctuary to shine on the cross. The Trustees mulched and maintained the landscape around the church in both 2017 and 2018.

## Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$65,518.00

Received to Date: \$59,960.20

# 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

### **Marian Morris**

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

### **Marjorie Rhoades**

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

### **Warren Summersett**

Vancrest Healthcare  
10357 VW—Decatur  
Van Wert, OH 45891

### **Bob Louth**

15113 Main St  
Venedocia, OH 45894

### **Dorothea Plikerd**

418 East 4th Street  
Spencerville, OH 45887

### **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

1 Elizabeth Adkins	1 Kim Ebel
3 Pete McCollow	4 Claudia LeValley
4 Katie McClure	11 Landon Price
18 Jayne Morris	18 Morgan Pugh
20 Megan Jones	23 April Ellerbrock
25 Darlene Jones	26 Cindy Davis
26 Marian Morris	27 Brian Ellerbrock
27 Lisa Lloyd	29 Stephanie Beck
30 Jack Blackmore	

## Anniversaries

8 Doris & Paul Price	11 Doug & Jan Jones
15 Bob & Denise Pugh	28 Eric & Jen Pugh

## Condolences

Condolences to the families of **Ronnie Neate, Janet Smith, Lori Hunter, and David Hugh Evans.**

## 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

## Prayer Concerns

Peggy Burnett (cancer)  
Mark Davis  
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)  
Doris Evans (cancer)  
Brenda Foust (stomach issues)  
Jim Francis  
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)  
Bill Harmon (cancer)  
Jeff Hines (kidney transplant)  
Bob Hundley (cancer)  
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 w/bowel issues)  
Linda Lissey (cancer)

Jim Lloyd (healing from leg surgery)  
Bob Louth  
Becky Martz (health problems)  
Sarah Miller (health issues)  
Marian Morris  
Kim Owens (cancer)  
Dorothea Plikerd  
Walter Poling  
Brent Price (recovering from heart attack)  
Joyce Profit  
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)  
Marjorie Rhodes  
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)  
Bobbie Spyres  
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)  
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

# September 2018

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 9:30 Worship Peace Offering 4-6 Light meal 7:00 Gymanfa Ganu	3	<b>4</b> 7pm Women's Bible Study	5	6	7	8
<b>9</b> 9:30 Worship 5:00 Trustee Meeting 7:00 Countywide Prayer Meeting	10	<b>11</b> 7pm Women's Bible Study	12	13	14	15
<b>16</b> 9:30 Worship. Blessing of the Tractors 11:00 Pot Luck Dinner	17	<b>18</b> 7pm Women's Bible Study	19	20	21	22
<b>23</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45 Session Meeting	24	<b>25</b> 7pm Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b> Noon-Senior Luncheon	27	28	29
<b>30</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School						

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
September 2	Marie Winfield & Diane Morris	Eric & Jenny Pugh	To Be Advised
September 9	To Be Advised	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	To Be Advised
September 16	Sheila Collins & David Van Tilburg	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	To Be Advised
September 23	To Be Advised	Jeff & Kim Coil	To Be Advised
September 30	To Be Advised	Todd & Jayne Morris	To Be Advised
<b>Ushers</b>	Jeff & Kim Coil Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	<b>Greeter:</b>	Evelyn Martz



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



Sunrise in Venedocia

## *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)

### **September 2018 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B**

#### **15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – September 2**

Song of Sol. 2:8-13    Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9  
James 1:17-27        Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

#### **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – September 9**

Prov. 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23    Psalm 125  
James 2:1-17            Mark 7:24-37

#### **17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – September 16**

Prov. 1:20-33            Psalm 19  
James 3:1-2             Mark 8:27-38

#### **18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – September 23**

Prov. 31:10-31        Psalm 1  
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a    Mark 9:30-37

#### **19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – September 30**

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22    Psalm 124  
James 5:13-20        Mark 9:38-50