

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13 NLT).

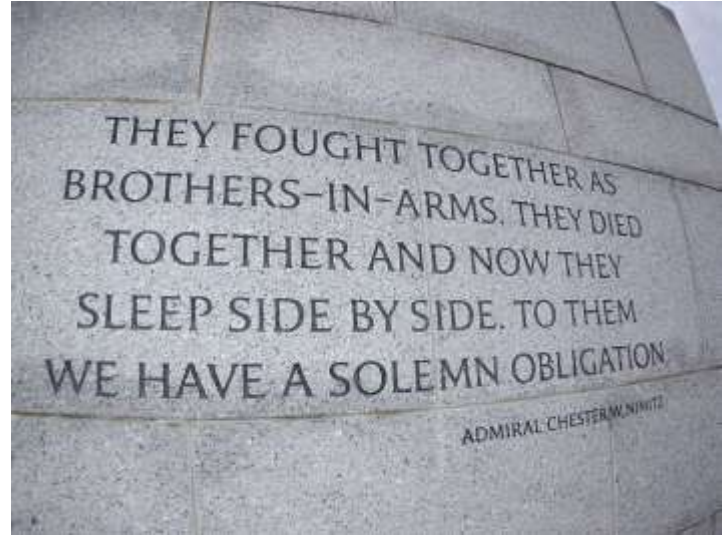
Memorial Day is a moment to pause and to honor those who are serving and have served in the military. It is also a time to remember those who have paid the ultimate cost for our freedom by giving their lives.

Since my childhood, Memorial Day was a time that my family would travel to a country cemetery to visit my father's gravesite. He passed away from war injuries when I was seven years old. I still cherish the M1 clip given me from the honor guard detail, and I passed it on to my son. Yet, I noticed each year that his grave would have an American flag on it and many flowers, probably from his loving brothers and sisters.

They knew the story of how right after Pearl Harbor as a patriot, he had signed up at the age of seventeen for the Marine outfit that would get the most action. And it did. They island-hopped from the Marshall Islands to Japan. After the war, he said that there were not enough left to have a reunion. My father was fortunate, or maybe unfortunate, to be an early casualty after many hand-to-hand island combat battles. He threw a hand grenade into a Japanese machine gun fortification that also was an ammunition dump. After the massive explosion that killed all around him, they found him still alive in a coma when they began picking up bodies.

I share that because we need to know that God is alive in the world, and that God answers our prayers. The medics shipped him to San Diego, where he was in a coma for nine months. Usually, that would have been the end of him, but his family and neighbors from his small town were praying for him all along. As an answer to prayer, his sister, a Naval nurse, was "by chance" stationed nearby. Her commander allowed her to visit him each evening to give him physical therapy so he could recover.

In our current politically correct culture, there is some discussion on whether Memorial Day should be observed in a church worship service. They feel that it is not a part of the Christian calendar, meaning it is not a religious holiday. It is more of a civic holiday. But, we need to call out our younger generation to know our past and to respect those who came before us.



As citizens of this great nation built on Christian principles, we are called to remember on Memorial Day. In the words of Ronald Reagan:

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.

Pastor Tom Emery

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This GIFT of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain:

Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave he rose AGAIN!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath.
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

[Adrienne Liesching and Geoff Moore rendition](#)

Happy Are the Hungry

What does it mean to be hungry for God? How can we be filled? TV shows on cooking, magazines devoted to food, diet fads – food is a consuming topic in our culture. There are other kinds of “hunger”. We come across it every day. Businessmen are “hungry” because they want to make a sale so bad they’ll do nearly anything. Athletes are “hungry” because they go all out to win. Great people of Christendom have had an insatiable “hunger” for God. Missionary Hudson Taylor wrote, “I saw Him, I sought Him, I had Him, and I wanted Him.”

In Psalm 27:4 David wrote, “One thing I have desired of the Lord, that I will seek Him, that I will dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.” Psalm 24:1 says, “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God.” Psalm 63:1-2 reads, “O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So, I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory.”

In Psalm 34, the author says he wants God’s Word in his heart. All the great men and women of God had it. Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, David and John had a hunger for God. Luther, St. Francis, Pliny and Thomas a’ Kempis thirsted after the Lord. They sought the Lord and weren’t satisfied by anything other than a close walk with Him.

