

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 24 Issue 07

July 2022

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me (Psalm 23: 4 NLT).

Let's say, you are in the doctor's office with a new or a well-acquainted condition affecting your health. Your doctor wants to put you in hospice because your doctor thinks that you are now taking a sudden turn for the worse.

It is so easy to be afraid or to panic if you think that you are going to die shortly. To some, such a diagnosis of pending death will hit them like a load of bricks. It may be like riding a roller coaster chugging along till it reaches the peak. Your heart will skip a beat because you know it is all downhill after this and you are not in control.

Years ago, as a pastor, I remember visiting Dotty, who had just checked into a hospice. She was told that she was dying and would not last long. Her husband had already died, and she couldn't have any children. The community became her loved family.

Dotty was known by all the women in the church as a "virtuous woman," She had led the Deacon program in the church and had mentored many of the women in their walks with God. She was a listening ear to anyone who needed help. She taught Sunday school, and she was a Christian model for the women and men in the church. Growing up, many had her as their teacher in the local Junior High School. She was loved and respected by all.

After just a few weeks went by in the hospice, her health had quickly diminished, and her strength was gone. In one of our talks a day before she passed on to her glory, she hated to admit it, but she was afraid. I did reflective listening with her and repeating back to her, her expressions of fear. I repeated back her verbal concerns so that she knew that someone understood her words.

Psalm 55:22 says: "Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall."

We discussed that she was right with God in that she had made Jesus Christ her Lord and Savior; she knew that her sins were forgiven, and that she would immediately have a new strong body when she reached heaven. These are all things she had comforted others with over the years during her Deacon visits. But she honestly didn't have peace that day before she passed. She squeezed my hand for comfort as she talked.



I took out my Bible and began to read the passages about God's love, who Jesus was, the promises of heaven, and that God was with us in all circumstances. Upon reading the scriptures, I saw her disposition turn from acknowledging her fears to saying that she needed to hear those scriptures and was now at rest with God. She took on an amazing, lovely, beautiful glow to her face.

Early in the morning, I received a phone call that she had passed away in peace overnight. I thought about the glow in her face as I left her. She had given her fears to God and knew that God's presence was with her.

Brother and sisters, we have nothing to fear if you have made Jesus your Lord or Shepherd of your life. God will watch over you and steer you in the right direction.

He will comfort you, and when it is time, He will receive you into His loving arms in heaven. If you have not, why not have a conversation with God right now. Amen.

Pastor Tom Emery

God Will Take Care of You

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.

Refrain:

God will take care of you,
Through every day, o'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.

All you may need He will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.

No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon His breast,
God will take care of you.

Written by Walter S. Martin. [Song Link](#) by Fountainview Academy.

We Should Take a Moment to Pray

Most Christians are under utilizing the power of prayer in their lives. Prayer should be our first reaction, not our last resort.

Prayer is our instant connection with the power of Heaven. It's our open line to the throne, and we're told to come boldly to find grace to help in time of need. Elisabeth Elliot said, "Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between His will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer."

If you need to sharpen your prayer instincts, I've got four reminders.

First, remember that **the Bible is a Book of prayer**. The more you're in God's Word, the more you'll be before His throne. The more you let Him speak to you, the more you'll speak to Him. As we read and study our Bibles, we often find our best prayer are the ones we discover in the Bible itself.

Donald Whitney wrote in his book, *Praying the Bible*, "A woman, let's say who wants to pray for her children or grandchildren might pray for them today as she prays through Psalm 23...Tomorrow she might pray through 1 Corinthians 13, and in doing so leads her to ask the Lord to develop in her children the kind of love taught in this chapter. The next day, while making her way through Psalm 1, the text guides her to pray that her children would become meditators on the Word of God...The following day she finds herself in Galatians 5 and pleads with the Lord to develop the fruit of the Spirit in her children."



