

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 23 Issue 2

February 2021

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of (John 10:6-10 The Message).

Are you feeling discouraged? Do you feel that you are just making it through the day? When we listen to the world's news, we hear about combative politics, the Great Reset, the sour economy, and the unemployment level coming out of the one-year-long Coronavirus quarantine. Virus, virus, virus... Don't we wish that the world would get back to where it was a year ago? About that discouragement, be advised that Satan, your adversary wants you confused, depressed, and useless for the Kingdom of God. He wants to steal your life and your joy.

Satan does this by turning your attention and your desires away from thankfulness to God and toward the things of this world. You focus on what you lost, don't have, or has been taken from you. But, Jesus, our Shepherd, came to give us a true life that is abundant and eternal. When you turn to the things of this world, you turn your heart to Satan's kingdom and his authority over you. You submit to his rule. It robs you of the inner joy that you can have only in setting your mind and heart toward Christ. To be blessed beyond our dreams, Jesus tells us to first seek His Kingdom and His right ways of doing things.

Jesus tells us to relax and be not be so preoccupied with getting, so we can respond to God's giving to us. People who don't know God and the way He works fret over these things. Steep your life in thankfulness of our God. Don't worry about missing out. You will find all your everyday human concerns will be met by our self-giving God. God knows you and your needs. He is our ultimate loving provider. We find our joy in knowing and serving Him.

"So don't worry at all about having enough food and clothing. Why be like the heathen? For they take pride in all these things and are deeply concerned about them. But your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need them, ³³ and he will give them to you if you give him first place in your life and live as he wants you to (Matthew 6:32-33 TLB).

Pastor Tom Emery



Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu, alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Allelu, alleluia

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu, alleluia

As sung by [Maranatha! Music: Link](#).

How to Be Happy According to Jesus

There has never been a time in history when mankind has been more entertained and more unhappy at the same time. While entertainment certainly has its place, it cannot replace true happiness. Happiness (joy) is a by-product of knowing God, not an end in itself.

Happiness is an American right. It's in our Declaration of Independence, right alongside life and liberty. It can

be confusing to watch as people pursue their own kind of happiness. One man buys multiple homes, another lives in the wilderness as a hermit. One person thinks happiness is found in bodybuilding, another tries to find it and destroys his body with drugs. One couple thinks happiness is found in children, while another is convinced children get in the way of happiness.

Matthew 5:1-12 describes nine characteristics of the happy Christian life. Many Bible translations use the word “*Blessed*”. *Blessed* means “happy, blissful, joyous, ecstatic.” In the Greek, it reads “Blessed the meek” and “Blessed the poor in spirit.” This expression was commonly used in the Book of Psalms. “Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,” we read in Psalm 32:1. We are to be *blissful* and *ecstatic* over the fact that the Lord has taken away our sins. That is the same expression Christ used when He began talking about the Christian life. *Blissful, happy, joyous* – these are the words that describe the Christian walk.

The pursuit of true happiness is part of God’s purpose for you and me.

Jesus said in John 10:10 that He came “that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.” God’s purpose is not to create a joyless existence. Jesus spoke those words to make it clear to us that God wants us to be blessed. It is part of His purpose.



The pursuit of true happiness is a journey inward. Matthew 5:1-12 reveals thoughts that run contrary to our current ideas about happiness. There is not one single reference by the Lord to health, work, income, financial security, homes, love or friends. Christ knew that while these things often accompany happiness, they do not ever produce it. His list completely reverses the standards of the world. “Oh the bliss of the poor!”, Jesus says. “The joy of the persecuted! The exaltation of the hungry and thirsty! The happiness of the sorrowful!” These are contradiction to the world’s standards. They leave us in shock and amazement. They are paradoxes that Jesus used to destroy the foolish illusions that so many of His followers had built up about what would happen when He became king. The people were certain the kingdom was going to make them free and rich, but Jesus said, in effect, “That’s not what the Kingdom is about at all.”

The pursuit of true happiness is not a goal but a by-product. People who start out with the purpose of

trying to become happy very seldom arrive at that place. Happiness sought for its own sake is usually self-defeating. In trying to find new ways to be happy, people are really trying to mask the pain temporarily.

