

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 25 Issue 2

February 2023



Devotionals for Lent:

Ash Wednesday: *For forty days He was tempted by the devil* – Luke 4:2.

And so, it begins. We practice our forty days of Lent. We are not sure how Jesus was marked; forty days in the desert would certainly have marked Him with dust. But even more, His time in the desert would have been marked by prayer. Part of that earnest and urgent prayer would have been that His actions and His faithfulness would have resulted in the “Hallowing” of the Father’s Name.

Many of us will be “marked” this day. “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” It will mark us as belonging to the Christ. Those who observe our “mark” may well assume that we will be giving ourselves to prayer. That prayer may well ask that by our faithful actions the Name of our great God may be “Hallowed.” Let these forty days be powerful days, made even more significant by joining our Lord in a disciplined and intentional prayer life. Let these forty days begin with an earnest “Hallowed be Thy Name.”

Let Us Pray

O Lord, by me and through me, “Hallowed Be Thy Name.” As another season of Lent begins, I am drawn again to the alter of Your love. The ashes on my forehead remind me once more that I am dust, but for the gift of life You have given me in the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus. You have seen fit to give me life even in the midst of my own sin and death. God, my heart bends down to You in thanksgiving. In Jesus’ Name. Amen!

Adapted from “We Bow Our Heart to You” by Ed Arle and “The Lord’s Prayer for Lent” by Vern Gundermann.

PASTOR’S THOUGHTS

“¹³ Mordecai sent this reply to Queen Esther: “Don’t think for a moment that because you’re in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. ¹⁴ If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this? (NLT Esther 4:13-14)”

The Bible tells us to be involved in God’s mission in this world even if it puts us at risk for rejection. We should trust that God is in control of all things. If we are not available to God, God will use someone else, and they will receive God’s blessings for eternity. The world’s values are opposed to God’s values.

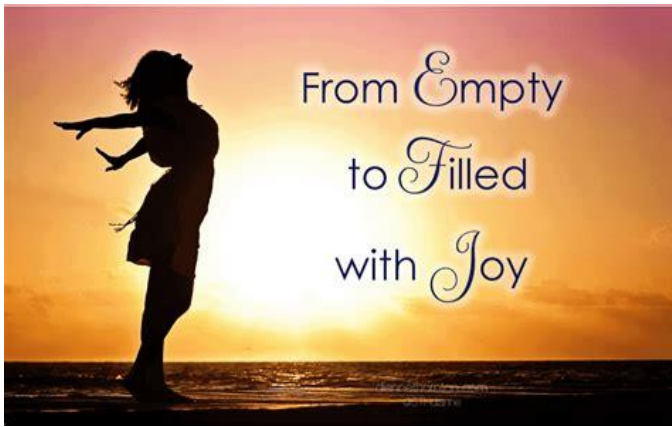
This world seeks to pull us away from God. We are living in a time of cultural wars where Christianity is losing out in the public square. It is startling that Christians are called “haters” when telling people about Christ’s amazing love and offer of salvation.

It is normal that Churches are usually now more than half empty. The forces of darkness are attempting to overwhelm the family, and the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus told us that in the last days, that wickedness would be the same as the days of Noah before the punishing great waters over the earth.

In this passage, Mordecai warned the King’s wife, a Jew, for not standing up for her people; she considered living selfishly. She thought that she would be safe if she kept silent and didn’t stick up for the Jews during the upcoming purge of anyone Jewish. Parallel is the last days that Christ preached about; God expects for us to take a stand in a hostile culture that seeks to silence Christians in the marketplace of ideas. Jesus said that if you deny Him before men to play it safe, He will deny us before the Father at the time of the Final Judgment.

Let us be sober about Christ’s warnings. Christ came to reconcile us to God. God gives Christians the mission of sharing the Good News to everyone. Let us be faithful to God.

