

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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## Pastor's Thoughts

*<sup>11</sup> For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted (Luke 14:11)."*

When I was going to the seminary, every early morning I would run into Sam as I traveled through the campus; he was a student from India working as the outside maintenance man while attending the school. He could be found wiping down tables in the courtyard and rearranging outside furniture and doing general cleaning. I found out that he was at the seminary while his family was still in India awaiting the conclusion of his studies.



Every morning that I saw him, he would lovingly ask about my family and ask if I had any prayer requests. He would pray for them asking for an update the next time that I saw him. He was genuinely humble and caring.

God loves humility, and He detests pride. Everything that we have is from God's grace and mercy. We Christians are God's ambassadors, representing God to the world. When you receive praise, turn it to the One who has given you your talents and gifts. When you are humiliated by others, realize that the criticism may be an unintended blessing meant by God to help you be more humble before God. Just know, that if you humble yourself and follow Christ, you will be

praised and exalted by God in His perfect time. Remember that God's exaltation is for all eternity.

To finish the story, when I was at the graduation ceremony, I saw Sam in the same student line-up to be given degrees. I was happy that he could soon rejoin his family. I was startled that when his name was called, the whole auditorium stood up and gave him, to his embarrassment, a thunderous ovation from all the students. He had humbly touched many lives during his time as a student.

I found out later that he had come down with cancer and died within a year. Jesus in Matthew 23:11 said that "The greatest among you will be your servant." Sam sought to always please God.

I can image God receiving Sam in heaven and saying to him, "Well done my good and faithful servant." I wish the same of our church family at Salem.

*Pastor Tom*

## Humility

One day I heard a person say,  
"I'm proud that I'm a humble man."  
I thought, "This is an ironic remark.  
I'll try to understand it if I can."

It is not easy to be humble sometimes.  
We often say, "We have to eat crow,"  
When we have to admit we're in error,  
And it can be embarrassing, we know.

All through the Bible are examples.  
We're told of men who did stumble,  
But God forgave them when they prayed  
And sought to be meek and humble.

Humility goes a long way with God.  
He really hates a proud look.  
You'll see that God honors humility  
If you take a look in His Book.

O Christian, don't boast about success.  
Let your spirit be humble and meek.  
Try to please your Heavenly Father,  
And for other men's praise, never seek.

By Margaret Cagel



### Women's Bible Study

#### Matthew Chapter Three

Matthew 3 talks about a change that needs to take place in the life of every individual. John the Baptist called people to start over in their lives. He would announce the King's coming. "Repent, because the Kingdom of Heaven has come near!" John came and prophesied boldly. He lived simply wearing a garment of camel's hair and eating locusts and wild honey. He baptized openly. John was a humble servant. John the Baptist knew it was not his place to point people to himself but to point people to the King (Jesus). This is our lesson as well.

"Repent!" was the message of John the Baptist. But what does it mean to Biblically repent? Repenting literally means "the changing of one's mind". It involves **confession** (admission of sin) (Mt 3:6). It involves **contrition** (true sorrow over sin - a deep realization that we have offended God) (Psalm 51:4, 2 Corinthians 7:10).

**Repentance** involves conversion (turning from sin) (1Kings 18:21). John tells us that this repentance is urgent as salvation is here - in the person of Jesus Christ. This also means damnation is near. The good news of God's Kingdom is terrible news for all who refuse to repent.

John says Jesus will baptize you with the Holy spirit. **Baptism** with the Spirit is a way of referring to Jesus' transforming work of putting His Spirit in you and changing your heart from the inside out. This baptism happens at the point of salvation. John says Jesus will transform your heart and purify your life.

To have salvation, you must turn from your sin, trust in the Son (Jesus) and rest in His righteousness. It's amazing to think that we are right before God, not by trusting in anything we have done, but simply by trusting in Christ Jesus, by resting in His righteousness. His being right before God makes us right before God.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can tell others that Christ has come to save us from our sins. We all will live for eternity - be it in Heaven or in Hell. To choose Jesus is to choose life eternally in Heaven with Him.

