

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

²³ Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. ²⁴ Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me (John 14:23-24 NLT).

Jesus calls us to obey the Biblical teachings and to daily meditate on the Word so we can become more Christ-like. Otherwise left to ourselves, we become apathetic and worldly, and we fool ourselves that we love God.



How many of us have forgotten that those who obey His words are what distinguishes those who love God and those that don't? Following God's words is the gateway to intimacy with God.

For instance, if you carry anger or unforgiveness toward another, only by reading God's Word, will you realize that you are in rebellion against God. "How so," you might think, and it might not seem that serious to you. But it is important to God. He sent His Son, Jesus, to take your punishment for your wrongs so God can give you His mercy instead of your deserved punishment. The next time that anger or unforgiveness springs up inside you, know that you are discarding His mercy and grace given through Christ's act of dying on the cross to take your punishment, and you are grieving God.

Don't you want a moment by moment presence of God in your life? God makes that promise only to those who try to obey. Yes, we might not obey perfectly, but our lives' direction should be determined by daily discovering and following God's words. You can journal and have daily Bible readings and devotions. If you blow it, confess that as sin in Jesus' Name, ask for forgiveness, and knowing that you are forgiven in

Christ, get back up on your horse for another ride of being in this world following your faith in God.

John 14:21 tells us that "Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them." Why not seek the deepest relationship with God. God offers you a joy that this world cannot provide you!

Pastor Tom Emery

"Who Am I" by Casting Crowns

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth
Would care to know my name,
Would care to feel my hurt?
Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star
Would choose to light the way
For my ever wandering heart?

Not because of who I am,
But because of what You've done.
Not because of what I've done,
But because of who You are.

I am a flower quickly fading:
Here today and gone tomorrow.
A wave tossed in the ocean,
A vapor in the wind.
Still You hear me when I'm calling.
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling.
And You've told me who I am.
I am Yours, I am Yours.

Who am I, that the eyes that see my sin
Would look on me with love and watch me rise again?
Who am I, that the voice that calmed the sea
Would call out through the rain
And calm the storm in me?

Not because of who I am,
But because of what You've done.
Not because of what I've done,
But because of who You are.

I am a flower quickly fading:
Here today and gone tomorrow.
A wave tossed in the ocean,
A vapor in the wind.
Still You hear me when I'm calling.

Lord, You catch me when I'm falling.
And You've told me who I am.
I am Yours.

Not because of who I am,
But because of what You've done.
Not because of what I've done,
But because of who You are.

I am a flower quickly fading:
Here today and gone tomorrow.
A wave tossed in the ocean,
A vapor in the wind.
Still You hear me when I'm calling.
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling.
And told me who I am.
I am Yours, I am Yours, I am Yours.

Whom shall I fear?
Whom shall I fear?
'Cause I am Yours, I am Yours.

[Song Link](#)

A Bend in the Road - Disruptive Moments

In his book, *The Life God Blesses*, Gordon MacDonald coins a phrase to describe the times when God brings great blessing into the lives of His servants - he calls them "disruptive moments". According to MacDonald, disruptive moments are "those unanticipated events, most of which, one would usually have chosen to avoid had it been possible."



MacDonald cites the words of Malcolm Muggeridge who said, "As an old man...looking back on one's life, it's one of the things that strikes you most forcibly - that the only thing that's taught one anything, is suffering. Not success, not happiness, not anything like that. The only thing that really teaches on what life's about - the joy of understanding, the joy of coming in contact with what life really signifies - is suffering, affliction."

In 1994, I experienced a disruptive moment in my own life. An illness that came out of nowhere. It came unannounced, unexpected, and without my getting to vote on it. While it was a very disrupting event in my life, it also became a very instructive event. I drew heavily during that time on two passages of Scripture that contain principles for how to handle disruptive moments in life: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and Hebrews 12:5-11.

Many have been the attempts to discover what Paul's "thorn" was. The truth is that we do not know what

Paul's thorn in the flesh was. We do know this: It was a disruptive moment in Paul's life and it was painful! Paul asked God three times to remove the thorn in his flesh, and three times God said, "No." But God promised something better: Grace to live with the thorn and to find perfect strength in the midst of his human weakness.

The letter to the Hebrews was addressed primarily to Jewish converts to Christianity. They were under pressure to revert to Judaism or to incorporate elements of Judaism into their new faith which was based solely on God's grace. They were suffering pressure at the hands of those who opposed them.

God's disruptive moments are to correct us and to prove our sonship. The truth is you are a child of God and He will always be there when you need Him. Disruptive moments give you the opportunity to call out to Him and prove His presence. They are the moments in which your childhood is proven once again to you.

Children don't vote for their fathers to discipline them. Why? Because it hurts. And yet there is a divine purpose in those times of correction and training. We need to endure it and be trained by the disruptive moments.