Pastor Tom Emery



At The Cross

VERSE 1:

There are wounds that I have
That are deeper than flesh and blood
And the remedies here on earth
Won't be enough
Thank God for the day
That He sent His only Son
So I'll turn and I'll trust
And I'll run to the Father's love

CHORUS 1:

'Cause I have decided
And I will follow
Lord I will give You the rest of my life
Here at the altar
I will surrender
I don't have to carry my shame anymore
All of my sin
All my mistakes
I will leave buried in the grave
I have been forgiven at the cross

VERSE 2:

There are fears that can only be silenced
In perfect love
There's a peace that is found
When you lose everything but God
Oh the weight of my debt
He has broken right off my life
So I hold to the hope that can only be
Found in Christ

BRIDGE:

There's nothing I have done
There's nothing I could do
I know that I am loved
And God it's all because of You
I won't waste a second
I won't waste my praise

I give it all to Jesus
I surrender all my days

TAG:

I give it all to Jesus
I surrender all my days

CHORUS 2:

'Cause I have decided
And I will follow
Lord I will give You the rest of my life
Here at the altar
I will surrender
I don't have to carry my shame anymore
All of my past
All my regrets
I will leave buried with my debt
I have been forgiven at the cross

At The Cross – Hillsong Worship. Words and Music by Ben Fielding, Aodhan King, Joshua Kpozehouen & Ben Tan. [Music Link](#).

Is God a Woman?

The concept of God being a woman is a popular subject among the youth. There are many songs today that wrongly try to portray God as a woman to the audience.

Singer, Ariana Grande, has a popular song titled "God is a Woman." In addition to Grande, Billie Eilish has a song that contains the lyrics, "Cause even God herself has enemies" ("All the Good Girls Go to Hell"). With these false notions surrounding God, many not taught in the Bible can be led to false beliefs surrounding God.

Nowhere in the Bible are we told that God is a woman. The pronouns connected with God are always He/Him.

As this Bible passage tells us, God says He created mankind in "His" own image. Thus, God does connect masculine pronouns to Himself. In the original Hebrew and Greek, God is also always connected with masculine pronouns.

Even though the world tries to connect the idea that God is a woman, it is not true. This is only an attempt to undermine God or cause others to have a false view of God. The idea of God being a woman is heresy and is a way to go against Christianity.

The Father is a male, Jesus is a male, and the Holy Spirit is a male. When Jesus was born into the world, He was born as a baby boy and grew up to be a man. Jesus walked on the earth as a man — not as a woman. Jesus is our King, who will one day rule over the earth, and He is already presently ruling from heaven. If Jesus was a female, He would have been called a queen. As

it is, Jesus is known as “the King of kings and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:15).

While many people may believe this goes against women, it doesn't. Simply because God is a man doesn't mean God is against women. In fact, God loves women, and just like men, women are made in God's image.

To be made in God's image is to be created with His character.

God loves all His children, including both males and females. He does not play favorites, as He loves all His children equally. Romans 2:11 says, “For God does not show favoritism.” Males and females are both beautiful creations of God, and He loves them both greatly.

When Jesus came into the world to die for our sins, He died for all people (John 3:16-17). He does not die for only the men, but rather, He dies for all people.

While it is common for people to connect false beliefs to God, nobody can truly read the Bible and conclude God is a woman, nor can they conclude that God is against women.

Salvation is based on whether a person accepted Jesus or not. Salvation is open to all, whether male or female, young or old, rich or poor. All people can freely accept the free gift of salvation as found in Jesus Christ.

I mention this because many people hold that God believes women are less than men simply because God is a male Himself. While many people in the world think like this, God doesn't. There are high numbers of sexism practices in the modern day, but God is anti all of these wrong practices.

Jesus would be a feminist, because He emphasizes the importance of a woman's life and how a woman should be able to make her own decisions. Sadly, a great deal of people associated God with the culture of the Old Testament rather than associating Him with His true nature.

This is why it is possible many people try to believe God is a woman rather than a man. Deep down, they know it isn't true, yet they think if they believe God is a woman, that somehow, they are closer to Him.

He also created us all equal as the Bible says, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, **nor is there male and female**, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). As this passage tells us, we are all equal.

The idea that we are not equal is rooted in sin. Even though God sees all people as equal, sadly, not everyone sees things the same. This is because sin is in the world, and many people grow up with the false ideas that males are better, certain ethnicities are better, or certain ages are better. Of course, all of this is wrong because God sees males and females as equal; He sees all ethnicities as equal, and He sees all ages as equal. He loves all people the same, and that will never change.

