

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 21 Issue 11

November 2019

Pastor Thoughts

¹⁶ Always be joyful. ¹⁷ Never stop praying. ¹⁸ Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NLT).

There is much found in the Biblical teachings about gratitude. Giving thanks to God even when times are tough is important to you as a Christian because it brings honor to God and it gives you inner peace. But there is also a case for gratitude that doesn't depend on theology. In fact, gratitude appeals to our common sense and even self-interest. To put the matter bluntly, when practiced, gratitude will improve your life.

Back when I was in my early twenties on my way home one evening for Thanksgiving, I was notified through the loudspeaker at the airport terminal that our flight was cancelled. I put down my book and listened further. We were informed to move to a certain counter, and they would rebook us for another flight to our destination.

I joined the group moving over to the counter and stood in line. I quickly heard that the fellow in front of me wasn't too happy about things. In fact, he was steaming hot; he announced to the woman next to him that he was going to make a big deal of this.

When it was his time at the counter, he let loose on the woman loudly yelling at her, insulting her and the airline, and threatening to sue. The clerk was very polite during his rampage as she booked him another flight first thing in the morning. Then, he stormed off still yelling.

When it was my turn, I felt sorry for her. I complimented her on her calmness (although I saw a tear in her eye), and said I was grateful for her work. She smiled in appreciation. She rebooked my flight for the next day apologizing for the delay. But then she said that there was more for me. She offered me free full lodging overnight and meal vouchers (that she hadn't offered the man yelling at her). I thanked her with a smile, and I wondered why that man couldn't have been just as kind to her. It wasn't her fault the plane had been called into maintenance. She was just doing her job.



Gratitude boosts our experience of the good things in life. It enables us to enjoy life better. Gratitude also helps us to live through the hard things in life with nobility, perhaps even with a little humor. To put it in simple terms, gratitude is like savoring a fine Thanksgiving meal and dessert rather than speeding through a meal.

Forever Thankful

Being forever thankful,
Is what God wants from us,
Never forgetting from where we came,
Or His boundless, saving love

All of heavens blessings
Poured down from heavens gates,
Everything we have in life,
He's given with extra grace

We need to always thank Him
For this, and so much more
Not only for tangible things,
But because He is our Lord

Thanksgiving is the key
For His blessings to increase,
If we've not got thankful hearts,
His blessings soon will cease

Don't ever start complaining
At what you may not have,
Look around at what you see,
Then be thankful and glad

© By M.S.Lowndes

The Book of Philippians 1:1-26
(used in Women's Bible study)

As a background, we have to look at the Book of Acts 16:11-34. Paul, the greatest apostle and evangelist who ever lived, in his obedience to the Spirit of Jesus Christ, started the church in the Roman town of Philippi. Paul spoke in this town, and a woman named Lydia opened her heart to the Gospel and became a believer in Jesus as her Messiah.



**"Being confident of this very thing,
that he which hath begun a good
work in you will perform it until the
day of Jesus Christ:"**

Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

King James Bible Online.org

God opened her heart, and she opened her home to the first house church in the area. This is a very encouraging story, because we see that when you share the Gospel, you aren't on your own. The Spirit of God is at work. He opens hearts.

Also, within this church was a slave girl who was tormented by a demon. Paul cast out this demon and her owners who were making a profit from her, had Paul and Silas flogged and imprisoned. This story reminds us of the spiritual battle that goes on in ministry and the superior power of God. God can change the lives of even the most tormented people.

Finally, the conversion of the Philippian jailer is described. Paul and Silas began praying and singing praise to God even while in prison. As a result, God shook the earth, and their chains fell off. The jailer, who feared for his life, eventually asked, "What must I do to be saved?" God was at work in his life. Paul rightly told him that he didn't have to clean up his life; he needed only to believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ. These examples show us that all ethnicities and classes of people can be saved. Some are influenced by dialogue

and teaching, others by deeds of mercy and others by example. All of them are saved by responding to the Gospel.

About ten years have passed since Paul established the church in Philippi. Imprisoned again for Christ, along with Timothy, he writes this letter to the Philippian congregation. This letter begins as a beautiful greeting because it gives us the theme of grace (God's unearned favor upon us). It is by grace we are Christians, and by God's grace, we can live out the Christian life. Grace is something we don't earn. It is a gift. Grace cannot be forced upon us. We must receive/accept it. In verse 2, Paul mentions the Father and Son, and we know that grace and peace come through the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts. When we have received grace from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we receive peace, rest, and blessing.

The Book of Philippians is about finding joy in life. Paul was chained and in a miserable prison (not at all like the ones we have today) yet, he was described as the happiest man in Rome. Why? How? Paul knew the secret to have real joy. The secret to having lasting joy is to keep things in the proper order:

Jesus Others, Yourself.

Keep your focus on Jesus. There is Joy in Prayer - expressing gratitude for others, for all situations. There is Joy in Fellowship - we are made for relationships. There is Joy in Affection - we are to love one another the way Christ loves us. There is Joy in Anticipation - "that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Verse 6.

