

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 24 Issue 08

September 2022

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

***"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds" (Hebrews 10:16).***

Mass shootings as covered in the press seem almost common in the news. The writer, Timothy J. Kennedy, relates a scene that occurred in December 1997.

It involved a youth in West Paducah, Kentucky, who smuggled a weapon into his school and shot seven of his classmates. The broadcast media at once covered the event, and many parents began praying, "**Not my child. Please don't let anything happen to my child.**" One mother's prayer was not answered the way she wanted.

Despite her anguish and state of shock at losing her son, the mom didn't show reluctance to contributing her son's organs to people in dire need.

As time passed over the months, the mother discovered that her son's heart saved the life of a Methodist pastor. She decided to contact him, and the two decided to meet.

The grateful pastor and the grieving mother talked, prayed together, and they celebrated the treasured life of the son who had died.

As they were wrapping up the meeting, the tearful mother asked as a final question, "**Can I put my ear to your heart? Can I hear my son's heart beating, one more time?**"

Let it be known that God also asks of you, "**Can I hear my Son's heart beating?**" I will ask this critical question, "Is Jesus beating in your heart?"

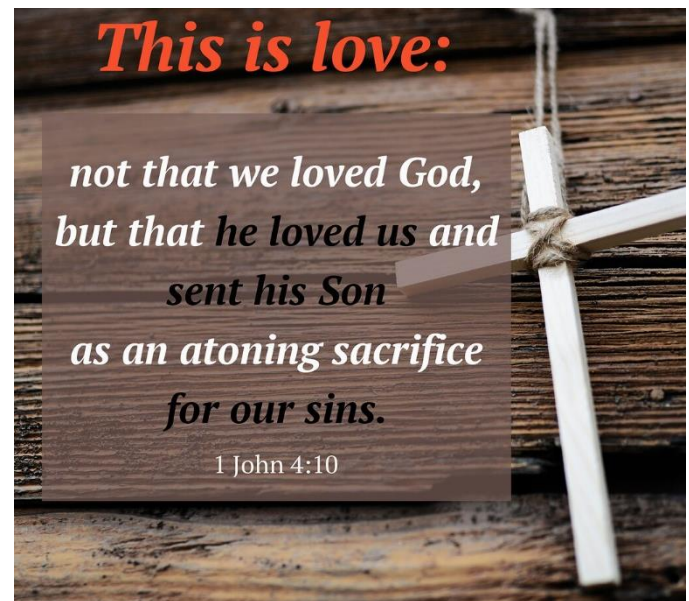
Jesus told His followers that He would return. He told them to be ready for His return at the end of time. He also urged us to be ready for our end time when we will die and come before God's throne of grace as a redeemed child of God.

God doesn't ask us to be perfect. He asks us to wait with faith and hope and act faithfully with obedience to

what His Word has taught us. He wants us to be ready. Yes, the Father was grieved when His Son willingly died for our sins to make us right with God.

So, I ask you again as God, the Father, may ask you, "**Is Jesus beating in your heart?**" Was His sacrifice worth the price Jesus paid for your life?

*Pastor Tom Emery*



## "No Longer Slaves"

You unravel me with a melody  
You surround me with a song  
Of deliverance from my enemies  
'Til all my fears are gone

I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God  
I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God

From my mother's womb  
You have chosen me  
Love has called my name  
I've been born again to a family  
Your blood flows through my veins

I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God  
I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God  
I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God  
I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God

I am surrounded  
By the arms of the Father  
I am surrounded  
By songs of deliverance

We've been liberated  
From our bondage  
We're the sons and the daughters  
Let us sing our freedom

You split the sea  
So I could walk right through it  
My fears are drowned in perfect love  
You rescued me  
And I will stand and sing  
I am a child of God

You split the sea  
So I could walk right through it  
You drown my fears in perfect love  
You rescued me  
And I will stand and sing  
I am a child of God

Yes, I am  
I am a child of God  
I am a child of God  
Yes, I am  
I am a child of God  
Full of faith  
Yes, I am a child of God  
I am a child of God

I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God  
I'm no longer a slave to fear  
I am a child of God

By Jonathan and Melissa Helser, Bethel Music. [Internet Link](#)

### **Do Petty Sins Matter?**

Think back over the past week. Have you told any “white lies”? Have you taken a quick glance at something that is off limits? Have you gossiped about a friend or slandered an enemy?