We want God in our lives, but we don’t want to be fanatics. Yet, Jesus said that it is the spiritually hungry

and thirsty who will be happy, for they will be filled with the satisfying presence of the Lord.

Spiritual hunger is the reality of your faith. If you have a desire within you to know God better, to understand His Word better, and to live this life more authentically for the Lord, the very wanting of it is evidence that you already belong to God. But if there isn’t a holy dissatisfaction in your heart about your spiritual life, and a hungering and thirsting to go farther with God, then there is something missing in your faith. Spiritual hunger is a blessed evidence within our hearts that we truly belong to Him. That’s simply the reality of being a Christian.

Spiritual hunger is the requirement for your growth. Jesus said, “Let me tell you what it’s going to take if you want to follow me. You will have to deny yourself. You will have to leave home and family. There will be divisions in your relationships. You may be called by God to suffer hurts, injustice, and pain. But unless you are willing to do those things and make Me first, you are not worthy to be My disciples.” Suddenly the crowds left Jesus. If you want to grow in Christ, you must have spiritual hunger.



The lack of spiritual hunger is the reason for your spiritual failure. To be a mighty man or woman of God requires first a great desire in your heart to know God. The secret to making a difference for God in this world is desire. The Apostle Paul said that the desire of his life was to know Christ. He hadn’t yet arrived but was pressing ahead toward God. The closer he got to his goal, the more he gave himself to it.

How do I know if I’m hungry for God? Are you satisfied with yourself? If you are smug and self-satisfied, you aren’t hungry. With spiritual hunger, the more you eat, the hungrier you get. When you stop partaking of spiritual food through the Word of God, you lose your appetite. The more you get into the Bible, the more you begin to make sense of God’s Word in your life and the greater your appetite.

If there was a time in your life when you were really hungry for God and now you’re not, begin to partake in His Word. “Force feed yourself.” Open your Bible and

read it. Eventually God will speak to your heart. The more you do it, the more you'll want to do it. If you don't spend time reading your Bible, you'll never develop a hunger and thirst for God.

What do I do if I don't have hunger for God? This you must answer in the quietness of your own heart. As you consider your relationship with God, do you have as much as you really want? Are you satisfied with where you are with God? Or do you want more? Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will one day be filled. If you want to have that satisfaction of being filled up with God, develop your hunger for Him now. Start by reading your Bible!

"How to Be Happy According to Jesus: The Study of the Beatitudes" by Dr. David Jeremiah. (Used in the Women's Bible Study)

What is Communion?



The elements used to represent Christ's body and blood are bread and wine. The kind of bread, whether leavened or unleavened, is not specified. Christ used unleavened bread simply because it was at that moment on the Passover table. Wine, and no other liquid, is to be used (Matthew 26:26-29).

Believers "feed" on Christ's body and blood, (1) not with the mouth in any manner, but (2) by the soul alone, and (3) by faith, which is the mouth or hand of the soul. This they do (4) by the power of the Holy Ghost. This "feeding" on Christ, however, takes place not in the Lord's Supper alone, but whenever faith in Him is exercised (Easton's Bible Dictionary).

Jesus didn't give very many specifics on how to take communion. Instead, He gave an object lesson to His disciples: See how this bread and drink are necessary to bring you life? In the same way, I will give you life.

Churches have reasons for differences in celebration. Often, it is a difference of emphasis: The Orthodox Church gives extreme care to honoring the physical elements in order to honor Christ, while most Protestants focus on directing internal thoughts and prayers to God and see the elements as more of a metaphor. The Catholic Church focuses on coming to the Lord's Supper pure of sins, while Protestant congregations often call worshipers to repentance *through* communion.

There are hundreds and thousands of resources out there from all of the different traditions, outlining reasoning for celebrating communion one way or another. Each offer interesting perspectives on communing with God and honoring Christ. However, at the end of the day, we all agree: communion is a powerful way to remember Christ's sacrifice and show our devotion to Him.

When we take communion, we are remembering Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The bread and wine are tangible, visible reminders of Christ's love. Rather than simply saying "remember," Jesus gave us a reminder. Just as we depend on food and drink to live physically, we can only live spiritually through Christ.

