

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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Pastor's Thoughts

¹⁴ "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins (Matthew 6:14-15 NLT).

How many have families with unhealed emotional wounds? We all want to be happy, don't we? But, sometimes our focus drifts naturally to our past, whether recent or years ago, and it breaks our fellowship with God, those that we encounter, and what He sets before us at the moment. Yes, we all have some previous emotional scars that cause us to reside in the past.



But, Luke 9:62 says: "**No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God.**"

Before I became a Christian, I wish I could claim a better childhood. Without Christ in our lives, I came from one where my mother turned to heavy alcoholism after my dad died when I was seven years old. If you know anything about growing up in an environment of addictive parent(s), you would know that the experience leaves emotional blemishes on the children in that unpredictable emotionally roller-coaster environment. Worse of all, it leaves the children with the first impulse to carry grudges against anyone. Continued hatred is not the answer. The only way out is seeking the incredible love of Christ and obeying His commands.

Speaking to this, Jesus astounded followers by telling them to forgive others not seven times in the same day, but seventy times seven times. His followers didn't realize that God had forgiven them thousands of times. Forgiveness is not whether you feel like it or not. If you love God, it's an on-going choice to release the offender from your condemnation. They were probably living "rent-free in your head" anyway. Contrary to our first impulse, we need to follow Christ by asking the Father

to forgive those who have hurt us, just as Jesus hanging on the cross asked the Father to forgive us.

It is startling to realize that you can only forgive in proportion, that you can come out of denial convicted enough, to admit that you have also committed wrongs that also need forgiveness by God. You need to cry out to God and to say you need God's forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for your wrongs.

Matthew 6:15 says, "**if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.**" Instead of dwelling in the past, we need to come back to the current moment and to allow Christ to love other people through us. It is difficult to do, but God left us His Holy Spirit as a comforter to give us the needed strength and wisdom to walk in His ways.

Since becoming a Christian, I found that it is an ongoing process, but your load becomes lighter as you give to Christ the burdens you carry. Philippians 4:7 says that "**Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand...**" walking in fellowship and obedience.

I challenge you to daily give the Father your unforgiveness burdens, to pray that God blesses the abuser, and to walk in the freedom of the Good News that Christ offers us.

Pastor Tom

Forgiveness

YouTube Performance

It's the hardest thing to give away
And the last thing on your mind today
It always goes to those who don't deserve
It's the opposite of how you feel
When the pain they caused is just too real
Takes everything you have to say the word

Forgiveness, forgiveness

It flies in the face of all your pride
It moves away the mad inside
It's always anger's own worst enemy
Even when the jury and the judge
Say you've got a right to hold a grudge
It's the whisper in your ear saying set it free

Forgiveness, forgiveness
Forgiveness, forgiveness

Show me how to love the unlovable
Show me how to reach the unreachable
Help me now to do the impossible
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Help me now to do the impossible

Forgiveness

It'll clear the bitterness away
It can even set a prisoner free
There is no end to what its power can do
So let it go and be amazed by what you see through
eyes of grace
The prisoner that it really frees is you

Forgiveness, forgiveness
Forgiveness, forgiveness

Show me how to love the unlovable
Show me how to reach the unreachable
Help me now to do the impossible

Forgiveness

I want finally set it free
Show me how to see what your mercy sees
Help me now to give what You gave to me

Forgiveness, forgiveness
Forgiveness, forgiveness

Songwriters: Matthew West / Matthew Joseph West
Forgiveness lyrics © Warner/Chappell Music, Inc

Overcoming Emotional Pain

"**Resentment hurts me most**," is a saying often heard in Christian counseling. Overcoming resentment is essential in order to achieve true peace of mind and happiness. Resentment, the word, consists of two parts: **Re**, meaning again, and **-sentment**, which like, sentiment, means to feel.

So, "resentment" means to feel again. Long-standing resentments are something we feel over and over and over again, ad infinitum.

