

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 24 Issue 08

August 2022

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

***But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you (Matthew 6:33 NKJV).***

We are a little put off by people who are almost fanatically devoted to a single cause. And yet, the people God uses are known for their single-minded dedication.

In the book by Dr. M. Scott Peck, People of the Lie, he writes about one of his most difficult counselling situations. He described a woman who was at a crucial point in her counselling, right after she explained that everything in life seemed meaningless to her. Dr. Peck then asked her what she thought that the meaning of life was. When she refused to answer, he asked her what she thought that the purpose of life was to a Christian.

"We exist for the glory of God," she said in a low monotone statement, as if extracted from her by torture. "The purpose of our life is to glorify God." There was a short silence. For a moment Peck thought she might cry.

"I cannot do it," she said. "There's no room for me in that. That would be my death." Then with a suddenness that frightened Peck, what seemed to be her choked-back sobs turned into a roar. "I don't want to live for God," she cried out, "I want to live for me. For my own sake!"

There are many people who want to live for themselves. They don't mind fiddling with religion, but they would never dream of focusing everything they are and everything they have on that one grand commitment to God. What they don't realize is that real joy comes from selling yourself out to your Creator God and in that knowing His incredible love He always has for us.

God calls the people who are willing to lay down their lives fully committed to Him. God calls people who are single-minded in their devotion to Him. If we live for today and its pleasures alone, then perhaps it is understandable that we have little concern for God's righteousness and justice.

But if there is something more to life; if there is a righteous God who has lovingly created this world and dearly holds the people in it, then realize that He seeks the best welfare of all its people. Our willingness to order our lives according to His spiritual principles is quite important. Think of Billy Graham, Mother Teresa, or any number of Spirit-filled Christians living the joy of the Lord and in full dedication to God. They live to serve God with their whole being.



From these people, there seem to be **two characteristics** of the kind of people God chooses.

**First** of all, you've got to give your life, your dreams and your deepest desires to God. You will discover God's dreams are the very dreams that will fulfill you. Are you willing to live your life in the center of God's will? Will God's dreams become your dreams; if not, talk to Him about it.

Suppose that this kind of commitment was required in order to be used by God. The French Foreign Legion had this slogan: "***If I falter, push me; If I stumble, pick me up; If I retreat, shoot me.***" Would you qualify?

**Second** of all, the people God uses are people who are known for their single-minded devotion to Him. Have you fully devoted yourself to Him?

If you call yourself a Christ-follower, why not have a talk with God about where your life is headed? Tell God that you want to fully seek Him first. Realize that you'll never come in second, if you put God first!

*Pastor Tom Emery*

## Seek Ye First

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

Alleluia Alleluia  
Jesus be my first love  
Alleluia Alleluia  
Lord you will guide me  
As I seek You

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,  
Al - le - lu. Al - le - lu - ia

Written by: Karen Lafferty. [Song link.](#)

## Moving Heaven and Earth – Understanding the Potential of Prayer

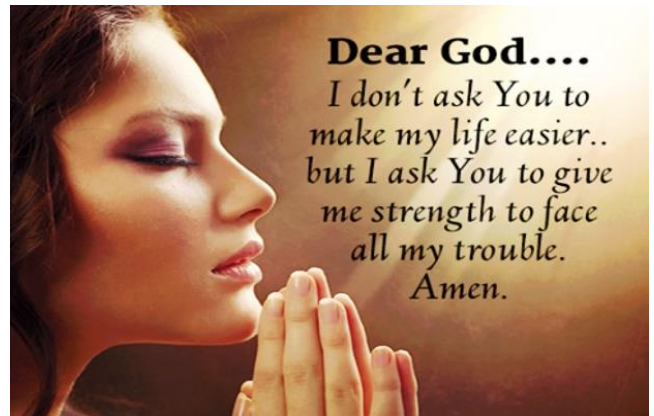
Professor Jerry Sittser tells the story of his colleague, Howard Gage, who died from complications associated with Parkinson's disease. Several months before his death, Howard preached in chapel and talked about Paul's three-fold prayer request to be delivered from his thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:8). Like Paul, Howard had prayer for healing from his affliction.