What Does This Mean?

Throughout the Bible, masculine pronouns are always connected with God — never are feminine pronouns connected to Him. God is a man despite the popular trend that tries to declare Him to be a woman.

Adapted from “Is God a Woman?” [Christianity Today](#) 2023 17 Jan by Vivian Bricker.

The Venedocia Blizzard of 1978



(Image: Ohio State Highway Patrol.)

The latest blizzard weather is no match compared to snowfall in 1978. In January and February of 1978, a series of three storms covered the northwest and midwestern regions of the country, and Ohio was caught in the path of the second storm. Between January 25th and 27th that year, the state was hit with one to three feet of snow, and 50-75 mph winds that created snow drifts of up to 25 feet.

Thousands of Ohioans were stranded in their homes or even their cars in the blizzard, and thousands of homes lost electricity. For the first time in history, the entire Ohio Turnpike shut down due to the blizzard's severity. One truck driver was trapped in a semi-truck that was buried by the snow for a week before rescuers found him.

Venedocia residents relate how the snow drift was up to their second-story windows, the electric was out, and you stepped over telephone pole wires to cross the street. The National Guard bunked at the Lions Club and set about removing the snow. The Lions' tennis court was used for helicopter landings. Temperatures were right around zero, but the wind chills plunged far lower, nearing 60 below zero.

The National Weather Service defines a severe blizzard as a winter storm with wind speeds of 45 mph or higher, temperatures at 10 degrees or lower, and dense falling or blowing snow which reduces visibilities to near zero. Thanks be to God that we haven't seen weather conditions like that since.

Adapted from **Looking back at the Blizzard of 1978** by Alex Caperton. ABC 6. Wednesday, January 25th, 2023.

The Music Committee Update

The music committee met in January. We are glad to announce that we have secured a conductor for our 2023 Gymanfa. Ben Williams from Lexington, Kentucky has agreed to join us on Sunday, September 3, 2023, as our Gymanfa guest conductor. Ben has been to Venedocia before, appearing as our conductor and entertaining us with a beautiful oboe solo in 2017. We are excited to welcome Ben and his family back. We will be sharing more details later.

As an update for the Carillons, they have been installed, and we are waiting for Lima Pipe Organ to finish the final parts to connect the carillons with the organ. The chimes have been playing and some adjustments have been made. We look forward to dedicating this beautiful gift soon and will keep you updated on that date. We would like to sincerely thank everyone for their monetary gifts that helped to complete this project.

Finally, we are working with a different sound engineer to improve the sound quality of the Facebook Live transmission of the Sunday service. Up-to-now we have recorded the service with a modest corded wire microphone attached to a member's iPhone. With this improvement, we will soon be able to transmit the quality speaker sounds directly from the sound board to an iPad into Facebook Live. The total charge will cost us \$450.00 with parts and labor.

Eventually like other churches in the area are using, we would like to have a professional telescopic lens camera at the back of the church so that there will be higher visual resolution and minimal distraction to the service.

News



Old photo of the previous Pastor, Wendy Pratt (far right), and family. She started our Sounds of Salem newsletter 25 years ago.



John C. Lloyd is a longtime supporter of Spencerville wrestling. In 1976, Lloyd helped purchase the first set of mats to get Bearcat Wrestling started. He has donated much time and help to the program over the years. He has also made it possible for the young Bearcats to wrestle this year for free. The Middle School Wrestling Tournament will now be named after Lloyd for all of his dedication to Bearcat Wrestling. Pictured with John Lloyd are the Bearcat Seniors Emerson Layman, Josh Grothjan, Logan Johnson, Nyah Hodge-Miller, Brendon Schwartz, and Carder Miller.

Church Financial Update

Prayerfully consider donating to Salem Church. Offerings should be mailed to the church at:

Salem United Presbyterian Church
PO Box 678
Venedocia, Ohio 45894

Needed to Date: \$10,898.15
Received to Date: \$17,429.00



2023-01-08 Cindy Bowsher on piano.