Adapted from [Christ-Centered Exposition](#) by David Platt

### The Voice of Our Shepherd

How are we to understand Jesus as our Shepherd? There is even more to the relationship between the sheep and their shepherd. Sheep tend to grow fond of their shepherd. Any shepherd who has grown up among sheep will tell you that he can walk right through a sleeping flock of sheep without disturbing a single one of them, while a stranger could not put one foot in the fold without causing total confusion and chaos.

It reminds me of some of the research done by Harvard's Dr. Barry Brazelton I once saw demonstrated on television. He showed how even very young infants quickly become aware of the identity of their parents and can recognize their parents just by the sound of their voices.

He took an infant in his arms and asked the audience to watch the infant's eyes. He spoke to the baby. Then he asked other people to speak to the infant. There was little reaction or recognition from the baby in both cases.

When the mother of the baby spoke, the baby's eyes visibly brightened, and the infant turned

toward the sound of the mother's voice. It was obvious that the child knew her mother's voice in distinction from other voices.

We are the sheep of God's flock. God is our loving parent. We are God's beloved children. We know the voice of our shepherd when we hear it just like we know the voice of our mother when we hear it. We have been listening to the voice ever since we heard about Jesus. For some of us that may be have been ever since we were baptized as an infant when all we were able to distinguish was the voice of our mother or father from the sound of others voices we did not know and often may have frightened us. But not this voice! It has been assuring us and comforting us as long as we could ever remember.

This voice, unlike any other voice, has been saying, "You are the apple of my eye. You are the crown of creation. You are my beloved son and daughter. I love you always and forever. Nothing in the whole universe can separate you from my love. Have you had to earn it? Have you had to prove yourself? No, I love you simply because I want to. And just in case you don't believe me, look at Jesus, the good shepherd, the lamb who shed his blood and what he did for you. You belong, no matter what!"



That doesn't mean that believing this voice has been easy. Our own self-doubt and insecurity are constantly gnawing on that belief. A world that only seems to honor those who can climb to the top of the mountain ridicules such belief. Even the evil one, who is alive and well in this world, chips away at such belief. As a result, we know that our trust in the good shepherd often wavers and at times even seems to disappear.

But your belief or unbelief is not the point. The point is that you are here this morning. You may think that there were many reasons for your coming: your parents made you, this is your Sunday routine and you wouldn't feel right without it, you would feel guilty if you didn't. The real reason you are here is that once upon a time you heard the voice of

Jesus, the good shepherd, the lamb who reigns over the universe from the throne of heaven. You came because you wanted to hear that voice again. You have heard about God's love for you before. You know that you need to hear it again.

You have had a tough week and you needed to hear a word of comfort. You needed to hear someone assure you that everything is all right in this messed up world, that all is right, not because you have been so right but because Jesus is right. Because you know that because Jesus suffered, died, arose, and reigns from his throne, all is right for you. You know that you aren't going to hear that kind of good news any other place, but you know that are going to hear it here.

A first call Junior Pastor complained to the senior pastor about the poor church attendance. What was wrong with those lazy, irresponsible, indifferent church members who couldn't get their bottoms out of bed on a Sunday morning to come to church?

Then the senior pastor gently put him in his place. He reminded him that we have no right to expect a single person to walk through the doors on a Sunday morning. That they come at all is a miracle of the Holy Spirit. It's not about us and our attractiveness or about their commitment to support this organization or their lack of it. It is about the voice of the shepherd. It is about the lamb who reigns from his throne. They have heard his voice and have come.

Therefore, people, let me assure you of this. You are in church because you have heard the voice of the good shepherd and have come to hear it again. Jesus has called you because you are one of his sheep.

The lamb who reigns from his throne in heaven is *your* shepherd. He "will guide [you] to springs of the water of life, and [He] will wipe away every tear from [your] eyes."