Later in chapter 1, we see Paul giving the Philippians a report on his situation and his outlook on the future, he shows them how to live and die for the glory of Christ. Verse 21 "For me, living is Christ and dying is gain." Paul's ambition in life was to honor Christ. We need to have this same ambition. Just as Paul did even in the midst of suffering, we need to *rejoice in Christ completely*. He is our treasure! We need to *rely on Christ entirely*. He is our only Source, the only One who sustains us, our only Deliverer! And with the power of the Holy Spirit, we need to *represent Christ courageously*. To honor Jesus above all things is to care more about His glory than your glory and to live this way courageously. Again - only live by the power of the Spirit of Christ.

Paul talks about to live means honoring Christ with joyful, fruitful labor, and to die means possessing Christ in the fullest sense. This was Paul's dilemma. As Christians, we share this dilemma as well. But even

though Paul desired to be with Christ, he resolved to live out his days for the sake of the lost. Even in suffering, Paul found great joy in sharing the Gospel and serving others in Christ's name. That type of joy can be yours, as well. How? Pray for others with gratitude and thanksgiving, serve others with the love of Christ, and keep your eyes focused on the One who saved you.

Adapted from "The Book of Philippians 1:1-26" from Christ-Centered Exposition by David Platt

**Veterans Day
November 11**



"Almost all the civil liberty now enjoyed in the world owes its origin to the principles of the Christian religion. Men began to understand their natural rights, as soon as the reformation from popery began to dawn in the sixteenth century; and civil liberty has been gradually advancing and improving, as genuine Christianity has prevailed. By the principles of the Christian religion we are not to understand the decisions of ecclesiastical

councils... No; the religion which has introduced civil liberty, is the religion of Christ and his apostles, which enjoins humility, piety and benevolence; which acknowledges in every person a brother, or a sister, and a citizen with equal rights. This is genuine Christianity, and to this we owe our free constitutions of government. "

- Noah Webster
"Schoolmaster of America"
Webster, *History of the United States*, 299f
christianheritagefellowship.com

**Meaning of Thanksgiving - The Real Celebration
November 28**



The "first Thanksgiving," was not a routine meal nor a holiday, but a simple gathering. Following the *Mayflower's* arrival at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620, the Pilgrims suffered the loss of 46 of their original 102 colonists. With the help of 91 Indians, the remaining Pilgrims survived the bitter winter and yielded a bountiful harvest in 1621. In celebration, a traditional English harvest festival, lasting three days brought the Pilgrims and natives to unite in a "thanksgiving" observance.

This "thanksgiving" meal would not be celebrated again until June of 1676. On June 29 the community of Charlestown, Massachusetts proclaimed a day of thanksgiving for their good fortune. One hundred years later, in October of 1777, all 13 colonies participated in a one-time "thanksgiving" celebration which commemorated the patriotic victory over the British at Saratoga. It would take a span of over 150 more years to establish Thanksgiving as we celebrate it -- George Washington proclaimed it a National holiday in 1789, Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November in 1863, and Congress sanctioned it as a legal holiday in 1941.

Meaning of Thanksgiving - Expressions of Gratitude

The meaning of Thanksgiving has undergone numerous transitions:

To gather in unity – It is refreshing and invigorating when people come together, in celebration of a common purpose. It is a reconciliation of differences as well as a time of healing. In sharing our victories as well as our struggles, we find strength and hope.

To teach the young – In stories retold, each generation brings purpose and significance to the richness of their heritage. Faded pictures, sentimental knick-knacks, even the prayer of Thanksgiving before the meal all form a Thanksgiving family legacy.

To prepare the heart – In gratitude, we humbly reflect upon all the gifts (family, friends, health) that saturate our lives. By "giving-thanks" we choose to extend ourselves and give to others less fortunate. Out of the abundance of our hearts, we are able to offer our resources to help others.

Meaning of Thanksgiving - Praise to God

The true meaning of Thanksgiving focuses upon relationship. Thanksgiving is a relationship between God and man. Upon their arrival at New Plymouth, the Pilgrims composed The Mayflower Compact, which honored God. Thanksgiving begins with acknowledging God as faithful, earnestly giving Him thanks, in advance, for His abundant blessings. ". . . In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your

requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). Thanksgiving is an attitude of the heart that reinforces an intimate relationship with God.

Adapted from "Meaning of Thanksgiving" allabouthistory.org

Announcements



October 23 Senior Luncheon

Election Day Dinner

The **Election Day Dinner** is **November 5th** from 4:30 to 7:00 PM at the Lion's Club. Come join us for homemade soups, pies, Lion's club sandwiches, and chicken sandwiches. The community is invited.