It is important to realize that the resentment is felt only by the person feeling it. The person to whom the resentment is directed is normally oblivious to the resentment you carry. That is until you explode in anger at them when the resentment overcomes you. The resentment you carry hurts you most, because you

are carrying it. And, the anger you express as a result of your resentment works to hurt you even more - even though your anger might be intended to hurt the object of your resentment. It hurts you most.

Resentment makes us feel good through our prideful thinking, "*If he or she has wronged me, then I am better than him or her.*" Carrying resentments can itself be addictive, because resenting someone can make us feel powerful. People instinctively gravitate towards actions which make them feel good in the short term, but which are self-destructive in the long term. Hence resentment can be particularly troublesome for people with addictive personalities.

Since resentment can make us feel good, we need to



find a way to overcome this addictive and self-destructive pleasure-hurdle. We need to find a way to create a heart-felt desire to do this. Without such desire

we are unlikely to take action on the work we need to do to overcome the resentment.

Some people who joined healing groups have found these two self-statements useful to create the desire to change:

"That person is not paying rent in my head, so I'm not going to give them any space there."

"The resentment is hurting me most, and the other person is oblivious of my pain. So, its insanity for me to keep hurting myself."

- The Bible tells me that I should seek to love where I feel hatred. This will give me peace of mind and serenity.

So, we start to see that overcoming resentment is something we must do for ourselves if we wish to find peace of mind. When we find this desire, we become willing to take the steps to overcoming resentment.

- When we take these steps, we find peace of mind.

Adapted from: "Overcoming Resentment," 12steps.NZ. Copyright © 2015 All Rights Reserved.

The Path to Freedom

If you have a resentment you want to be free of, if you will pray for the person or the thing that you resent, **you will be free.**

If you will ask in prayer for everything you want for yourself to be given to them, **you will be free.**

Ask for their health, their prosperity, their happiness, and **you will be free.**

Even when you don't really want it for them, and your prayers are only words and you don't mean it, go ahead and do it anyway. Do it every day for two weeks and you will find you have come to mean it and to want it for them, and you will realize that where you used to feel bitterness and resentment and hatred, you now feel compassionate understanding and love.

Adapted from an AA member's story, "Freedom from Bondage" page 552 of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous

Steps to Christian Forgiveness

1. We recognize that we are sinners in need of forgiveness.
2. We make the choice to forgive others.
3. We believe and experience Christ's loving forgiveness in our lives.
4. Christ helps us to overcome negative thoughts that are blocking our ability to forgive.
5. The Holy Spirit empowers us with the right attitude to forgive those who have hurt us.
6. Trust that God will judge all the wrongs in the world.
7. When struggling with forgiving others, talk with someone you respect and trust to give you wise counsel, such as your pastor or friend.

This outlines the idea that **forgiveness** is not a one-time action. If someone asks for **forgiveness** over and over again, then it is the duty of an individual to **forgive** them. **Christians** must **forgive** the sins of others in order for God to **forgive** them their sins.

Understanding Baptism

Through baptism, you are connected with Christians around the world and become part of one big family. God chose you, before the world began, to be a child of God. We find our identity in relationship to God, others, and to the world. Just as we are initiated into clubs and organizations that humans have created, baptism is our

initiation into the Christian church. Our faith journey begins as God calls us by name and says, "You are my child. I delight in you."

In the book of Acts, baptism is regarded as important and life changing. Baptism is not seen as an event that



takes only a moment, but as the redirecting of an individual's life. The powerful movement of the Spirit revealed in bapt-

ism led the young church in many unexpected directions. The unleashing of the Holy Spirit in baptism led to radical changes in both the individual believers and in the early Christian community. Contrary to what some folks believe, the Spirit is still doing so in the church today.

In baptism, God speaks to Jesus with water and with words, "You are my Son, the beloved"

Baptism is tenderly personal, but it is also communal, taking place in a much broader context. You are baptized into a community, the church, into the company of people who care for and about you as well as one another. This is the family of God. Symbolically, you are buried with Jesus in your baptism, and raised to new life with him.

