

Sunday: 12-23-18
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery available, but not staffed*)
10:45 AM Sunday School

Monday: 12-24-18
10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service and Communion

Sunday: 12-30-18
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Tuzz & Liz Hobbs*)
Guest speaker John Zerbe
No Sunday School

Announcements:

The **Women's Bible Study** is next January 8, at 7 PM. We are going through the Book of Matthew. All are welcome.

The boxes with **offering envelopes** can be found on the white table in the prayer room. Please sign your name beside the box number you are taking for the year 2019.

The 2019 **Flower chart** is in the vestibule. Please sign up.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the January newsletter. Submit them to secretary@saalemchurch.cc or PastorTomEmery@live.com.

Upcoming Birthdays

23rd-Jeff Owens

24th Mary Ellen Lloyd

30th-Isaiah Pugh

Upcoming Anniversaries

28th-Doug & Marilyn Strickler



Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | December 23, 2018

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

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@saalemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

Kylee Ball (surgery)
Peggy Burnett
Jim Davis (cancer)
Mark Davis
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Betty Ellis (rapidly failing health)
Doris Evans (cancer)
Daniel Fisher (rectal cancer)
Judy Foust
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)
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)
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Sarah Miller (health issues)
Gwen Montez (Vertebrae & internal surgery)
Marian Morris
Chance Mosier (shoulder surgery)
Kim Owens
Dorothea Plikerd
Walter Poling (heart attack & possible kidney failure)
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 (brain 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
“The Significance of Bethlehem” Micah 5:2-5a
Salem Presbyterian Church
December 23, 2018

Like his fellow prophets, Micah denounced the sins of the people and the sins of the nobility. The leaders of the nation hated justice and perverted all that is righteous and holy. The Assyrians thundered toward Jerusalem and crushed the little villages because of the idolatry and faithless actions of those in corridors of power in Jerusalem. Micah declared hope would not come from Jerusalem but from an unlikely place, a little village, one that bore the cost of the rebellion against God in the capital. Front and center is Mary who sang a rousing and uplifting song with the fancy Latin title “The Magnificat.” We can reflect on the simple fact that Mary sang a song of immense trust in God and hope for the world.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – The event at Bethlehem is the center of the universe.

POINT TWO – Jesus did not visit this planet when we became good enough to receive Him.

POINT THREE – The Messiah will be our peace.

THIS WEEK’S KEY PASSAGE

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf. (*Micah 5:2 NLT*).

ACTION POINT

Micah 5:2 is a good sample of one of the most precise messianic prophecies in all of the Bible. Remember that what Micah wrote here was written 750 years before the Lord Jesus was ever born. The Davidic line has been humiliated, defeated, and seemingly cut off. But that is not God’s planned conclusion for the story. This new Davidic ruler comes from God and not from the Jerusalem succession of Davidic kings. Gospel logic always works this way. God has always been ready to correct human power and its foolishness. The prophet speaks of this God “whose origin is from old, from ancient days.” Speaking on origins, Rudolf Bultmann (in his commentary on John) wrote about the meaning of being “born again.” It’s not a psychological rush; it’s a whole new life. As Rudolf Bultman holds, “Rebirth means... something more than an improvement in man - it means that man receives a new origin; this is... clearly... a thing which he cannot give to himself.” Why not make Christ the center of your life at the Bethlehem manger?

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