

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

If God be our God, He will give us peace in trouble. When there is a storm without, He will make peace within. The world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble. – Early 1600s persecuted Puritan Pastor Thomas [Watson](#)

Are we truly following Christ and making Christ our Lord and Savior? Perhaps, we need to examine our thoughts and actions. Most of us see joy as having nice stuff – a good family, health, pleasant houses, boats, the latest equipment, and stability and safety.

But the Biblical idea of joy is fully serving the Lord faithfully with our gifts, talents, and possessions.



Perhaps, we suffer in life so we will fall less in love with the earth, and more in love with God and His Kingdom. If we are serving God, we can have joy that this world does not understand.

The news reports tell us that the world is falling apart. On the other hand, the Bible tells us to not peer into the future with fear and foreboding, but to gaze forward with anticipation. Things are going to get better—much better, but not as the world values things!

When we look out our window, what do we see? Our planet is wrought with fears of pandemics, wars, riots, earthquakes, and global economic meltdowns. Know that the worst is yet to come for planet earth, and the Bible tells us that there is a future seven-year horrible horrible period known as the Tribulation discussed in Revelation.

But wait! At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will descend from heaven with His saints, deal with evil, and

establish a thousand-year kingdom, which we call the Millennium. Our Lord will reign from the New Jerusalem, unify the world, transform nations, and give us a preview of eternity. He will also fulfill all the promises made in the Old Testament to the nation of Israel.

Your happiness will depend on where you focus your thoughts. Are you going to serve God with all that you have? Or are you trying to hold on to a world that is falling apart? The Bible tells you where to find peace. Why not seek Christ!

Pastor Tom Emery

When I say, "I am a Christian"

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost sometimes"
That's why I chose this way"

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't speak with human pride
I'm confessing that I stumble –
needing God to be my guide

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong

I'm professing that I'm weak
and pray for strength to carry on

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success
I'm admitting that I've failed
and cannot ever pay the debt

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't think I know it all
I submit to my confusion
asking humbly to be taught

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are far too visible
but God believes I'm worth it

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain

I have my share of heartache
which is why I seek God's name

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I do not wish to judge
I have no authority
I only know I'm loved

By Carol Wimmer

THE SHELTERING GOD

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. Psalm 9:9

As we move through the coronavirus pandemic of 2020 and begin to think of its impact and effect, many people are asking what is going to happen next. Some are predicting the worst. "The world will never be the same," they say. "We'll never go back to normal." The pessimism about the impact of this pandemic is almost as bad as the pandemic itself. So, what do you say to those who predict such a dire post-pandemic life?

I cannot tell you all that God is going to do with this time of sheltering. But I can tell you what God has done during and after times of sheltering in the past. And once you review the truth of history as I have described it, I think you will know what He is going to do this time.

God sheltered Noah and his family for one year in the ark until Noah emerged to become the father of all the nations of the world.

God sheltered Jacob in the home of his Uncle Laban when he needed to escape the wrath of Esau, his brother. Twenty years later, Jacob emerged with a new family, new wealth, and a new identity. He became Israel, the new name for God's chosen people.

God sheltered Moses in a remote desert for forty years, but Moses came forth to liberate the Jewish people from Egypt.

God sheltered Naomi in the barren land of Moab until she nearly became bitter. But she and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, traveled to Bethlehem to participate in one of the greatest love stories of history.

God sheltered David for fifteen years after he'd been anointed King of Israel. When David finally assumed

the throne, he was a man after God's own heart and gave us many of the Psalms.

God sheltered Elijah by the Brook Cherith, and after the sheltering, He stood alone against the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

God sheltered Jonah for three days and three nights in the belly of a great fish. When the sheltering was over, Jonah went to Nineveh and preached history's greatest revival.

God sheltered Daniel for seventy years in Babylon, where he wrote his Old Testament book outlining the future of God's dealings with His people.

God sheltered Esther while in the palace of Persia's king, and she saved her people from destruction.