2023-01-22 Ordination of MaKenna Kimmit and the Installation of 2023 Session Elders.



2023-01-08 Denise Pugh at nursery work.



2023-01-22 Confirmation Class study. Avery Zielke, Grant Zielke, Holden Price, and Elijah Martz here reading a devotion beforehand.



2023-01-15 Junior Bells Special Music



2023-01-26 Kathy McCollow with volunteers cleaning and sorting the church archives.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

“Young at Heart”

John Lloyd

20155 Venedocia-Eastern
Venedocia, OH 45894

Marilyn Stockton

Lochhaven Apt 220
1640 Allentown Rd
Lima, OH 45805

Bartie Jones

Parkvue 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 Guard)
14975 Van Wert-Mercer
Co. Line Road
Venedocia, OH 45894

Sgt. Micah Linger,

(U.S. Marine Corps)
814 Strawberry Hill Rd. E
Columbus, OH 43213

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. Ohio State University,
160 Woodruff, Columbus, Ohio 43210

Evan Pugh University of Pikeville
147 Sycamore St, Pikeville, KY 41501

Isaiah Pugh University of Toledo
3030 Residence Drive, Ottawa East Room 4205-A
Toledo, OH 43606

Condolences

Condolences to the families of George Siler,
Charles Profit, Joe Lemming, Kathy Comer, and
Jeanette Walls.

Birthdays

1 John Lloyd	1 Ashley McClure
2 Lindsay Breese	2 Jerry Holscher
3 Elizabeth Holscher	4 Andrew Emery
12 Madison Pugh	15 Ryan Fair
16 Jeff Lloyd	16 Scott Lloyd
18 Dalton Ellerbrock	18 Marilyn Foust
19 Corey Hobbs	21 Paul Price
24 Tim Price	25 Bill McGee
27 Kevin Fair	

Anniversaries

15 Brian & April Ellerbrock	15 John & Anne Morris
22 Dave & Ann Rees	

Prayer Concerns

Edie Basham (back surgery)
Marion Morris's daughter
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Jason Boyd (cancer)
Lynn Collins (cancer)
Cindy Davis
Stephanie Dillon (lymphoma)
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)
Marjorie Eutsler
Deb Fair (cancer)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye & knee 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
Evan Pugh
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Tori Wells (spine surgery)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

February 2023

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Apostolic Church, 1017 S Shannon, VW.	3	4
5 9:30 AM Worship Souper bowl of caring- bring canned goods 10:45 AM Confirmation class	6	7 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	8	9 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Apostolic Church, 1017 S Shannon, VW	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship w/guest Speaker John Zerbe 5:00 Trustee Meeting	13	14 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	15	16 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Apostolic Church, 1017 S Shannon, VW	17	18
19 9:30 AM Worship Communion 10:45 AM Confirmation class 1:00 Session Meeting	20	21 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	22 Ash Wednesday 7 PM	23 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Apostolic Church, 1017 S Shannon, VW	24	25
26 1st Sun. of Lent 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Confirmation class	27	28 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study				

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
February 5	Bill & Ruth Evans	?	Cindy Bowsher
February 12	Steve & Lindsay Richards	?	Becky Reichard
February 19	Dave & Carla Breese	?	Beth Conn
February 26	Mark & Missy Zielke	?	Dave Van Tilburg
		Greeter:	Marilyn Foust

*Salem Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 678
15240 Main Street
Venedocia, Ohio 45894*



2023-01 John Lloyd thanked for his service with the Spencerville wrestling program.

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

February 2023 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR C

5th Sunday after Epiphany – Feb 5

Isa. 58:1-12	Psalm 112:1-10
1 Cor. 2:1-16	Matt. 5:13-20

6th Sunday after Epiphany – Feb 12

Deut. 30:15-20	Psalm 119:1-8
1 Cor. 3:1-9	Matt. 5:21-37

Transfiguration of the Lord – Feb 19

Ex. 24:12-18	Psalm 2
2 Pet. 1:16-21	Matt. 17:1-9

1st Sunday in Lent – Feb 26

Gen. 2:15-17;3:1-7	Psalm 32
Rom. 5:12-19	Matt. 4:1-11