Baptism is a drowning, a putting to death of the old self, and a raising up of a different self to new life. You become a new creation in Christ. However, you do not emerge from the waters of baptism as a mature Christian. You are always in process, growing and maturing in the faith.

Celebrating the baptism of our Lord, we hear God's voice speaking to us. We hear God's voice affirming our essential identity as children of God. God calls you by name, saying, "You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you" (Isaiah 43:4). God knows each of you by name. God knows your special gifts, your needs, your hurts, and concerns.

The prophet Isaiah envisioned a healed, transformed world on the horizon. The name Isaiah means, "the Lord gives salvation." Isaiah was born into a world enmeshed in war, injustice, and corruption. God's people living in Judah had been defeated and carried

away to the far country of Babylon. They were living as refugees by the waters of Babylon.

Isaiah preserved for God's people a vision of who they were as sons and daughters of God.

This vision provides a challenge and hope for those who live in God. Isaiah opened the floodgates for a thirsty world so people could feel the splash of God's grace and forgiveness. God's people were again given hope in a world that had seemed ready to self-destruct.

The baptism of Jesus signals the beginning of his ministry here on earth. Jesus is set apart as the chosen servant who will bring justice and healing to Israel and to all other peoples of all times. Your baptism is your commissioning to service in the kingdom of God here on earth. You are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, into this great adventure of following Christ. Your ministry is to be explicit, visible, and active in the world today. Your ministry is both a blessing and a responsibility.



In our baptism, the holiness of God touches us as God comes to each of us in a special and personal way. God initiates the beginning of a relationship with us, bringing us into God's family. God says to you today, "I have called you by name. You are mine. Child of God, through your baptism, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."

Remember your baptism and give thanks. God has "redeemed you and called you by name."

Adapted from: "What's in a Name?" by Mary S. Lautensleger

Rare 'Super Blood Wolf Moon'

A rare lunar eclipse entitled the "Super Blood Wolf Moon" appeared across the world, including the US, on Sunday, January 20, 2019.

According to NASA, the entire celestial event lasted more than three hours, beginning at 9:36 pm ET Sunday, Jan. 20 and ending about 1:50 am ET Monday, Jan. 21. The beginning of the total eclipse phase started at 11:41 pm ET, lasting 62 minutes.



According to *CBS News*, the unusual name for this lunar eclipse comes from the three events happening at once:

"Super Moon" - a full moon that appears bigger than normal because it's at its closest point to Earth during its orbit.

"Wolf Moon" - a Native American term used to describe the first full moon of the year.

"Blood Moon" - the moon appears to be reddish in color during a total lunar eclipse as the sun, Earth and moon all line up.

In recent years, a number of blood moons have captured global attention, causing some to speculate about a possible connection to prophecy and the End Times. Many Christians believe scripture indicates a Blood Moon is a sign from God regarding the return of Christ.

Scriptures below are used to support the claim:

Joel 2:31, "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come."

Acts 2:20, "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come."

Revelations 6:12, "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;"

Many cite Pastor John Hagee's 2014 best-selling book [Four Blood Moons](#), and his belief that throughout history blood moons have been a sign from God to the world that something big is about to happen. He correlated previous blood moons to the important events happening in the US and Israel.

Hagee holds, "The evidence is very clear scripturally that God controls the sun, moon and stars – that God is sending us a signal through the sun, the moon and the stars. The question is, are we listening?"

This total lunar eclipse was the first visible in North America in three years. Experts say it is safe to look at these eclipses with the naked eye. Where weather forecasts predict harsh weather in some areas, there

will be some live-stream options available. Experts say there will be [three more eclipses](#) this year:

- 2019 Jul 02: Total Solar Eclipse
- 2019 Jul 16: Partial Lunar Eclipse
- 2019 Dec 26: Annular Solar Eclipse

Sources: Rare 'Super Blood Wolf Moon' Across US Skies - a Sign in the Heavens? Christian Ellis. CBN.
[Eclipsewise.com](#)

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$7,781.04
Received to Date: \$8,490.85



Bartie Jones turned 94. Also: Nell Jean Jones and Kathy McCollow



Congregation Laying on of hands for the installation of Session Officers.