God sheltered the disciples in the Upper Room for ten days until the Holy spirit descended in dramatic fashion to form and fashion the Church.

God sheltered Paul in the Arabian desert for three years, and when he emerged from his solitude, he turned the world upside down.

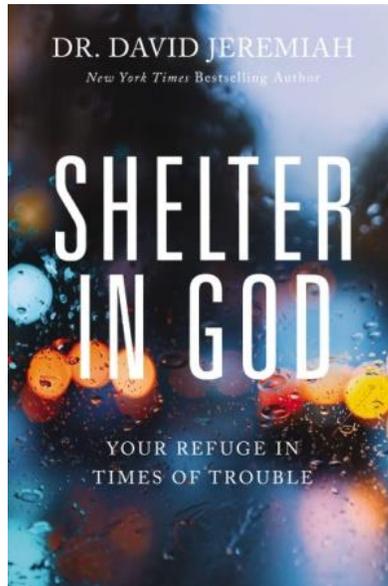
God later sheltered Paul in a Roman prison. By the time the apostle was free, he had written the prison epistles: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon.

God sheltered the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, and the book of Revelation, the greatest prophetic document of all time, was given to him.

Lastly, and most incredibly, **God sheltered Jesus** in a tomb for three days, and on the third day Jesus came forth in power to bring salvation to the world.

I don't know all the details about what God is going to do. But what I do know is what He has done! And that is what we can count on. The God who sheltered His people in biblical days won't stop now. So, come what may, I am trusting in the sheltering God to be my refuge. And so can you. *You have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm, and a shade from the heat. Isaiah 25:4*

Shelter in God by Dr. David Jeremiah (Turning Point) will be used by the Women's Bible Study material for September.



The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the second coming of Christ. His return from heaven will be personal, visible and glorious, a blessed hope for which we should constantly watch and pray.¹

Before He establishes His kingdom on earth, Jesus will come for His Church, an event commonly referred to as the "Rapture." At that time the dead in Christ will be raised and living Christians will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and be with Him forever.² In this resurrection, those who have died in Christ will have their redeemed souls and spirits united with a body similar to Christ's glorified body. Christians living at the time of this event will not die, but will be changed to be like Christ.³ This expectation is a motivation for holy living, as well as a source of comfort.⁴ No man knows the day or the hour when this will take place.⁵



After the Rapture of the Church, Christians will be brought before the judgment seat of Christ. He will reward them on the basis of the works they have accomplished.⁶ This is not a judgment to determine their salvation but a reward for labor on Christ's behalf.⁷ The Rapture will also inaugurate a period that the Bible characterizes as the "great day of His wrath," "the great tribulation" and the "time of Jacob's trouble."⁸ This time of unprecedented difficulty will affect Israel and all nations. Its purpose will be to prepare Israel for her Messiah.⁹

At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will return with the hosts of heaven as well as the Church to establish the Messianic Kingdom on earth.¹⁰ His Kingdom will last for a thousand years.¹¹ At this Second Coming, the Antichrist will be cast into the Lake of Fire and Satan will be bound for a thousand years.¹² The nations and their representatives will be judged.¹³ Israel will be restored to her land, never more to be removed.¹⁴ Christ will reign with firmness and equity.¹⁵ His kingdom will be marked by material and spiritual

blessing, since the curse upon the earth will be removed.¹⁶

The Messianic kingdom will close with apostasy and rebellion.¹⁷ God will crush this uprising in the last battle of the ages and Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire.¹⁸ All those who rejected the Word of God will be resurrected.¹⁹ They will be judged by Christ and cast into the lake of fire, the place where they will suffer final and everlasting punishment.²⁰

After this judgment there will be a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness is the norm.²¹ There will be a new Jerusalem and the everlasting presence of God among all the redeemed.²²

¹ Zechariah 14:4; Acts 1:11; Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7