God didn't answer his prayer. Howard and his wife faced incredible hardship. His dependence on medication destabilized his emotions and his life. As his physical disabilities grew, his mood swings increased. His friends hardly knew how to handle him. Still Howard kept praying, but his prayer gradually changed. He explained, "On the days the medicine is not working, the Lord has to give me a lot of grace. In those times, Christ has been there for me."

Sittser observed, "Rather than pray that his weakness to be overcome, he concentrated on God's goodness and strength, which was made perfect in his weakness. He became deeply aware of God's provision in his life." Howard's ability to stay spiritually well-tuned grew, and God gave him tremendous influence. At his memorial service, a speaker asked the large crowd how many of

them had shared a significant encounter with Howard in just the two weeks prior to his death. An estimated 150 people stood up!

Sittser said, "Howard's illness did not keep him from praying. If anything, he learned to pray with greater depth, openness, and patience."



We've often heard the phrase: Prayer changes things. That's true, but most of all prayer changes us. Prayer is the divine chamber in which we breath Heaven's oxygen and find constant revitalization within. Yes, God moves heaven and earth to answer our prayers in His own way. But there's something even greater than that. Through prayer, He moves our hearts and souls to know and to trust Him even more. Perhaps everyone occasionally wonders whether our prayer represent real communication to Almighty God or are just a futile practice of psychological optimistic banter. Let me give you three facts about prayer and focus of prayer.

### Facts About Prayer

**The Promises of Prayer:** The same Bible that predicted the coming of Jesus and the same God who raised Jesus from the dead have issued promise after promise about answered prayer. God has told us, "Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you...Ask and it will be given to you...And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing you will receive... The prayer of the upright is His delight" (Jeremiah 29:12; Matthew 7:7; Matthew 12:12; Proverbs 15:8).

**The Practice of Prayer:** Remember too, that the habit of prayer is the longest-running practice in the history of the world, going all the way back to the Garden of Eden, when the Lord walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. Since that time, has there ever been a single moment when prayer wasn't rising into heaven from somewhere on earth? Every generation of Christians since the days of the apostolic band has affirmed the blessings of having a daily,

abiding habit of prayer. No habit in humanity has been tested with such consistency and enjoyment.

**The potential of Prayer:** Another fact that's been demonstrated throughout history is the potential of prayer. In the Bible, it was prayer that shut the lion's mouths, raised the dead, delivered the Israelites from slavery and freed Peter from prison. Elijah prayed, and the heavens gave no rain. Job prayed, and his fortunes were restored. Jesus prayed and fed 5000 with a boy's lunch. Paul prayed and saved the crew of a shipwrecked vessel.

In the years since, God's hearing has not diminished. His heart hasn't changed. Your prayers are just as precious to Him as those of any of the biblical characters, and we should never undervalue the potential of prayer in our own lives and in our own times. Prayer changes things, but there's something even greater. Prayer changes us! It is the window that funnels the atmosphere of heaven into our hearts as we await His glorious coming.

### The Focus of Prayer

**Don't Underestimate God's Power:** We can tap into the power of God through prayer. James 5:16 says, "The prayer of the righteous person is powerful and effective" (NIV). None of us are righteous in ourselves, but we are righteous in that Name (Jesus) for whose sake we pray. And because of that Name our prayers are powerful and effective. Another literal rendering of this verse says: "The effective prayer of a righteous person accomplishes much" (LEB).

**Don't Underestimate God's Providence:** The more we understand James 5:16, the more we see how God answers prayers with His provision. He doesn't always work by miracle; He works through providence. Don't be surprised when you pray one way and the Lord answers in another. In retrospect, you'll find the Lord's way was best, though at the time it leaves you perplexed.

God makes no mistakes when He answers our prayers, and His providence never fails to take the best routes and arrive at the best destination.

**Don't Underestimate God's Plans:** The reason God's providence proves a blessing is because He has an overarching plan for this world and for each of us. How He merges His plans, our prayers and His ultimate purposes for us – all of that is in the realm of marvelous mystery.