We missed two Sundays with extremely cold weather and heavy drifting snow on black ice making traveling too perilous.



After the service, Andy Breese showing off his daughter, Glennie.

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

Marian Morris

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

Warren Summersett

Vancrest Healthcare
10357 VW—Decatur
Van Wert, OH 45891

Dorothea Plikerd

418 East 4th Street
Spencerville, OH 45887

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow

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

Phoebe Eutsler (Army)

Cpl. Linger, Micah 2nd

Grandson of Doris Evans
MEMES Support Battalion
PSO Box 20085
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

Andrew Emery – University of Cincinnati

Christina Emery – University of Cincinnati

4/C Madison Pugh- U.S. Coast Guard Academy

15 Mohegan Ave
8785 Chase Hall
New London, CT 06320

Birthdays

1 John Lloyd	1 Ashley McClure
4 Andrew Emery	4 Jerry Foust
11 Evelyn Martz	12 Madison Pugh
15 Ryan Fair	16 Jeff Lloyd
16 Scott Lloyd	18 Dalton Ellerbrock
18 Marilyn Foust	19 Corey Hobbs
21 Paul Price	24 Tim Price
25 Bill McGee	27 Kevin Fair
28 Jean Owens	

Anniversaries

Brian & April Ellerbrock John C & Anne Morris

Prayer Concerns

Kylee Ball (surgery)
Peggy Burnett
Jackie Coalson (COPD)
Amy Cunningham (Fibromyalgia)
Jim Davis (cancer)
Mark Davis
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Betty Ellis (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)
Jan Jones (health issues)
Dawson Kimmet & Kale (nightmares)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
Barbara Lewis (heart attack)
Linda Lissey (cancer)
Bob Louth

Becky Martz (health problems)
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Sarah Miller (health issues)
Gwen Montez
Marian Morris
Chance Mosier (shoulder surgery)
Trina Odenweller (kidney & liver issues)
Kim Owens (cancer)
Dorothea Plikerd
Walter Poling
Joyce Profit
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Marjorie Rhodes
Goni Robeson (severe health issues)

Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Shelly (vertigo)
Deb & Steve Sheppard (health issues)
Doug Smith (Jen Pugh's dad)
Herb Summersett (prostrate cancer)
Kerry Walls (recovering from broken back)
Doug Wierwille (cancer)
Natalie Wilkins (failing health)
6 Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

February 2019

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship Congregational mtg Souper bowl of caring 10:45 Sunday School	4	5 7pm Women's Bible Study	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 Trustee Meeting	11	12 7pm Women's Bible Study	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 Worship-Guest speaker Kevin Clancy No Sunday School	18	19 7pm Women's Bible Study	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 Worship Noon Session meeting	25	26 7pm Women's Bible Study	27	28		

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
February 3	TBA	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	TBA
February 10	Jr. Choir-sing	Dave & Carla Breese	TBA
February 17	TBA	Bob & Kathy McCollow	TBA
February 24	Jr. Choir-bells	Bob & Denise Pugh	TBA
Ushers	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd family	Greeter:	Kim Coil

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



Salem greeters on a warm day

Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc
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

February 2019 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B

4th Sunday after Epiphany – February 3

Jer. 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6
1 Cor. 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30

5th Sunday after Epiphany – February 10

Isa. 6:1-8 (9-13)	Psalm 138
1 Cor. 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11

6th Sunday after Epiphany – February 17

Jer. 17:5-10	Psalm 1
1 Cor. 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26

7th Sunday after Epiphany – February 24

Gen. 45:3-11, 15	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Cor. 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38