

SOUNDS OF SALEM

A MONTHLY PRINT AND DIGITAL NEWSLETTER OF SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VENEDOCIA, OHIO
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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them (Romans 8:28 NLT).

As we are beginning Lent this year, let us ponder our personal relationship that we have with God. God is not a Santa Clause doling out “give-me this and give me that.”

God wants the best for us. But in getting that, some of us will have a rugged road to walk for our own good. This old popular poem tells us that God always knows what is best for us even when we don't see it at the time.

I asked for strength,
And God gave me difficulties to make me strong.
I asked for wisdom,
And God gave me problems to learn to solve.
I asked for prosperity,
And God gave me brain and brawn to work.
I asked for courage,
And God gave me dangers to overcome.
I asked for love,
And God gave me people to help.
I asked for favors,
And God gave me opportunities.
I received nothing I wanted – I received everything I needed.
My prayer has been answered!

The poem tells us that the way of God is not our first understanding. What we want and ask for, may not be (and often is not) what God wants for us. God knows what is best for us. God knows exactly what we need.

Why not make Jesus your Lord. Praise God and trust in God through all your trials and tribulations that life sends your way. We learn lessons from life experiences as God allows our trials to mold us into the people that God wants us to be.

During Lent, why not trust God for our tribulations and praise Him through our storms, because He cares about us!

Pastor Tom Emery

All to Jesus I Surrender

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine. [Refrain]

All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me. [Refrain]

Written by Judson W. Van De Venter 1855-1939. [YouTube music link.](#)

Just think, you're not here by chance, but by God's choosing. His hand formed you and made you the person you are. He compares you to no one else - you are one of a kind.

Devotionals for Lent:

1st Sunday in Lent: ⁵“You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought (Matthew 5:5 Message Bible version).

Inheritances

I recently came across a study from 2019 that showed the average inheritance for the middle class in the U.S. was about \$110,000. I don’t count on such money coming my way anytime soon — or ever. But sometimes I wonder: What if? What would I do with that money?

It doesn’t take long for my daydream windfall to become a greed-ridden nightmare, as I discover my imaginary money isn’t enough for all the wants lurking within. I shudder to think what a real inheritance would bring out in me.

Matthew 25 speaks about inheriting the Kingdom. This Kingdom is not one that comes in the way of a big check. This Kingdom will not bolster your wealth, but rather this Kingdom asks you to serve, care and love others selflessly.

Early in His ministry, Jesus spoke to a hungry crowd gathered on a hillside. They were eager to hear a message of hope, and Jesus didn’t let them down by telling them what it really means to be blessed. But His definitions of blessed might have surprised them for there was no mention of material comforts or elevations of status. Among the blessed, Jesus tells them, are the meek. For they will inherit the earth.

Meek

Meek isn’t a very flattering adjective to our ears, but in the Biblical context it is a compliment. It means that we are willing to surrender all to Jesus and say “yes” to God’s plans. If we are to inherit God’s Kingdom, we must see that this Kingdom has nothing to do with what money can buy. This Kingdom is about what love can build through the work of our hands.

Pray

God of great provision, forgive us for letting the amount of money we have dictate the ministries we can do in Your Name. The Kingdom we inherit from You is in fact this world, with all its challenges and brokenness. This is the Kingdom You entrust to us. Give us the wisdom and strength this day to glorify You. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

Ponder

When the word “meek” is used to describe you, how does that make you feel? Now think about how Jesus uses that word. How might it change the way you live this day?

Adapted from Donna Frischknecht Jackson writings as the editor of *Presbyterians Today* and their 2021 Devotions.



Trust in God When We Are Afraid

We do not need to let fear dominate our lives because we can be confident that God knows us and cares for us — and that our future with Him is secure. Nothing can separate us from His love.

Most people experience fear in some form, at least occasionally. The dictionary defines fear as “an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain or a threat.” Fear is not something we choose to have, or not to have. But we do have some control over how we respond to it.

So, as a believer, how do you respond when fear rears its ugly head? Perhaps, a better question is how should you respond?

When Are We Afraid?

We are all different. And our life circumstances are different. What one person fears is not necessarily fear for another person. But what we all face are challenges in our life. And all too often, those challenges are accompanied by fear.

I have a certain level of fear when driving on the freeway in heavy traffic. But I have little fear of heading out into the mountains by myself for a few days.