Frank Laubach was dedicated to the cultivation of literacy among the backward people of the world. He never went searching for happiness – he just found it as a by-product of his search for something more important. Dr. Laubach described delighted men and women weeping for joy when they discovered how to read. “No other work in the world could possibly have brought me so much happiness,” he said. True joy is a by-product, not a goal.

The pursuit of true happiness will lead you ultimately to Jesus Christ.

The 5th chapter of Matthew records the words of Jesus regarding happiness. He was an extremely happy man and His inner joy no doubt came partly from relationships. Knowing He was about to die and witness the desertion of even His closest friends, Jesus still was able to tell

them, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11).

The verses in Matthew 5 explain His joy and His words can change our lives. It may not immediately change the way you outwardly live, but it will help you find the inner peace and

happiness that makes it possible to find joy in the midst of trial.

As we look ahead at the Beatitudes, may we discover the joy of knowing the Lord, having our sins forgiven, being confident that He has a plan for our lives and that heaven is on the agenda. May we find true happiness (joy) in the words of Jesus Christ.

Adapted from: [How to Be Happy According to Jesus: The Study of the Beatitudes](#) by Dr. David Jeremiah (used in the Salem Women’s Bible Study).

What Is the Next Step After Becoming Christian?

Congratulations! If you are a new believer, you have just experienced the beginning of your new, eternal life ([John 3:16](#); [10:10](#)). Your sins have been forgiven and you have been given a fresh start ([Romans 4:7](#)). You have now been given inexpressible, glorious joy ([1 Peter 1:8-9](#)).

In addition to the wonderful blessings of knowing Christ, you are probably thinking, “Now what? What is the next step?” The Bible offers some important principles for those who have begun a relationship with God.

First, as a new Christian, begin reading the Bible.

There are many translations and numerous places to start. While there is no perfect translation, we recommend you choose a footnoted study Bible that is easy for you to understand and is faithful to the original text of the Bible. The [NLT Life Application Study Bible](#) is a good first Bible. To sample some of today’s popular translations, you can go to websites such as [BibleGateway.com](#); at that site it has several versions of audio Bibles to read the Bibles to you on your cell phone or your computer.

We recommend that you begin your reading with the Gospel of John or one of the other Gospels to read for yourself what Jesus taught and did during His time on earth. Articles on [GotQuestions.org](#) will help you answer the practical questions you have about God and spiritual issues. The Bible teaches, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)).

Second, as a new Christian, begin praying.

Prayer is simply talking with God. Many believe prayer must include a formal set of words that can only take place during a church service. However, the Bible teaches us to pray without ceasing ([1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)). We are instructed to praise God day and night. If we desire to know God more deeply, we must communicate with Him regularly.

Throughout each day, you can give thanks to God, ask Him to answer your daily needs, and pray on behalf of others. It’s also important to pray together with others who follow Christ, encouraging each other, praising God, and seeking answers to everyone’s requests. For ideas on how to pray, you can begin with the Lord’s Prayer ([Matthew 6:9-13](#)).

Third, as a new Christian, be baptized. Baptism symbolizes your new life in Christ and proclaims that you are now committed to Jesus. Even Jesus was baptized ([Luke 3:1-22](#)), and He calls His followers to also be baptized. Baptism was practiced by the very first followers of Jesus in [Acts 2:41](#).

Fourth, as a new Christian, build friendships with other Christians. The Christian life is designed to be enjoyed with others. Jesus invested much of His ministry with 12 disciples as His closest friends. He likewise calls us to live in community with one another. The New Testament has over 50 “one another” verses that refer to loving one another, serving one another, encouraging one another, and praying for one another. Each of these commands requires relationships with other Christians.

Fellowship with other believers is one of the purposes of a local church. If there’s a Bible-teaching church in your area, it’s a great place to get involved. If you live in a community without a church, you will need to pray for God to open opportunities for you to meet other Christians in your area.