In both passages, we see the purpose, pain, provision, product, and perspective concerning disruptive moments in life. Whether your disruptive moment has been a divorce, a death of a loved one, a devastating business experience, an illness or a disaster of some other sort, you need to know that **God is with you and wants not just to take you through it but to teach you through it.**

Principles to Remember in Disruptive Moments: First, Disruptive Moments Are Often Divine Appointments. Nothing comes into our life that is not from God. God reminds us that whatever touches us touches the apple of His eye (Zechariah 2:8); that when the enemy comes in like a flood, "He defends us" (Isaiah 59:19). We are precious in His sight (Isaiah 43:4), and He has limitless resources by which He meets our needs (Philippians 4:19). In Him, we have "everlasting consolation" (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17), a defense against our enemies (Psalm 37:1, 6). When life gets too heavy to bear alone, He comes alongside to help us (Exodus 18:18). When we are put in a position too difficult for our abilities, we are reminded that He will bless what we put our hands to (Deuteronomy 15:10).

Our response to disruptive moments changes according to our ability to see them as coming from God's hand - by His grace and for our good.

Second, Progress Without Pain Is Not Possible. Ron Mehl's writes: "Storms always leave us with a list of things to clean up and fix. They are a time when God restores to us the things we lose through negligence, ignorance, rebellion or sin. For the Christian, storms help us to see and acknowledge the loose shutters, missing shingles, and rotten fence posts in our lives while turning us back to the only One who can make the necessary repairs."

Third, Promise of God Is the Provision Of Grace. In John 15 we have a beautiful picture of God's provision in making us more fruitful. The gardener prunes the fruit-producing vines so they will produce even more fruit. Pruning is painful, but it is productive, and the gardener is never closer to the vine than when he is pruning it.

Fourth, Disruptive Moments Produce Dynamic Growth. In 2 Corinthians 12 we see God give more power, in Hebrews 12, more righteousness and in John 15 more fruit. Those are God's purposes during disruptive moments if we will allow Him to do His work in us. God does not allow difficult times to hurt us for no purpose. He does it for more than that: power, righteousness, fruit and His purposes.

Finally, What We Receive from Disruptive Moments Depends Upon How We Respond. The right question is never, "Why Lord?" It is always, "What, Lord? What do You want to teach me through this disruptive moment? Take me through this as my Teacher. Don't let me miss anything that You want me to see and learn."

Dear friend, if you face a disruptive moment with any other perspective than that, it will just be a bump in the road that bounces you all over the highway. When it is over, you will just be sore, and you won't be any better. Purpose now, before you get to the bends in the road that you know are coming in this life, that you will respond in a way that produces more of God's will in your life.

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

Salem Recipes
Delicious Upside-Down Cake

Ingredient Checklist

- 4 large eggs
- ½ cup butter

- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 (20 ounce) can sliced pineapple
- 10 maraschino cherries, halved
- 1 cup sifted cake flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 tablespoon butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon almond extract



Recipe yields 12 servings

Instructions Checklist

- Step 1**
Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
- Step 2**
In a 10-inch heavy skillet with a heat-resistant handle (I use a cast iron skillet), melt 1/2 cup butter over very low heat. Remove from heat, and sprinkle brown sugar evenly over pan. Arrange pineapple slices to cover bottom of skillet. Distribute cherries around pineapple; set aside.
- Step 3**
Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt.
- Step 4**
Separate the eggs into two bowls. In a large bowl, beat egg whites just until soft peaks form. Add granulated sugar gradually, beating well after each addition. Beat until medium-stiff peaks form. In a small bowl, beat egg yolks at high speed until very thick and yellow. With a wire whisk or rubber scraper, using an over-and-under motion, gently fold egg yolks and flour mixture into whites until blended. Fold in 1 tablespoon melted butter

or margarine and almond extract. Spread batter evenly over pineapple in skillet.

☐ Step 5

Bake until surface springs back when gently pressed with fingertip and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 30 to 35 minutes. Loosen the edges of the cake with table knife. Cool the cake for 5 minutes before inverting onto serving plate.

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 repaired with the external rerouting of the local CenturyLink switching equipment.

Ordination Event



August 25th – Emmanuel Yeboah-Mantey was ordained at the First Church of Christ in Burlington, KY, a church of 4000 members, and will be an outreach Pastor for the church’s three Cincinnati-area campuses. His long-term intention is to return to Ghana, Africa in three years to help with his father’s Ghana mission schools and outreach to African nations.

