

Sunday: 02-05-2023
 9:30 AM Worship (*Nursery with Bill and Ruth Evans*)
 Bring canned goods for Souper Bowl of Caring
 10:45 AM Confirmation Class

Tuesday: 02-07-2023
 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study is at the Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria.
 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study is in the basement at Salem

Thursday: 02-09-2023
 Noon Van Wert County Prayer Meeting is at the Apostolic Church
 at 1017 S. Shannon in Van Wert.

Sunday: 02-12-2023
 9:30 AM Worship with guest speaker John Zerbe
 (*nursery with Steve & Lindsay Richards*)
 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting
 No Confirmation Class

Announcements:

Souper Bowl of caring will be held today. Bring canned goods.

The Confirmation Class is at 10:45 AM today; there is no class next weekend. **The Session Meeting** is Sunday February 19, at 1:00 PM.

The **2023 Offering Envelope Boxes** can be found on the white table in the Prayer Room. Please sign your name beside the box number you take for the new year.

Be sure to sign up for the **2023 Flower Chart** on the back bulletin Board.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the March newsletter. Submit them to secretary@salemchurch.cc.

Upcoming Birthdays:

12 th Madison Pugh	15 th Ryan Fair	16 th Jeff Lloyd
16 th Scott Lloyd	18 th Dalton Ellerbrock	18 th Marylin Foust

Upcoming Anniversaries:

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

February 5, 2023

www.SalemChurch.cc | 419-667-4142 | P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH
 45894

Contact Secretary: 419-303-2032 (call/text)

secretary@salemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

Edie Basham (back surgery)
Jason Boyd (limited time to live - terminal cancer)
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Lynn Collins (cancer)
Cindy Davis
Stephanie Dillon (lymphoma)
 LaDonna's stepdaughter
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid healing)
Marjorie Eutsler
Deb Fair (cancer)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Diana Glass (cancer)
Jane Harter
Jerry Holscher
Mandolin Jones (cancer)
Tony Kahle
John Lloyd
Steve Martz
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Wayne McMichael
David Morris (Zeb)
Paul & Doris Price
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Tori Wells (serious spine injury)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

Serving Our Country

Gyer Blackmore (U.S. Army)
Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marine Corps)
Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)
Phoebe Eutsler (U.S. Army)
Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)
Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

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Rev. Thomas Emery
5th Sunday of Epiphany
“The Gap Between Belief and Behavior” – Isaiah 58:1-12
Salem Presbyterian Church
February 5, 2023

The Old Testament Prophets highlighted three basic sins that shattered the covenant with God: idolatry, social injustice, and reliance on hypocritical religious rituals. What do you think the most common accusation of current church members might be? You are absolutely correct if you guessed "hypocrisy." This hypocritical attitude and behavior is not new for God's people. Isaiah addresses it also as their major problem in our Old Testament text. God accuses the people of putting on a good, religious front with their words. In sum in both Testaments, God exhorts His people to live righteously inside and out while they wait for the coming King.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – *We Need to Not Just Listen, But to Do.*

POINT TWO – *We Need to Seek God's Approval and Not Human Applause.*

POINT THREE – *We Need to Close the Gap Between Belief and Behavior.*

THIS WEEK'S VERSE

⁶ “No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. ⁷ Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help (Isaiah 58:6-7 NLT).

ACTION POINT

The prophet calls on the people to look inside themselves in terms of their true commitment. While the Lord looks upon those who fast in humility, God wants those who fast in humility to have regard for God and for others. This regard for others is expressed by giving people a sense of importance and freedom, by giving people food, and by speaking and acting in a way that brings honor to the people of God. Fasting as an act of humility and contrition can be acceptable to God only if it is an expression of love for God and neighbor. Why not examine your motives today to see if they line up with what God requires of you?

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