Fifth, as a new Christian, help others. As you begin your new life as a Christian, you will find a new love inside you giving you a desire to help others. The Holy Spirit will lead you in ways to help. You might serve the

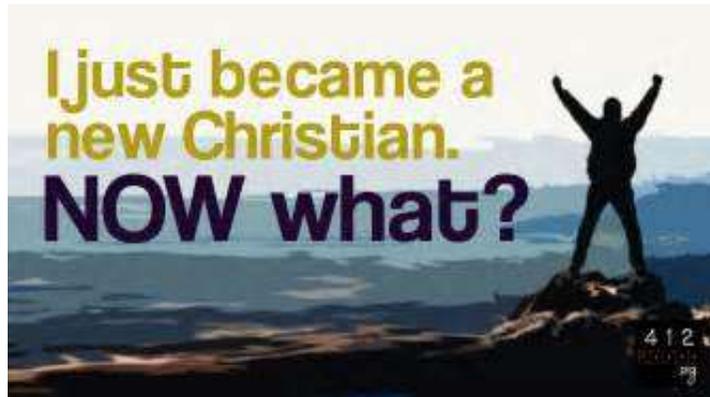
poor in your community, assist a neighbor with yard work, or visit a sick friend in the hospital. The Spirit will clearly call you to show God’s love ([1 John 3:17-18](#)).

Sixth, as a new Christian, tell someone about your faith. Becoming a Christian is not a secret; it’s a celebration! Tell all who will

listen about Christ’s work in your life. In some cases, other people will come to faith in Jesus through the example you share. Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, He commanded His disciples to make disciples of all the nations ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)). Today, Christians are still called to share the hope within us with others ([1 Peter 3:15-16](#)).

Finally, these are simply helpful tips on how to grow in your new faith; they are *not* a list of requirements to become a Christian or to stay a Christian. You have been saved by grace through faith, apart from any works of your own ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). God started the work in you, and He promises to finish it ([Philippians 1:6](#)). God bless you as you continue to mature in your faith!

Adapted from: “I am a new Christian. What is the next step?”
GotQuestions.org
Recommended Resource: [The New Christian’s Handbook: Everything Believers Need to Know by Max Anders](#)



Orange Cookie Recipe by Carolyn Girod

Salem Church has been blessed for years with the generosity of cookies by Carolyn Girod. Here, she shares one of her prized recipes with us.



1 cup Crisco shortening
 1 1/2 cups white sugar
 2 eggs
 grated rind & juice from 1 orange
 1 cup buttermilk (or 1 tbs vinegar in milk)
 1 tsp soda
 3 tsp baking powder
 1/2 tsp salt
 4 1/2 cups flour
 Bake above ingredients at 375 degrees for 10 minutes

Frosting:

4 cups confectioners' sugar
 1/4 soft real butter
 2 tablespoons Crisco shortening
 grated rind from 1 orange
 juice from 2 oranges (might not use all)

Salem Website, Facebook, FM Radio and Zoom

During the coronavirus outbreak, our website is **SalemChurch.cc**. Our Facebook pages are: "**Salem Presbyterian Church Venedocia**" for our Facebook Live unedited service recorded using just a cell phone. Our Group Page is "**Salem United Presbyterian Church**" for private spiritual church wide discussions. Our two-mile short-range FM station is **FM 87.9** for the Venedocia-area during service times.

Beginning **February 21st through Easter Sunday during Lent**, we will have a **Zoom Video Coffee Hour** right after the service. It will allow us to connect with those affected by the COVID-19 circumstances needing to avoid crowds, yet to be part of the Salem fellowship time after the sermon. You can either go online with video from your cell phone or you can also call in by a land line. It will be a social time after church to share our lives and to discuss the Lenten season.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ZOOM COFFEE HOUR:

Instructions will be sent by email on February 14 to those who get the newsletter by email, and it will be posted on the SalemChurch.cc website and in the Salem bulletin. You can then cut and paste the link on your electronic device. As an alternative, you can call the given phone number to listen and talk.



A sample Zoom video screen

Church Financial Update

We should hold gratitude in our hearts every moment of every day for all that we hold dear— because in the blink of an eye, anything could change. So far this year, social and meal events are still restricted by the State of Ohio, and because of COVID-19, not everyone can attend church. With that, we need more than ever for our church family to continue their giving during this trying time. It is because of you that Salem can look confidently towards a financially sound 2021.

Prayerfully consider making a donation. Salem Church offerings should be mailed to the church at:

Salem United Presbyterian Church
PO Box 678
Venedocia, Ohio 45894

Needed to Date: \$10,541.91
 Received to Date \$7,983.50

Announcements

Because of the COVID-19 rate in Van Wert County, we will not have the annual **Ash Wednesday meal** this year, but we will still have the **St. David's Day reception** on March 7th, after the service.