Second, Jesus was a Man of Prayer. In the Gospels we see Jesus praying, teaching others to pray, and modeling prayer in all kinds of circumstances. S. D. Gordon's book, *Quiet Talks on Prayer*, says, "Jesus loved to pray. Sometimes praying was His way of resting. He prayed so much and so often that it became a part of His life. It became to Him like breathing."

The goal of the Christian life is simply to become more like Christ. He was always taking a moment to pray. Sometimes His prayer was as short as a sigh and one word (Mark 7:34). Other times it was deep, long, and far-reaching (John 17). He prayed in private, in public, for others and for Himself. His disciples had never seen anything like it, and in awe they asked Him, "Lord teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

Third, when we ask that same thing, **we become people of prayer**. Elmer Towns wrote about a time when he was terribly sick with the stomach flu. He was trying to get home, but his flight had been canceled. He called his prayer partner, Buddy Bryant, and told him of his predicament. Immediately Buddy broke out into prayer over the phone for Elmer's healing as well as for a quick flight home. As soon as they hung up, Elmer heard an announcement: "Another plane is here, and we will be leaving within twenty minutes."

A young man sitting in the terminal beside Elmer had heard the whole conversation, and he looked over and said, "I bet you think that airplane is an answer to your prayer. That's not a miracle, just a coincidence. Elmer

was too sick to say much, but he prayed for wisdom and said, "I serve a God of coincidences."

Our God of coincidences loves it when we take a moment to pray, and especially when we do it together. We're called to be people of prayer, and none of us will ever know – at least not on earth – how many thousands of answers God has bestowed.

Fourth, we can harness the power of prayer. In my book *Prayer – The Great Adventure*, I wrote, "No matter who we are or what our life circumstances may be, prayer can become for us a thrilling, daily adventure. So many of us are needlessly living at a level far beneath that which God wants for us. He has a storehouse full of rich provision, just waiting to be distributed to all those who will simply ask Him to open His hand. So often it is true that we have not because we ask not."

We **MUST** take a moment to pray, in times of war and in times of peace, in seasons of distress and during days of joy. In every daily circumstance – even before making a purchase or meeting a friend – in all the mundane and in all the massive issues of life, let's always take a moment to pray.

Adapted from: "Maybe We Should Take a Moment to Pray; Underutilizing the Power of Prayer." Turning Point Magazine, by Dr. David Jeremiah.

The Star-Spangled Banner Meanings Verses 1 & 4

Much of our traditional American history is not taught in our public schools anymore, and the context and the important meaning of our National Anthem written by Francis Scott Key is not understood by many. He wrote it after seeing the British naval bombardment of Ft. McHenry in 1812. Below is a cursory understanding of the words in the lyrics.

Star Spangled Banner Lyrics Verse 1

*Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?*

Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?

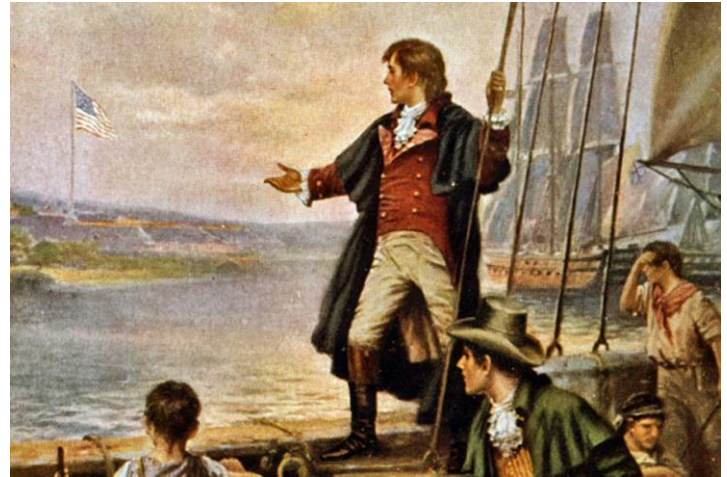
*And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.*

*Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

- The flag that flew over the fort was enormous. The commander of Fort Henry, George Armistead had commissioned Mary Pickersgill to make "a flag so large

that the British would have no difficulty seeing it from a distance"

- The flag could be seen from several miles away and Francis Scott Key was saying that it could be seen in the last light before nightfall and the first light at dawn.