Communion is a time of just that: communing. It is a chance to bring ourselves before the Lord and partake in the life He has given us through His death and resurrection.

Communion is also a time to be in community with fellow believers, past and present. As an ordinance that has stretched from the original disciples to twenty-first century believers and is celebrated all over the world, it brings us together as the body of Christ.

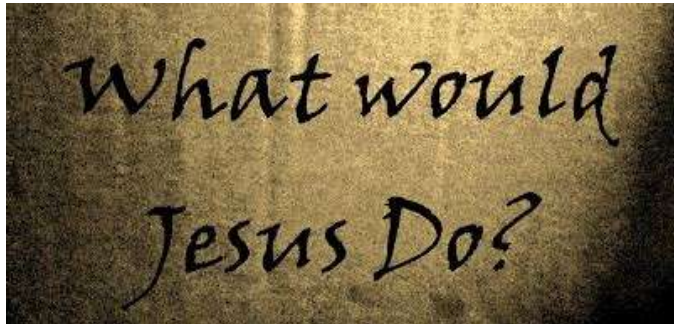
We should also take the time to examine ourselves to ensure that our relationship with Christ is authentic and genuine. Not only recalling the inauguration of our relationship with Christ, but also seeking to discover if there is any unconfessed sin impeding our current fellowship with God (1 John 1:6-9).

Lastly, we would be remiss to ingest these symbols of Christ without a heart that is purposefully thankful. Paradoxically, the Lord's Supper is not only a reminder of his brutal death, but it is also a celebration of the incredibly generous grace of God and the invaluable privilege of being forgiven.

Adapted from "What Is Communion and Why Is it Celebrated Differently?" By Alyssa Roat. Bible Study Tools.

"Wokeness" for Christians

Woke is a fairly modern term that has come to mean "conscious of injustice in society." A "woke" person is especially attentive to racial discrimination and the issues surrounding it. Although the word, woke, has been closely linked to the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, the term goes back further than that.



When it comes to being "woke," Christians should keep three things in mind:

First, Christians must acknowledge that racism in America has resulted in shame, injustice, and, at some points in history, terrible violence. Moreover, no clear-thinking person thinks that all remnants of racism were erased by the American civil rights movement of the mid-twentieth century. For as far as we've come since the Civil War, there is still work to be done.

Second, Christians should understand that, while laws and legislation guard the principle of equal rights for all Americans legally, no law can change the heart. Someone who is filled with prejudice and racial hatred will not suddenly be filled with love simply because a new law is passed. Unlike some who pursue change only at the legislative level, Christians know the evil of the human heart (Jeremiah 17:9). Real *justice* is possible only when individuals have been *justified* in Christ. Only when we are saved can we live out the mandate "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" in the way taught by Christ (Mark 12:31). Jesus addressed racial divides, among other things, in the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37).

Third, a Christian must realize that real racial reconciliation in the Church occurs when we prioritize our identity in Christ over our belonging to a racial category or ethnicity. Members of the body of Christ should feel more at home in their Christian family than even in their own ethnicity: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).



As Christians, we should be "woke" to the love of God for our family in Christ: "Anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them" (1 John 2:11).

We should be "woke" to the light of the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4). We should be "woke" to the fact of temptation in the world (Matthew 26:41). We are reconciled with God and united to Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18), allowing us to be truly reconciled with one another.

Real change and real answers to the problems of racism, injustice, other societal evils are found in God's Word and in the peace He gives.

Adapted from "How should a Christian view being 'woke'?"
GotQuestions.org

Upcoming Events

June 6 th	Graduate Recognition
June 18 th	Ice Cream Social 4:30- 7:00
June 20 th	Father's Day Recognition

Dominic Adkins graduation party will be held on July 4th, 2021 from 3-9pm at the Adkins Home. The address is 15584 Ohio City-Venedocia Road. They would appreciate a text or call by 6/26/21 if you plan to attend.

Church Financial Update

Needed to Date:	\$46,384.40
Received to Date	\$53,613.44

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

Let us honor our Godly Fathers at Father's Day!

*The LORD is my strength and shield.
I trust him with all my heart.
He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy.
I burst out in songs of thanksgiving (Psalm 28:7 NLT).*

Men who kneel before God, stand before anyone!