But I also admit that there is a certain level of fear in growing old and being unable to care for myself, for the safety of my family, that the economy might crash and take my retirement with it, and COVID-19 and what it might do. But none of these fears have much impact on my life.

I have a friend who lives in Ethiopia with a wife and young child. This is a country that is currently torn by ethnic strife. Innocent people are caught in the atrocities perpetrated by all sides in the conflict. Ethiopia is a dangerous place to live. There food and other necessities can be scarce. They know a fear that is foreign to me.

Other believers live in places where the practice of their faith is outlawed or curtailed. And they daily face death, or worse because of their faith. Fear must be a constant companion in many places in the world.

Why Be Afraid?

What causes fear in my life? Generally, it is because I have little, or no, control over what is happening. I fear driving in heavy traffic, because I don't know what others around me might do and if I can react to their actions quickly enough.

Likewise, we might fear a virus, a foreign country, a faltering economy, or the bogeyman in the night. If they threaten my health, safety, or comfort, they will likely cause a certain amount of fear or anxiety in my life.

In contrast, I do not fear spending a few days hiking the mountains near me because I see little threat there. So long as I am careful, there is little danger. Essentially, I am in control, or at least I am comfortable in being able to respond to whatever might happen. And so, there is little reason for fear.

Responding to Fear with Trust

There are a couple of very different responses I can make to fear in my life. I can allow it to paralyze me and keep me from living a full life. At the other extreme, I can learn to manage my fears and not allow them to hinder me.

I do not fear the mountains because I have spent so much time there and eliminated much of the unknown that might cause fear. I can manage my fear of driving

by allowing my wife, who has much better reaction time than I do, to do that driving for me. I can manage my fear of COVID by getting vaccinated and taking other appropriate safety precautions.

I trust my experience, my wife's driving, and the efficacy of the COVID vaccination to protect me. That does not mean that nothing bad will happen to me. But it does allow me to keep the fear at bay.

Put Your Trust in God

There will always be threats to my health and safety, and threats to my family and our security, and dangers unseen that I cannot prepare for. I can't prepare for everything. But I do not have to.

Psalm 56 was written by David. And in it, he described many of the fears in his own life.

Record my misery; list my tears on your scroll — are they not in your record? Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help. By this I will know that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise — in God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me? I am under vows to you, my God; I will present my thank offerings to you. For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling that I may walk before God in the light of life (Psalm 56:8-13).

They were caused mainly by his enemies — and he had many of them. But his response to fear was something that all who trust in God should emulate. He said in Psalm 56:3, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you." David trusted that God would be able to see him safely through whatever his enemies tried to do to him.

Nowhere is this trust in God better illustrated than in David's fight with Goliath. All the rest of Israel's army saw a giant who would crush anyone who took him on. But David saw something else entirely.

When explaining his confidence to King Saul, David said, "The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine" (1 Samuel 17:37). We can also trust that God will rescue all who trust in Him from any giant we might encounter in this life.

We have no promise that we will experience physical deliverance from the things we fear. I could die in an automobile accident, get eaten by a cougar, or suffer from COVID. I might lose everything I have in this world and be reduced to homelessness.

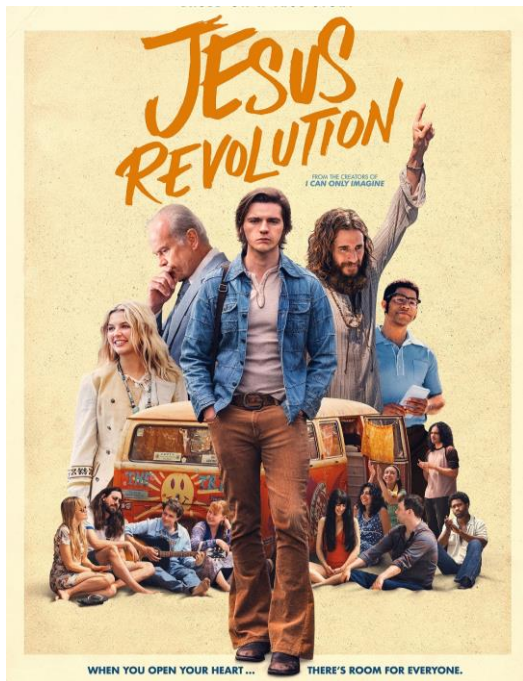
But I do not need to let that fear dominate my life because I am confident that God knows me and cares for me — and that my future with Him is secure. Nothing can separate me from His love.