- The 'perilous fight' was the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812.
- The Star-Spangled Banner was streaming over the ramparts (battlements) of the fort.
- The "rocket's red glare" and the "bombs bursting" used alliteration to describe the cannon fire pounding from the British navy and the cannons firing from the fort (one of the ships was armed with a rocket launcher).
- The angry red glow from the cannon fire enabled Americans to see their Star-Spangled Banner was still flying - the British had not captured the fort and hoisted the Union Jack.
- The Star-Spangled Banner was waving over the 'land of the free' - a reference to the fight for Independence that had resulted in freedom from the tyranny of the British.
- The 'home of the brave' lyrics reflect the heroic exploits of Americans to defend their country.
- The War of 1812 was popularly known as the 'Second War for Independence.'

Star-Spangled Banner Lyrics Verse 4

*Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land.*

*Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation. Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

Meaning of Star-Spangled Banner Lyrics Verse 4

- Pride and Patriotism is the theme of the last verse
- Francis Scott Key uses emotive words such as

'freeman', 'home', 'blest', 'victory', 'triumph', 'conquer' and 'peace' in the Star-Spangled Banner lyrics.

- He was a deeply religious man and his words reflect his belief that God was on the side of the Americans.
- He refers to the American nation and fighting for a just cause.
- The words "In God is our trust" combines the concepts of religion and patriotism and are believed to be the origin of the official motto of the United States "In God we trust". The unofficial motto of 'E pluribus unum' which was adopted when the Great Seal of the United States was created in 1782.

Adapted from "Star Spangled Banner Lyrics" by american-historama.org.
[Song link.](#)

Gymanfa Update

We are so delighted to announce our up-coming Gymanfa on Sunday, Sept. 4, at 7:00 pm. Our director, Kevin Fancher will be joining us from Columbus, and we welcome Harriet Schaadt and Connie O'Neill on the organ and piano. Special music will be performed by Sheila Chilcote-Collins and a 10-lady singing group called InSpiritu. We look forward to sharing an evening of music, singing, and fellowship once again. So set the date on your phone, calendar, or refrigerator door and join us for the evening!

Trustee Improvements

The Trustees have been replacing the rusted-out doors at the church as needed. Here is the new south side door of the basement under construction.



The Trustees are also addressing the **electronic bells in the bell tower** not working after 40 years in use. It was utilized for services, weddings, and other faith-based events.

The parts are not made any more to repair the existing machine made in the 1960s. Schulmerich Carillons gave us a quote of \$18,825 to replace it which appears to be the lowest bid to date. They are looking to raise the money through designated donations to the church. Contact Bob McCollow at 419-549-0805 with any questions.

Church Financial Update

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: \$55,296.17
Received to Date: \$64,758.54

Salem Ice Cream Social



The Salem Ice Cream Social was held Friday, June 17th, and was a community success. Below are photos.





Enjoying ice cream, homemade pies, and Venedocia sausage sandwiches.

Salem Photos



2022-06-25 Spencerville parade float driven by Dominic Atkins.



2022-06-26 Samantha and Jeremy Morris with their twin daughters Breck Nicole and Brezlyn Mae.



2022-06-26 "Time for Children" Sandy Skit.