Salem and Venedocia Sights



May 2, 2021 – Dannie King Celebration of the Resurrection at Salem



May 6, 2021 – National Day of Prayer celebrated at the Van Wert Courthouse with a peaceful crowd and public prayers for America.



May 8, 2021 - Kalyn (Miller) and Alan Art wedding at Salem with the Richards and Miller families among friends and family at the sendoff.



May 23, 2021 – Jaxson and Lucas Wells children at the Time for Children skit where "Sandy" drops puzzle pieces to illustrate Ezekiel. seeing "dry bones" that will come together.



May 23, 2021 – Communion handed to the Elders to be served.



Elders Kim Coil and Ron Richards serving Communion

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

Shut-Ins

Bartie Jones

407 Stony Ridge Dr
Sandusky, OH 44870

Marjorie Rhodes

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

Marjorie Eutsler

15044 Main St
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, Ohio 45891

Serving our Country

Cory McCollow

(U.S. Coast Guard)
7225 Altura Place
Oakland, CA 94605

SPC Phoebe Eutsler (Army)

Cmr 405 Box 3825
APO, AE 09034

Dillon Ellerbrock (Marines)

Grandson of Gloria Leiter

Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler

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

Sgt. Micah Linger

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

Gyer Blackmore (Army)

Section BDE. S1. Unit HHC
101st DSB
APO AE 09366

Away 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 **Clint Mosier**,
Naomi “Jane” Mason, **Linda Girod**, and **Inara Febus**

Congratulations

To our 2021 Graduates: Christina Emery, Isaiah Pugh, Dawson Kimmet, and Dominic Adkins.

Birthdays

2 Barb Owens	4 Chad Pugh
6 Cassy Emery	8 Tammy Wells
10 Dillon Ellerbrock	11 Doris Price
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	

Prayer Concerns

Kaitie Adams (recovering from surgery)
Barry Coil (stroke)
Kathy Comer
Marjorie Eutsler
Nikki Ford (knee surgery & funds for surgery)
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Suzanne Hadley-Himes (recurrent cancer)
Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Ann King (cancer)
Nancy Lautzenheiser (colon cancer)
LuAnn (family issues)
John & Mary Ellen Lloyd
Donald Martin
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Jerry and Elizabeth Holscher

Byron Mohr
Dave Morris (Zeb)
Marian Morris
Judy Jones Muhn (health issues)
Ione Owens
Steve Peters (surgery & recovery)
Paul & Doris Price
Marjorie Rhoades
Mary Rigdon
Reddington Rothgeb (leukemia)
Shalia Schomaeker
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Betty Tennant
Harold & Rosa Wollenhaupt
Raymond Young
Area Nursing Homes and residents

June 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 PM Women's Bible Study [Last meeting - breaking for the summer]	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 AM Worship Graduate Recognition	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session Meeting 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	14	15	16	17	18 4:30 to 7:00 pm Ice Cream Social Drive-thru at the Lion's Club	19
20 9:30 AM Worship Father's Day Recognition	21	22	23	24	25	26 Summerfest - meet at 3 pm, parade begins at 4:30
27 9:30 AM Worship	28	29	30			

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
June 6	Bob & Denise Pugh	Gloria Leiter	LaDonna Allenbaugh
June 13	Jeff & Kelly Loyd	Gloria Leiter	LaDonna Allenbaugh
June 20	Bill & Ruth Evans	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	LaDonna Allenbaugh
June 27	Steve & Lindsay Richards	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Dave Van Tilburg
		Greeter:	Ron Richards

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



May 20, 2021 A porch window view at Salem..

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

June 2021 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B	
2nd Sunday after Pentecost – June 6	
1 Sam. 8:4-20	Psalm 138
2 Cor. 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35
3rd Sunday after Pentecost – June 13	
1 Sam 15:34-16:13	Psalm 20
2 Cor. 5:6-17	Mark 4:26-34
4th Sunday after Pentecost – June 20	
1 Sam. 17:4-11, 32-49	Psalm 9:9-20
2 Cor. 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
5th Sunday after Pentecost – June 27	
2 Sam. 1:1, 17-27	Psalm 130
2 Cor. 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43