These are what we may call “petty sins:” impure thoughts, small twists of the truth to get your way, careless comments tossed out without a second thought. They may not seem like major issues. After all, you didn’t kill anybody or rob a bank.

However, the Bible tells us that God cares about petty sins, which is why those sins do matter.

In 1 Chronicles 21:1-17, we see a very interesting story that doesn’t seem like a life-or-death situation at first. David simply asked Joab, the head of his army, to take a census of all fighting men in Israel. Joab immediately recognized that this seemingly innocuous request was a questionable command (there were circumstances in which a census was allowed, but this didn’t fit the bill) and urged David against it. David ignored Joab’s concerns, however, and pushed forward with the tally. In doing so, he incurred God’s wrath and brought great destruction upon his nation.

What can we learn about sin from David’s tragic mistake? Sin is evil: All sin, no matter how “insignificant,” is evil and adverse to God. In fact, verse one directly says that Satan was the driving force of David’s sin. A census seems so trivial to us. In fact, one could easily justify it as a necessary strategy in measuring the strength of David’s army. But it displeased God.

Similarly, we may justify our words, our actions, or even our inactions, but need to understand that sin is sin, and sin is evil. Whatever it is, it matters to God.

Sin can be traced back to pride: David counts the people presumably because he wants to see how successful he has been. He was prideful, which causes him to focus on his own human strength instead of his reliance on God. Pride is incredibly destructive. In fact, the Bible tells us that pride was the fall of Satan (Isaiah 14:12-17).

Our sins stem from pride, which causes us to believe we deserve something, or that we’re better than others. It removes us from the humility we should exemplify, and positions us into a dangerous place where sin can take hold. All sin has consequences: No matter how small or how great, all sin has consequences. God, through the prophet Gad, gave David three choices for punishment:

1. Three years of famine
2. Three months of David’s enemies triumphing over him and Israel
3. Three days of plague.

David chose three days of plague, because he realized that it is better to be in God's hands than in the hands of man. Seventy-thousand people died in Israel because of one seemingly insignificant sin

There are always consequences, not only for the person committing the sin, but those around that person: Consider the young couple killed by the drunk driver, the family torn apart by adultery, the small business owner impacted by the theft in their store, or the little children exposed to the sins of those they are modeling. As Luke 8:17 says, "For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light" (NKJV). Sin will always be revealed, and the consequences are far reaching.

My friends, we live in a world that celebrates sin. In fact, according to our culture, if you do not rejoice in your sin, there's something wrong with you.

However, we are not called to live by the world, but by the Word. Do not take sin lightly. It is serious, no matter how small you might think it is. When you do fall, be like David, who recognized what he did, repented and sought forgiveness. We serve a merciful Father who is "faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Adapted from: Will Graham Devotion: "Do Little White Lies Matter?" by Will Graham. 1 Chronicles 21:1-17.

### Understanding the Position of Prayer

We hear the phrase most often in a comedic context – a movie or TV show. A character has a problem and needs a solution of some sort and doesn't know where to turn. When discussing his problem with a friend, he is surprised to hear the friend say, "Don't worry, I know a guy." And in many cases, the character with the problem doesn't ask "Who?" or "How?" – as if he knows better than to ask. And if he does start to ask, the friend nips the question in the bud as if to say, "You don't want to know."

Depending on the storyline, what happens next can take any number of turns – usually funny or good-natured. So familiar has the phrase "I know a guy" become that we hear it used in everyday conversation. All it takes to generate laughter among friends is for someone to say, "No problem; I know a guy."