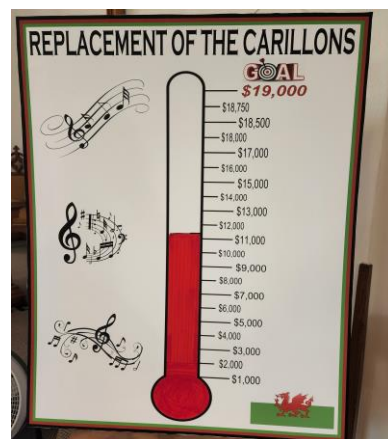
I want to encourage you to work toward a more authentic life of prayer. Learning to pray is a lifetime pursuit. Don't be discouraged. Try finding a chair at home, a table in your room, a moment in your day to develop this dialogue with the Lord. Like the disciples, ask Him to teach you to pray. He will move heaven and earth on your behalf, and as time goes by, you'll learn to interpret His answers.



Jerry Sittser wrote, "In the end we receive answers, for Jesus himself promised it would be so. He commanded us to pray, 'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.' Would He make such a promise, only to refuse to deliver on it? But along the way, there are significant setbacks. The ending is triumphant, though it might not always seem certain. The Kingdom comes, God's will is done, though not right away. God does and will answer our prayers though it may take a while, sometimes a long while." Prayer changes things, but there's something even greater. Prayer changes us! It is the window that funnels the atmosphere of heaven into our hearts as we await His glorious coming.

*Adapted from: Turning Points Magazine and a Devotional by Dr. David Jeremiah. Jerry Sittser, When God Doesn't Answer Your Prayer (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007).*

### The Carillon Replacement Project



As shown in our poster, our financial goal is getting closer each week. Our church family has always been known to shine brightly when it comes to setting goals and working together to achieve them.

We are very thankful for all our members,



families, and friends that have generously donated. Upon speaking with the Verdin company, who gave us our quote in June, our quote holds the same if reached before August 15, at which time the quote will be increased by 9% or approximately \$1,700.00. We will continue to push forward to our goal and praise God for all our help thus far.

### 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: \$65,930.05  
Received to Date: \$72,241.04

### 2022 Salem Gymanfa Ganu



This year's Conductor is **Kevin Fancher**. He is currently the Director of Music at Horizon Science Academy Middle School in Columbus, Ohio, and holds a degree in Music Education from The College of Wooster. He has been a music director and teacher for 14 years and has taught throughout Ohio as well as New York City.

Kevin's skills as a composer, arranger, and performer (both vocalist and instrumentalist) are sought after by many bands, singers, and songwriters. Kevin's connection to his Welsh heritage is strong.

He has been a lifelong attendee at the Gymanfa Ganu in Venedocia. In addition to participating as a singer in the Gymanfas, he has also performed special music at the Venedocia Gymanfa Ganu many times. He took pride in singing three Welsh folk songs in Welsh for his Senior Recital. While not a Welsh speaker, he was told his pronunciation was spot-on!

**David Van Tilburg** holds a master's degree in piano performance from Bowling Green State University and a bachelor's degree in music education from Huntington College in Indiana. His work in piano includes studies with Bernard Lehman, Genita Speicher, Dr. Elizabeth Cobb, Dr. Walter Baker & Jerome Rose. David's work in voice includes studies with Bonnie Stephan, Warren Allen and Dr. Barbara Lockard-Zimmerman. David retired as choral director

from Celina City Schools after 28 years. He continues to teach private voice and piano instruction as well as accompanying the Celina High School Choirs.



**Sheila Chilcote-Collins**, soprano, is an Ohio City native who enjoys performing sacred, opera, and musical theatre genres of music. With a special enjoyment in theatre, she has previously been involved with The Van Wert Civic Theatre, Stage Left Theatre Productions and the Celina Lakeside Players, winning both local and regional awards for acting.

Van Wert native, **Scott Turner** is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a degree in Music Education. He has taught K-12 music at Ayersville Local Schools, is currently teaching instrumental music in the Van Wert City School District and is the First United Methodist Church of Van Wert's organist and their handbell director.

Scott studied organ with Gloria Wendel and piano with Annette Hoverman and began serving First Church as a summer organist in 2015. In addition to teaching and playing keyboard instruments, he also plays clarinet; along with many other instruments and also composes music. His works have been performed by The Ohio State University Band, the Buckeye Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Van Wert High School Concert Band. Recently, his composition *Until* was recorded by the Rhode Island Recording Ensemble for their 2020 album "Radiant Dance."