Christmas Shoe Boxes

Since `1993 Samaritan's Purse has collected more than 168 million shoeboxes packed with toys and other fun and useful items and delivered them to boys and girls in need around the world. Each box is an opportunity for the Gospel to transform the life of a child, a family and a community. Many boys and girls also participate in The Greatest Journey, a 12 lesson follow up discipleship course, where they learn to follow Christ and share Him with Others. Please consider filling a box this year. For many children it will be the only gift they ever receive, and it will mean so much to them. **Collection day will be Sunday, November 24, 2019.** Shoe boxes should be dropped near the elevator in the Prayer Room or to the Manse.

Wedding Reception

The Emery family will be hosting a wedding reception in the Prayer Room for their daughter, Cassy and her husband, Emmanuel Yeboah-Mantey, December 8 after the morning service. They will be married in Cincinnati November 15. All are welcome.

Saturate Van Wert

Saturate USA will be providing a movie DVD, Gospel tracts and door hangers, and churches in Van Wert county will be providing prayer and workers to place hangers on 1000's of homes across our county. Together we can accomplish much to get the Gospel message out to the county for the holiday season.

Salvation Army Donation

Please donate **gravy packages** to the Salvation Army. Our church has been tasked with collecting between 550 and 600 gravy packages to help provide food to families in need. Last day of collection is **December 8th.**

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date: \$83,646.18

Received to Date: \$87,320.07

Salem Sights



October 13 Evan Pugh Special Music



October 20 Dave Lusk Special Music

Venedocia Trick or Treating



Venedocia autumn colors



Lions Club Park Shelter house treats



Dominic Eutshler



Lions Club gathering place for the custom judging



Children's Sermon



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

Cory McCollow

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

Micah Linger

Grandson of Doris Evans
(U.S. Marine Corps)

Marjorie Rhoades

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

Dorothea Plikerd

Roselawn Manor
418 East 4th Street
Spencerville, OH 45887

Phoebe Eutsler (Army)

Bob Louth

15113 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Birthdays

1 Avery Zielke	5 Carla Breese
5 Marjorie Rhoades	5 Missy Zielke
10 Lucas Mullenhour	11 Sarah Kimmet
12 Catie Emery	16 Doug Jones
29 Kathy McCollow	30 Mike Breese

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

Andrew Emery – University of Cincinnati

Christina Emery – University of Cincinnati

Anniversaries

28 Dave & Jean Owens

In Remembrance of Those Lost this Past Year

David Williams, Jerry Agler, Sharon Raney, Linda Young, Warren Summersett, Kim Owens, Alice Schaufelberger, Joyce Profit, Herman Wienken, Joan Shellene, Linda Howell, Evelyn Martz, Wayne Gamble, Marjorie Fronefield, Bob Bolton, Bill Stewart, Bob Hundley

Prayer Concerns

Connie Bassett (breast cancer)
Kyle Baxter (brain cancer)
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Amy Cunningham (Fibromyalgia)
Cathy Donnal (health issues)
Kent DuCheney (surgery)
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Betty Ellis (rapidly failing health)
Catie Emery (constant nightmares)
Stephanie Gamble
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Bill Harmon (cancer)
Tim Huster (cancer)
Connie Johnson (cancer)
Jan Jones (health issues)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)

Linda Lissey (cancer)
Bob Louth (heart problems)
Bob Louth, Jr (prostate health)
LuAnn (family issues)
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Marian Morris
Dorothea Plikerd
Terry Profit (chemotherapy)
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Marjorie Rhodes
Julie Sheets (lung cancer)
Sherry Silar (cancer)
Bruce Taylor (had a liver transplant)
Martha Jean Evans Vasquez
Doug Wierwille (cancer)
Natalie Wilkins (failing health, 90 years old)
Noah Wyatt (son of Stuart Wyatt)

November 2019

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship All Saints Day 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Confirmation Class	4	5 4:30-7:00 pm Election night dinner at the Lion's Club. No Bible Study.	6 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	7	8	9
10 9:30 Worship Veterans Day Service 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Confirmation Class 12:30 Joint Meeting	11	12 No Bible Study	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 Worship w/guest Speaker Kevin Clancy Thank Offering Budget & Nomination Reports distributed. No Sunday School / no Confirmation Class.	18	19 7pm Women's Bible Study	20 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	21	22	23
24 9:30 Worship Congregational mtg Shoeboxes due today 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Confirmation Class	25	26 7pm Women's Bible Study	27 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service- food offering gravy packets	28	29	30

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Special Music
November 3	Mark & Missy Zielke	Lisa Lloyd	Jr. Bell Choir
November 10	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Lisa Lloyd	Jan Jones
November 17	Dave & Carla Breese	Jen Pugh	Olivia & India Miller
November 24	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Jen Pugh	
Ushers	Bob & Denise Pugh family	Greeter:	Marylin Foust

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



Todd and Jayne Morris with grand daughter
Hadley Jayne

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

November 2019 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B

21st Sunday after Pentecost – November 3

Hab. 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144
2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10

22nd Sunday after Pentecost – November 10

Hag. 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38

23rd Sunday after Pentecost – November 17

Isa. 65:17-25 Isa. 12
2 Thess. 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

Christ the King/Reign of Christ – November 24

Jer. 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79
Col. 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43