But sometimes the situation is serious and sinister, and the bumbling "guy" is replaced by what is called a "fixer" – someone who is not afraid to use unconventional, even illegal, means to solve problems or change outcomes. Fixers don't always use nefarious tactics,

but in modern terms that is usually their reputation. Fixers "fix" things: sports games, political outcomes, legal problems, debts, business conflicts, and more. In British contexts, a fixer is simply a business consultant who helps arrange deals or outcomes using conventional means. In America, the role of a fixer has a much stronger "don't ask, don't tell" connotation.

When it comes to our lives and how we pray, I sometimes wonder if we approach God as "the guy" or, even worse, "the fixer." That is, we have a problem or a situation in which we are focused on an outcome that we are unable to produce by our own wit or wisdom. So, we turn to God and tell Him what we would like Him to do for us. In the heat of the moment, we lose perspective on who we are and who He is. He is God; we are not. Yet sometimes we switch places with Him and expect Him to do whatever we ask.



When we talk about a model prayer, we often cite the prayer Jesus taught His disciples: *the Lord's Prayer* (Matthew 6:9-13). But not only did Jesus present a model prayer, He also positioned Himself as the Model Pray-er, a model of how to come before God in prayer. If there was ever a time when someone might be tempted to insist on his or her will being done, it would be when facing torture and death. And if there was ever a time for honesty in prayer, that would be it – coming before God with complete transparency and trust. And that is what we find Jesus doing as He faced what He knew was coming; His death as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

**HONESTY** When Jesus prayed, He didn't hesitate to tell God His desire, what was in His heart: "Take this cup from Me" (Luke 22:42). Likewise, we are told, by prayer and supplication, to "let [our] requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). We are invited to come before God with boldness to "obtain mercy and to find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). Yes, be honest with God. But also, be honest with yourself.

Are you willing to receive whatever answer He provides when you pray?

**HUMILITY** We could say that submissiveness is a synonym for humility. Not self-deprecating compliance against our will, but willing acceptance to a person or outcome that might not have been our first choice. Jesus was certainly humble, willingly submissive, to God's will when it came to going to the cross to die. And so was the apostle Paul when he encountered a persistent circumstance or condition in his life (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Three times he prayed and asked God to change the situation, and three times God said "No." Paul then had an insight; God had allowed the situation to persist as an antidote to pride in his life (verse 7). So he humbly accepted God's will – to give Paul grace to live with the situation instead of removing it. Paul was honest with God, then humbly accepted God's honest answer to him.

**HAPPINESS** Often we approach prayer with the mindset: I can't be happy (blessed, content) unless God answers this prayer. But we forget: We are admonished to give thanks "in everything" (not for everything, but in everything) (1 Thessalonians 5:18). And we forget that God causes all things to work together for good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Being happy doesn't depend on how God chooses to answer our prayers. Being happy is based on knowing we are embracing God's will for our life in every moment.

**HOPEFULNESS** Our hope is in God (Psalm 71:5), not in what we think God should do for us. And "this hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast (Hebrews 6:19). Regardless of how God chooses to answer our prayers, He never changes. Therefore, our hope never changes either. We pray honestly, humbly, happily and hopefully – all under the umbrella of His will, not ours, being done.

We don't know "a guy" who can "fix" things. We know our God who does all things after the counsel of His own will – and always for our good.

Adapted from: Devotional: "Maybe We Should Take a Moment to Pray" by Dr. David Jeremiah.

### The Carillon Replacement Project

The Carillon Project Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous donations that have helped us reach our goal. The Carillons have been ordered and are currently scheduled to be delivered sometime in October. We have some pre-installation construction to do, and we will be looking forward to installing the Carillons hopefully before Christmas. We will keep you

informed as to when we will be dedicating them so you will all be invited. Thanks again, God bless.

### 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: \$74,437.16

Received to Date: \$79,769.54

### Salem Photos



2022-08-14 Cindy Bowsher at worship piano.



2022-07-24 Ron Richards with grand-daughter, Bianca.



2022-08-28 Marea Van Tilburg Special Music soloist.

### Upcoming Salem Church Events

#### Gymanfa Ganu, September 4th



As shown is the 2020 Gymanfa.