² 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:14

³ 1 John 3:2

⁴ 1 John 2:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:18

⁵ Matt. 24:36; John 6:39

⁶ Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10

⁷ 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

⁸ Revelation 6:17; 7:14; Jeremiah 30:7

⁹ Zechariah 12:2, 3; 14:1-3

¹⁰ Revelation 19:7-9, 14; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; Zechariah 14:9; Revelation 19:15, 16

¹¹ Revelation 20:2, 4-6

¹² Revelation 19:20; 20:1-3

¹³ Joel 3; Matthew 25

¹⁴ Amos 9:15; Ezekiel 34:28

¹⁵ Psalm 2:9; Isaiah 11:4

¹⁶ Romans 8:19-21

¹⁷ Revelation 20:7-9

¹⁸ Revelation 20:10

¹⁹ Revelation 20:11-13

²⁰ Revelation 20:14, 15; Mark 9:48

²¹ 2 Peter 3:13

²² Revelation 21:2, 3; 2:3-5

Adapted from: The Moody Bible Institute "The Second Coming of Christ"

Salem Recipes

Melon Cooler

1 can (12oz) citrus based carbonated beverage

1 package (3oz) orange gelatin

1 1/2 cups diced melon

Bring 1 cup carbonated beverage to a boil. Add to gelatin and stir until dissolved. Add water to remaining carbonated beverage to make 3/4 cup; stir into gelatin mixture. Chill until thickened; then fold in diced melon. Pour into 4 cup mold and chill until firm - about 4 hours. Unmold. Garnish with whipped topping and mint leaves if desired. Makes 3 cups or 6 servings.

Peach Bavarian

- 1 can (29oz) sliced peaches
- 1 package (3oz) lemon gelatin
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 2 cups whipped topping

Drain peaches, reserving 1/3 cup of the syrup. Chop peaches. Dissolve gelatin, sugar and salt in boiling water. Add reserved syrup. Chill until slightly thickened. Blend almond extract into whipped topping; gradually blend into gelatin, then fold in the peaches. Pour into 5 cup mold. Chill until firm - about 4 hours. Unmold. Makes 5 cups or 10 servings.

Black Raspberry Ice Cream Dessert

- 1 package (3oz) black raspberry gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water
- 3/4 cup cold water *
- 1/4 cup sherry wine *
- 1 pint vanilla ice cream

* Or increase water to 1 cup and omit the wine. Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Add cold water and wine. Add ice cream, by spoonful's, stirring until melted. Chill until slightly thickened; then stir and spoon into dessert dishes. Chill - about 1 hour. Makes 3 1/2 cups or 7 servings.

Orange Snow

- 1 package (3 oz) orange or pineapple gelatin
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup boiling water
- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 1/2 teaspoon grated orange rind
- 1 egg white

Dissolve gelatin and salt in boiling water in a bowl. Add orange juice and rind. Place bowl of gelatin in larger bowl of ice and water, stir until slightly thickened. Add egg white, whip with mixer until fluffy, thick and about double in volume. Pile lightly in dessert glasses or pour into an 8-inch square pan. Chill until firm - about 3 hours. If pan is used, cut

into rectangles before serving. Serve with strawberries if desired. Makes 5 cups or 6 servings.

Church Financial Update

Before the pandemic hit Salem Church, we were doing financially better than last year at this time. With church services being suspended by the State of Ohio, we need more than ever for our church family to continue their giving during this trying time. Church offerings should be mailed to the church at:

**Salem United Presbyterian Church
PO Box 678
Venedocia, Ohio 45894**

Needed to Date: \$59,663.35
Received to Date: \$64,972.51

Salem Facebook and FM Radio

During the coronavirus outbreak, our Facebook pages are: "**Salem Presbyterian Church Venedocia**" for our Facebook Live Sunday Service posting, and the Group Page is "**Salem United Presbyterian Church**" for spiritual church wide discussions. Our short-range FM station is **FM 87.9** for the Venedocia-area during service times. Our SalemChurch.cc website has been down while we fix the software in our crashed hard drive that stored the website program.