Adapted from Steven E. Albertin, [The Blood Of The Lamb And The Voice Of The Shepherd](#) -- Revelation 7:9-17



## Salem Events



May 19 Session Business Meeting

### May Special Music



May 5 Piano Special Music by Jackson Dunlap



May 19 Sheila Collins singing



May 26 Jake Wilder on piano

May 19 Double baby Baptisms of cousins,  
Bianca Delores Richards and Remi Jo Finn





May 22 Senior Luncheon fun



Prayer for the Nation led by Reverend Thomas Emery



May 26 Catie Emery Grad Party held at Salem



Speaker, Col. Thomas L. Jones, USMC Retired

May 27 Indoor Memorial Day Community Service at Salem



Welcome by Eric Pugh



Lincolnview Marching Band for National Anthem and Sounding of the Taps



Community attendance



# 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

## **Dorothea Plikerd**

Roselawn Manor  
420 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**

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

## **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**

2 Barb Owens	4 Chad Pugh
6 Cassy Emery	8 Tammy Lloyd
10 Dillon Ellerbrock	11 Doris Evans
13 Kevin Price	14 Sandra Caffro
18 Charlie Good	22 Ann Rees
25 Tamara Mullenhour	29 Tom Evans
30 Shania Profit	

## **Anniversaries**

2 Ron & Barb Owens	14 Jeff & Kim Coil
17 Bill & Elgarda McGee	22 Todd & Jayne Morris
24 Owen & Karen Pugh	25 Rex & Lisa Lloyd
28 Larry & Sandra Caffro	

## **\*Condolences**

To the families of Joan Shellene & Linda Howell

## **Prayer Concerns**

Kylee Ball (surgery)	Paula Jones (healing from fall)
Connie Bassett (breast cancer)	Kale (nightmares)
Kyle Baxter (brain cancer)	Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
Peggy Burnett	Barbara Lewis (heart attack)
Billie Coalson (agent orange)	Linda Lissey (cancer)
Jackie Coalson (COPD)	Bob Louth
Barry Coil (stroke)	Becky Martz (health problems)
Amy Cunningham (Fibromyalgia)	Evelyn Martz (cancer)
Jim Davis (cancer)	Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Mark Davis	Sarah Miller (health issues)
Kent DuCheney (surgery)	Gwen Montez
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)	Marian Morris
Betty Ellis (failing health)	Dorothea Plikerd
Doris Evans (cancer)	Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Daniel Fisher (rectal cancer)	Marjorie Rhodes
Aaron Francis (broken leg)	Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)	Shelly (vertigo)
Bill Harmon (cancer)	Deb & Steve Sheppard (health issues)
Jeff Hines (kidney transplant)	Herb Summersett (prostrate cancer)
Bob Hundley (cancer)	Doug Wierwille (cancer)
Tim Huster (cancer)	Natalie Wilkins (failing health)
Jan Jones (health Issues)	Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

# June 2019

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>9 PENTECOST</b> 9:30 Worship Communion, Pentecost Offering, & Graduate Recognition 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 Trustee Meeting	10	11	12	13	<b>14</b> 4:30-7:00 pm Ice Cream social	15
<b>16</b> 9:30 Worship Father's Day Recognition 10:45 Sunday School Noon Session Meeting	17	18	19	20	21	<b>22</b> Spencerville Parade. Meet at 3:00 PM in Spencerville for the line- up.
<b>23</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Session Meeting	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>30</b> 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School						

Week of	Special Music	Nursery	Flowers
June 2	TBA	Bob & Denise Pugh	Gwenda Blackmore
June 9	Penpark	Jeff & Kelly Loyd	Gwenda Blackmore
June 16	TBA	Bill & Ruth Evans	Gwenda Blackmore
June 23	TBA	Eric & Jenny Pugh	Rex & Lisa Lloyd
June 30	TBA	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Rex & Lisa Lloyd
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill & Ruth Evans & Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	<b>Greeter:</b>	Jeremy Morris

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



May 22 Senior Luncheon Kim Coil and Marjarie Eutsler

## *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)

### June 2019 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – June 2

Acts 16:16-34                      Psalm 97  
Rev. 22:12-14,16-17,20-21      John 17:20-26

#### Day of Pentecost – June 9

Acts 2:1-21                      Psalm 104:24-35  
Rom. 8:14-17                      John 14:8-17 (25-27)

#### Trinity Sunday – June 16

Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31                Psalm 8  
Rom. 5:1-5                         John 16:12-15

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – June 23

1 Kings 19:1-15                 Psalm 42 & 43  
Gal. 3:23-29                        Luke 8:26-39

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – June 30

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14              Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20  
Gal. 5:1, 13-25                      Luke 9:51-62