The year 2022 advance printed program can be seen at: <http://salemchurch.cc/Gymanfa%20Program%202022.pdf>

#### Salem Blessing of the Harvest / Drive Your Tractor to Church Sunday, September 18



Pastor Tom conducting the last "Blessing of the Harvest" Service.

#### Senior Luncheon and Bingo, Noon, September 28



The fun-filled Senior Luncheon begins again this September 28 at noon at the Venedocia Lions Club. Shown is the Easter month gathering with Bingo.

#### Election Day Supper, Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendar for **Election Day Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**, and join us as we serve **Election Day Supper** from **4:30 PM to 7:00 PM** at the Venedocia Lion's Club. Come for sausage sandwiches cooked by the Lion's Club, Dave Rees's famous shredded chicken, and a variety of homemade soups from our ladies. We need apple, pumpkin, and pecan pies. Give your donation to Kathy McCollow even if you can't bake a pie or offer to help serve or set up. Thanks!

#### Christmas Shoe Boxes



Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has collected more than 168 million shoeboxes packed with toys and other fun and useful items and delivered them to boys and girls in need around the world. Each box is an opportunity for the Gospel to transform the life of a child, a family, and a community. Please consider filling a box this year. For many children it will be the only gift they ever receive, and it will mean so much to them. **Collection day is Sunday, November 20th.**

# 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

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

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

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

**Marjorie Eutsler**  
15044 Main St  
Venedocia, OH 45894

**Ron Richards**  
20155 Venedocia-Eastern  
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 Guard)  
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**

## Condolences

No Condolences this past month

## Anniversaries

8 Paul & Doris Price  
11 Jeremy & Samantha Morris  
15 Bob & Denise Pugh  
28 Eric & Jen Pugh

## 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	18 Tyler McConnell
19 Gianna Richards	20 Megan Jones
23 April Ellerbrock	25 Darlene Jones
26 Cindy Barnes	27 Brian Ellerbrock
27 Lisa Lloyd	29 Stephanie Beck
29 Steve Richards	30 Jack Blackmore

## Prayer Concerns

Edie Basham (back surgery)  
Charles Boroff (heart issue)  
Dave Burnett  
Kathy Comer  
Stephanie Dillon (lymphoma)  
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)  
Marjorie Eutsler  
Deb Fair (cancer)  
Nikki Ford (surgery & funds for surgery)  
Shana Fryer  
Stephanie Gamble (eye & knee issues)  
Jane Harter  
Jerry Holscher

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

# September 2022

\*The Pentecostal Way Church is located at  
1213 Leeson

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Pentecostal Way Church*	2	3
4 9:30 AM Worship 4:30-6:00 Light meal 7:00 Gymanfa Ganu	5	6 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	7	8 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Pentecostal Way Church*	9	10
11 9:30 AM Worship 5:00 Trustee Meeting	12	13 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	14	15 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Pentecostal Way Church*	16	17
18 9:30 AM Worship, Blessing Of the Tractors 11:00 Pot luck Dinner	19	20 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	21	22 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Pentecostal Way Church*	23	24
25 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session Meeting	26	27 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	28 Noon-Senior Luncheon	29 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Pentecostal Way Church*	30	

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
September 4	Mark & Missy Zielke	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Connie O'Neill
September 11	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Eric & Jen Pugh	
September 18	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Eric & Jen Pugh	Becky Reichard
September 25	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Eric & Jen Pugh	Dave VanTilburg
		<b>Greeter:</b>	Rex Lloyd

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



Ignatius Alexander Beck 7lbs 9 oz 20 inches.  
The parents are Chris and Jenna Beck.

## *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)

**September 2022  
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY  
YEAR B**

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Sep 4**

Jer. 18:1-11	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Phlm. 1:1-21	Luke 14:25-33

**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Sep 11**

Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28	Psalm 14
1 Tim. 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Sep 18**

Jer. 8:18-9:1	Psalm 79:1-9
1 Tim. 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Sep 25**

Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15	Psalm 91:1, 1-6, 14-16
1 Tim. 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31