New Neighbors



June 26 – New Venedocia residents
David and Sarah Burden

Day One of VBS July 28

Twenty-eight kids gather for the Salem Vacation Bible School



Artwork and crafts

VBS Registrations



"He's got the whole world in His hand" song

Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag, to the Christian flag, and to the Bible and a talk about missions.



Break time for the little kids

The day's lesson: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Remember our elderly members, soldiers, and college students with cards and visits.

Bartie Jones

407 Stony Ridge Dr.
Sandusky, OH 44870-5468

Marjorie Rhoades

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

Marian Morris at Hearth & Home

1118 Westwood Dr.
Van Wert, OH 45891

Serving our Country

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)

Butch Eutsler

(National Guard)

Away at College

Evan Pugh – Aquinas University, Grand Rapids

Christina Emery – University of Cincinnati

Madison Pugh – USCGA | 15 Mohegan Ave.
8785 Chase Hall | New London, CT 06320

Birthdays

4 Phillip Eutsler	4 Don Owens
6 Brooke Coil	9 Denise Pugh
11 David Hobbs	20 Austin Kimmet
22 Jan Jones	27 Barb Owens
30 Kelly Lloyd	

Anniversaries

12 David & Carla Breese
10 Tyler & Morgan McConnell
17 Kory & Tamara Mullenhour
27 Tom & Carol Emery

Condolences

Condolences to the families of Brenda Fackler & Dan Theobald

Prayer Concerns

Connie Bassett (breast cancer)
Kyle Baxter (brain cancer)
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Amy Cunningham (Fibromyalgia)
John Davis (stroke)
Cathy Donnal (health issues)
Kent DuCheney (surgery)
Aiden Ellerbrock (serious injuries from a fall)
Betty Ellis (rapidly failing health)
Catie Emery (nightmares)
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Jerry Holscher
Tim Huster (cancer)
Connie Johnson (cancer)
Paula Jones (healing from fall)

Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
Linda Lissey (cancer)
Bob Louth, Jr (prostate health)
LuAnn (family issues)
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
David Morris (Zeb)
Marian Morris
Terry Profit
Julie Reichard (mission work in Haiti)
Mallory Rentz (blood clot in brain)
Marjorie Rhodes
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Ron Sheets (motorcycle accident)
Doug Smith (Jen Pugh's father)
Mary Strayer (cancer)
6 Betty Tenant (recovering from stroke)
Raymond Young

August 2020

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:30 Worship guest speaker from the Gideons is Ron Bagley 5:00 Trustee Meeting	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 Worship w/guest Speaker John Zerbe	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	31					

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
August 2	Gwenda Blackmore	Morgan McConnell	Becky Reichard
August 9	Mark & Missy Zielke	Morgan McConnell	Connie O'Neill
August 16	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Morgan McConnell	Connie O'Neill
August 23	Dave & Carla Breese	Morgan McConnell	Dave Van Tilburg
August 30	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Morgan McConnell	Seth Baker
Ushers	Marylin Foust	Greeter:	Marylin Foust

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



July 26 - Mask wearing and social distancing at Salem service

Sounds of Salem Newsletter

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: www.SalemChurch.cc

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

**August 2020
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR B**

9th Sunday after Pentecost – August 2

Gen. 32:22-31	Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Rom. 9:1-5	Matt. 14:13-21

10th Sunday after Pentecost – August 9

Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28	Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22,45b
Rom. 10:5-15	Matt. 14:22-33

11th Sunday after Pentecost – August 16

Gen. 45:1-15	Psalm 133
Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matt. 15:(10-20) 21-28

12th Sunday after Pentecost – August 23

Exod. 1:8-2:10	Psalm 124
Rom. 12:1-8	Matt. 16:13-20

13th Sunday after Pentecost – August 30

Exod. 3:1-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26,45c
Rom. 12:9-21	Matt. 16:21-28