### Salem Music



2022-07-17 gifted high schooler, Lexi Greer, playing worship.



## Salem Photos VBS 2022

Salem VBS had approximately 23 children, six high school helpers, and 9 adult leaders and helpers.



The scenic paintings by Jayne Morris were used for backdrops for Bible stories of Moses and the Pillars of Fire and of Cloud.



Bible lessons.



Fun outside break time



Pledges of Allegiances to the American Flag, the Christian Flag, and to the Bible were given. Also, Joe Wassink, of the Spencerville Lifewise Academy, spoke to the youth the first day about the future Spencerville Academy hosting grades one to four initially and adding another grade each year.



Bible Story Time and Craft Time



One of the Theme songs of "Stand Together" by Kid Rock VBS was used for worship time. [Music Link](#).



Snacks and rehearsal before heading home.

# 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

**Paul & Doris Price**  
18890 Bebb St  
Venedocia, OH 45894

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

**Charles Boroff**  
311 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Apt. 104  
Odessa, Texas 79761

**Barbie Jones**  
Parkview Healthcare Ctr  
3800 Boardwalk Blvd  
Sandusky, OH 44870

**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)  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

## Birthdays

## Condolences

Condolences to the family of Caden Meyer

4 Phillip Eutsler  
4 Don Owens  
6 Brooke Coil  
10 Lindsay Richards  
19 Melia Richards  
20 Austin Kimmet  
22 Jan Jones  
27 Barb Owens  
30 Kelly Lloyd

## Anniversaries

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

## Prayer Concerns

Kenzie Bay  
Dave Burnet  
Kathy Comer  
Stephanie Dillon (lymphoma)  
Pastor Tom Emery  
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

Ann King (cancer)  
John & Mary Ellen Lloyd  
Eileen Lucier  
Steve Martz  
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)  
David Morris (Zeb)  
Steve Peters (surgery & recovery)  
Paul & Doris Price  
Ron Richards  
Olivia Rickard  
Evelyn Schwartz  
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)  
Stacy Smith (Covid)  
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

# August 2022

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	<b>2</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	3	4 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Trinity Friends Church in V.W.	5	6
<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Worship	8	<b>9</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	10	11 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Trinity Friends Church in V.W.	12	13
<b>14</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session Meeting 5:00 Trustee Meeting	15	<b>16</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	17	18 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Trinity Friends Church in V.W.	19	20
<b>21</b> 9:30 AM Worship w/guest Speaker Ray Etzler Gideon Offering	22	<b>23</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	24	25 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Trinity Friends Church in V.W.	26	27
<b>28</b> 9:30 AM Worship	29	<b>30</b> 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	31			

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
August 7	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Gloria Leiter	Cindy Bowsher
August 14	Jeff & Kim Coil	Gloria Leier	Cindy Bowsher
August 21	Todd & Jayne Morris	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Cindy Bowsher
August 28	Gwenda Blackmore	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Dave VanTilburg
		<b>Greeter:</b>	Rex Lloyd



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



2022-07-25 Morgan (Pugh) and Tyler McConnell with the birth of Charlotte Ann at 6 lbs. 2 oz. and at 18 ½ inches. Let us share happiness with the family!

## *Sounds of Salem Newsletter*

Church Phone: 419-667-4142

Church Web Pages: [www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc)

[www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia](https://www.facebook.com/salemchurchvenedocia)

Secretary E-Mail: [Secretary@SalemChurch.cc](mailto:Secretary@SalemChurch.cc)

Secretary's cell: 419-303-2032

Rev. Thomas Emery's cell: 419-863-9131

Pastor's Email: [PastorTomEmery@live.com](mailto:PastorTomEmery@live.com)

### **August 2022 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR B**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 7**

Isa. 1:1, 10-20      Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23  
Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16      Luke 12:32-40

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 14**

Isa. 5:1-7      Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19  
Heb. 11:29-12:2      Luke 12:49-56

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 21**

Jer. 1:4-10      Psalm 71:1-6  
Heb. 12:18-29      Luke 13:10-17

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 28**

Jer. 2:4-13      Psalm 81:1, 10-16  
Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16      Luke 14:1, 7-14