The Sights of Salem



2021-01-10 Session training of the 2021 Elders.



2021-01-10 Sunday School craft of snowflake lesson: "Just like the snowflakes that fall from the sky, God made me unique. I'm one of a kind."



2021-01-17 Time for Children prayer



2021-01-10 LaDonna Allenbaugh, organist. 2021-01-17 Evan Pugh, special music.



2021-01-23 Early Spring kitchen cleaning by Carolyn Girod, Gloria Leiter, Nell Jean Wienken, and Kathy McCollow. Reducing other clutter was done by volunteers to load a trailer of items to go to the auction for the sale of forgotten storeroom items, the old copier, the outdated sound board, VHS tapes, and other old technology and underused items.



2021-01-17 Swearing in of new Session Elders



2021-01-24 Junior Bell Choir Concert

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

Marjorie Eutsler
15044 Main Street
Venedocia, OH 45894

John & Mary Ellen Lloyd
20155 Venedocia-Eastern Rd
Venedocia, OH 45894

Paul & Doris Price
18890 Bebb St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Marian Morris
Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr
Van Wert, OH 45891

Ione Owens
16398 State Rd
Van Wert, OH 45891

At College

Evan Pugh – University of Northwestern Ohio

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

Condolences

Condolences to the families of Curt Whetstone,
Marcia Hundley Hernandez, and Dick Kirkendall

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow
(U.S. Coast Guard)
7225 Altura Place
Oakland, CA 94605
SPC Eutsler, Phoebe
(Army)
CMR 405 Box 3825
APO, AE 09034

Dillon Ellerbrock (Marines)
Grandson of Gloria Leiter

Sgt. Linger, Micah
(U.S. Marine Corps)
2nd MEF G4
PCS Box 20085
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542

Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler
(National Guards)
14975 Van Wert-Mercer
Co. Line Road
Venedocia, OH 45894

Gyer Blackmore (Army)
Section BDE. S1. Unit HHC
101st DSB
APO AE 09366

Birthdays

1 John Lloyd	1 Ashley McClure
2 Jerry Holscher	3 Elizabeth Holscher
4 Andrew Emery	4 Jerry Foust
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

15th John C. & Anne Morris
15th Brian & April Ellerbrock
22nd Dave & Ann Rees

Prayer Concerns

Katie Adams (recovering from surgery)
Connie Bassett (breast cancer)
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Rosemary Cooper
Asher Eberle
Marjorie Eutsler
Deb Fair
Melissa (Summersett) Fallis (cancer)
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Jerry Holscher
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
LuAnn (family issues)
John & Mary Ellen Lloyd
Donald Martin
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)

Byron Mohr
David Morris (Zeb)
Marian Morris
Judy Jones Muhn (health issues)
Ione Owens
Paul & Doris Price
Marjorie Rhodes
Shalia Schomaeker
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Doug Smith (Jen Pugh's father)
Betty Tenant (recovering from stroke)
Harold and Rosa Wollenhaupt
Raymond Young
Area Nursing Homes and residents

February 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7 pm Women's Bible Study	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 Worship w/guest speaker John Zerbe Souperbowl of Caring	8	9 7 pm Women's Bible Study	10	11	12	13
14 9:30 Worship Communion 10:45 Sunday School 5:00 Trustee meeting	15	16 7 pm Women's Bible Study	17 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	18	19	20
21 9:30 Worship 10:45 Session Meeting	22	23 7 pm Women's Bible Study	24	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School						

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
February 7	Mark & Missy Zielke	Mark & Missy Zielke	Becky Reichard
February 14	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Mark & Missy Zielke	Becky Reichard
February 21	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Mark & Missy Zielke	Seth Baker
February 28	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Mark & Missy Zielke	Dave VanTilburg
Ushers	Kim Coil	Greeter:	Kim Coil

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



Rex Lloyd and his grandson, Jackson, enjoying a social time.

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

**February 2021
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR B**

5th Sunday after Epiphany – Feb 7

Isa. 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Cor. 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39

Transfiguration of the Lord – Feb 14

2 Kings 2:12	Psalm 50:1-6
2 Cor. 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9

1st Sunday in Lent – Feb 21

Gen. 9:8-17	Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 19:9-15

2nd Sunday in Lent – Feb 28

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalm 22:23-31
Rom. 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38