2022-06-26 "Time for Children" children praying.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

"Young at Heart"

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

Marilyn Stockton
Lochhaven Apt 220
1640 Allentown Rd
Lima, OH 45805

Bartie Jones
Parkview Healthcare Ctr
3800 Boardwalk Blvd
Sandusky, OH 44870

Paul & Doris Price
18890 Bebb St
Venedocia, OH 45894

Charles Boroff
311 West 4th Street
Apt. 104
Odessa, Texas 79761

Marjorie Eutsler
15044 Main St
Venedocia, OH 45894

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

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

Madison Pugh-USCGA
8800 Pine Forest Rd
Apt 6303
Pensacola, FL 32534

Dillon Ellerbrock (Marines)
Grandson of Gloria Leiter

Gyer Blackmore (Army)
Grandson of Gwenda
Blackmore

Away at College

Landon Price- Will be attending Ohio State University

Condolences

Condolences to the families of **Marjorie Rhoades, Rosa Wollenhaupt (aunt to Jayne Morris), John Jones (son of Bebb & Bartie Jones), Leone Pollock (twin sister to Ione Owens), and Clarence Ringwald (father to Ruth Evans & Liz Hobbs)**

Anniversaries

1 Jack & Gwenda Blackmore 4 Toby & Elizabeth Adkins
15 Peter & Morgan McCollow 15 Tuzz & Liz Hobbs
19 Cory & Sylvia McCollow 24 Bill & Rugh Evans
25 David & Nancy Jo Breese 27 Jeff & Kelly Lloyd
31 Jason & Danielle Lloyd

Birthdays

1 Gloria Leiter	1 Owen Pugh
2 Lynette Lloyd	6 Charles Boroff
10 Vern Hobbs	10 Mark Zielke
12 Kristen Price	13 Cory McCollow
15 Barb Good	16 Ron Owens
28 Marjorie Eutsler	22 Dave Rees
24 Evan Pugh	25 Kent McClure
26 Brent Price	29 Heather McClure
29 Doug Strickler	31 Kristyn Jones
31 Zach Wise	

Prayer Concerns

Kenzie Bay
Kathy Comer
Jim Davis
Stephanie Dillon (lymphoma)
Pastor Tom Emery
Andrew Emery (blood clots)
Marjorie Eutsler
Deb Fair (cancer)
Nikki Ford (surgery & funds for surgery)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye & knee issues)
Brett Hammons (cancer)
Jane Harter
Jerry Holscher

Dale Kiesza (leg operation)
Ann King (cancer)
LuAnn (family issues)
John & Mary Ellen Lloyd
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Anne Morris
David Morris (Zeb)
Steve Peters (surgery & recovery)
Paul & Doris Price
Denise Pugh
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Stacy Smith (Covid)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

July 2022

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30 AM Worship	4	5 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	6	7 Noon - Van Wert Prayer Meeting at the Niswonger	8	9
10 9:30 AM Worship 5:00 Trustee Meeting	11	12 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	13	14 Noon - Van Wert Prayer Meeting at the Niswonger	15	16
17 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session Meeting	18	19 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	20	21 Noon - Van Wert Prayer Meeting at the Niswonger .	22	23
24 9:30 AM Worship	25	26 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	27	28 Noon - Van Wert Prayer Meeting at the Niswonger	29	30
31 9:30 AM Worship						

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
July 3	Bill & Ruth Evans	Sarah & Jason Kimmet	Cindy Bowsher
July 10	Steve & Lindsay Richards		Lexi Greer
July 17	Dave & Carla Breese		Lexi Greer
July 24	Kevin & Kristen Price		Lexi Greer
July 31	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Seth Baker
		Greeter:	Kim Coil

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



2022-06-19 before the Sunday Service, Todd Morris with grandson. Bryson,

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

July 2022 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B

4th Sunday after Pentecost – July 3

2 Kgs. 5:1-14	Psalm 30
Gal. 6:1-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

5th Sunday after Pentecost – July 10

Amos 7:7-17	Psalm 82
Col. 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37

6th Sunday after Pentecost – July 17

Amos 8:1-12	Psalm 52
Col. 1:15-28	Luke 10:38-42

7th Sunday after Pentecost – July 24

Hos. 1:2-10	Psalm 85
Col. 2:6-19	Luke 11:1-13

8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 31

Hos. 11:1-11	Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Col. 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21