In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35-39).

So, when I am afraid, I will trust in God!

Adapted from "Do We Put Our Trust in God When We Are Afraid?" by Ed Jarrett. Christianity.com 2022 28 Jan.

The Jesus Revolution Movie



The JESUS REVOLUTION was released last week in local theaters and immediately soared to number 2 in ranking. It is the story of one young hippie's quest in the 1970s for belonging and liberation that leads not only to peace, love, and rock and roll, but that sets into motion a new counterculture crusade--a Jesus Movement--changing the course of history. Currently the similar Asbury, Kentucky revival, shows how our society still needs to seek Jesus to fill its emptiness of its soul and meaning in life. [Movie trailer](#)

The Music Committee Update

The music committee has 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.

As an update for the Carillon, it has 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.

The carillon control box.

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.

Events and News

Passover



The Van Wert County area churches are celebrating Maundy Thursday with an authentic Passover Seder ceremony run by Jews for Jesus. It will take place at the Family Life Center at the Trinity Friends Church on April 6 at 6:30 p.m. The feast and the event are free subject to limited seating. Limited tickets are available online at www.trinityfriendschurch.com. Be sure to reserve your ticket as early as possible.

Offering for Food Needs

The Salem Church will be **collecting offerings** from the heart to be given to the **Salvation Army**. There is a monthly need, and your generosity is greatly needed. Each month we are collecting a different food or item of need.

The month of:

- March is pork & beans.
- April is ramen noodles.
- May is cereal.
- June is hamburger helper boxed meals.
- August is Mac & cheese.
- September is canned fruit.
- October is shampoo & conditioner.
- November is gravy packets.
- December is toilet paper.



February 15th, 2023 - Jason and Danielle Lloyd had their first child, a girl, Gabrielle Ellen Lloyd. She was 6 lbs. 8 oz and 19 inches long.

You lack nothing that God's grace can't give you. He has allowed you to be here at this time in history to fulfill His special purpose for this generation. Praise God!



2023-02-19 Beth Conn playing organ during worship.

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: \$19,616.68
 Received to Date: \$28,213.00



2023-02-26 Rex Lloyd prepares as Peter for a Lent skit.

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 family of Jim Overholt
(Carolyn's Girod's brother-in-law).

Birthdays

2 Marilyn Strickler	8 John Morris
11 Todd Morris	14 Larry Caffro
14 Elijah Martz	16 Tom Emery
19 Pamela Beamer	20 Johnathon Morris
20 Brian Owens	22 Toby Adkins
23 Josh Hoehn	29 Bianca Richards

Prayer Concerns

Edie Basham (back surgery)
Marion Morris's daughter
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Jason Boyd (cancer)
Lynn Collins (cancer)
Cindy (Davis) Barnes
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 (leg amputation)
Jim Lloyd
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 (spine surgery)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

March 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 10:45 AM St. David's Day Reception to follow service	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 10:45 AM Confirmation class 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 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	23 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Apostolic Church, 1017 S Shannon, VW	24	25
26 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	29	30 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Apostolic Church, 1017 S Shannon, VW	31	
Week of	Nursery		Flowers		Organist	
March 5	Rex & Lisa Lloyd		Bob & Kathy McCollow		Connie O'Neill	
March 12	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs		Bob & Kathy McCollow		Cindy Bowsher	
March 19	Jeff & Kim Coil		Bob & Kathy McCollow		Cindy Bowsher	
March 26	Todd & Jayne Morris		Rex & Lisa Lloyd		Dave Van Tilburg	
			Greeter:		Denise Pugh	

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



Jesus with the children, Salem Church office mural.

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

**March 2023
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR C**

2nd Sunday in Lent– March 5

Gen. 12:1-4a	Psalm 121
Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17

3rd Sunday in Lent – March 12

Ex. 17:1-7	Psalm 95
Rom. 5:1-11	John 4:5-42

4th Sunday in Lent – March 19

1 Sam. 16:1-13	Psalm 23
Eph. 5:8-14	John 9:1-41

5th Sunday in Lent – March 26

Ezek. 37:1-14	Psalm 130
Rom. 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