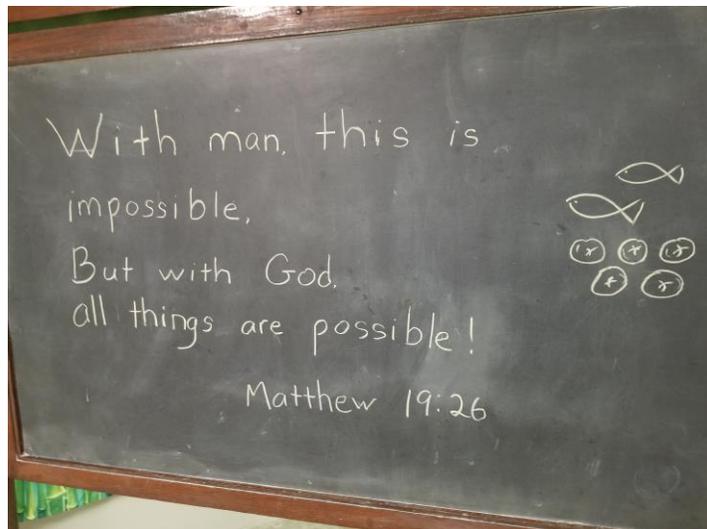
Church Financial Update

Before the pandemic hit Salem Church, we were doing financially better than last year at this time. With church services and events like the Gymanfa Ganu and meal events being restricted 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: \$69,607.25
Received to Date: \$72,090.30

Day Two of VBS July 29



Twenty-eight kids and seven teenage helpers gathered for the Salem Vacation Bible School VBS Registrations.

The second day’s lesson was “With man, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

Vacation Bible School children’s donations were \$163. They donated this money to Heifer Faith Ministries to purchase 1 sheep, 1 flock of chicks, and 1 flock of ducks for the outreach in impoverished areas of the world.



Pastor Tom taking photos for the slide show on next Sunday



Drawing the lesson.



Looking cute.



Song time.



Church helpers feed the kids.



Lessons on the Miracles of the Fishes and the Loafs



Study-time.

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

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

At College

Evan Pugh – University of Northwestern Ohio

Christina Emery – University of Cincinnati

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

Condolences

Condolences to the families of Mary Looser, Connie Johnson, and Nancy Cox

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)

Birthdays

1 Elizabeth Adkins	1 Kim Ebel
3 Pete McCollow	4 Claudia LeValley
4 Katie McClure	11 Landon Price
12 Jackson Dunlap	18 Jayne Morris
18 Morgan McConnell	20 Megan Jones
23 April Ellerbrock	25 Darlene Jones
26 Cindy Davis	26 Marian Morris
27 Brian Ellerbrock	27 Lisa Lloyd
29 Stephanie Beck	30 Jack Blackmore

Anniversaries

8 Paul & Doris Price	11 Doug & Jan Jones
15 Bob & Denise Pugh	28 Eric & Jen Pugh

Prayer Concerns

Connie Bassett (breast cancer)
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Cathy Donnal (health issues)
Catie Emery (nightmares)
Jennie Evans (loss of her husband)
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Jerry Holscher
Dale Kiesz (leg operation)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
LuAnn (family issues)
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)

David Morris (Zeb)
Marian Morris
Judy Jones Muhn (health issues)
Ione Owens
Kay Patrick
Marjorie Rhodes
David Ringwald (healing from burns)
Roselawn Manor-all residents
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Doug Smith (Jen Pugh's father)
Mary Strayer (cancer)
Betty Tenant (recovering from stroke)
Raymond Young

September 2020

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School Gymanfa Ganu cancelled this year	7	8	9	10	11	12
		7 pm Women's Bible Study				
13 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 Trustee Meeting	14	15	16	17	18	19
		7 pm Women's Bible Study				
20 9:30 Worship Drive Your Tractor to Church (luncheon cancelled) 10:45 Sunday S	21	22	23	24	25	26
		7 pm Women's Bible Study				
27 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Session Meeting	28	29	30			
		7 pm Women's Bible Study				

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
September 6	Bob & Denise Pugh	Morgan McConnell	Connie O'Neill
September 13	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	Marylin Foust	Becky Reichard
September 20	Bill & Ruth Evans	Marylin Foust	Connie O'Neill
September 27	Eric & Jenny Pugh	Marylin Foust	Dave VanTilburg
Ushers	Ron Richards	Greeter:	Ron Richards

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



August 23 – Todd and Jayne Morris holding their Grand-daughter, Hadley

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

September 2020 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
14th Sunday after Pentecost – Sept 6	
Exod. 12:1-14	Psalm 149
Rom. 13:8-14	Matt. 18:15-20
15th Sunday after Pentecost – Sept 13	
Exod. 14:19-31	Psalm 114
Rom. 14:1-12	Matt. 18:21-35
16th Sunday after Pentecost – Sept 20	
Exod. 16:2-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Phil 1:21-30	Matt. 20:1-16
17th Sunday after Pentecost – Sept 27	
Exod. 17:1-7	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Phil. 2:1-13	Matt. 21:23-32