

# SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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<sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me (John 14:6 NLT).

Do you grasp the absurdity of the situation that the Messiah had come to the Jews, but they rejected Him even though He fulfilled every prophecy exactly as specified? There was no other possible Messiah than Jesus Christ, Son of God. Further, if they didn't follow Him, then their wait for another would be delusional. It was ludicrous to think that they could reject Christ and still claim to follow God.

One of Jesus' disciples named Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: **"Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"** (vv. 8–9).

God has created all people with a purpose. Life has a goal to it. We are created to travel through life toward an end. And the way to that end, Jesus says today, is through Him. We don't find the way by wandering. We don't stumble across it by trial and error. It's not enough to live life by just doing it. There is a way.

And Jesus tells us today it is through Him that we find the way. The safest, most secure, most dependable way through life is by Christ. Jesus leads us back to God.

Please fully understand that God has been reaching out to you and seeking a deep relationship with you! Why not fully turn your life and will over to Christ?

*Pastor Tom Emery*

## Ebenezer (Ton-Botel)

Send Thy Spirit, I beseech Thee,  
Gracious Lord, send while I pray;  
Send the Comforter to teach me,  
Guide me, help me in Thy way.  
Sinful, wretched, I have wandered  
Far from Thee in darkest night;  
Precious time and talents squandered, -  
Lead, O lead me into light.

Thou has heard me; light is breaking,  
Light I never saw before;  
Now my soul, with joy awaking,  
Gropes in fearful gloom no more.  
O the bliss! My soul, declare it,  
Say what God has done for thee;  
Tell it out, let others share it-  
Christ's salvation, full and free.

Multitudes, whom Thou art seeking,  
Seek for Thee this very hour;  
Saviour, let them hear Thee speaking,  
Come with soul converting pow'r.  
Lo, He comes-the ransomed own Him;  
This the song I hear them sing –  
"In my heart I will enthrone Him,  
Christ, my Saviour, Lord and King."

Written by Thomas J Williams. [YouTube music link.](#)

## Who Jesus Said He Was

**Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, equal with God, and with authority from the Father.**

"Then they all said, 'Are You then the Son of God?' So He said to them, 'You rightly say that I am'" (Luke 22:70).

"For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother" (Matthew 12:50).

"Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth'" (Matthew 28:18).

Bear in mind that while a man claiming to be God is a radical thought, Jesus is the only leader of a world religion to have made the claim – not to mention backed it up. How?

### **He claimed to live a sinless life.**

“Can any one of you convict me of a single misleading word, a single sinful act? But if I'm telling the truth, why don't you believe me?” (John 8:46, The Message).

Jesus had the ability to sin; if He weren't able to sin, He could not have been tempted genuinely and would be unable to be our sympathetic High Priest (Hebrews 4:15). When He was tempted, He always rebuked the thought with scripture.

Because He didn't sin, God was able to accept His sacrifice. 1 Peter 3:18 says, “Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”

### **He claimed to be the one and only way to God.**

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me” (John 14:6). It's also interesting to note that Jesus did not call Himself the destination, but the way, indicating that our Christian walk is a journey.

He claimed He had the power to forgive sins and provide everlasting life.

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die’ (John 11:25).

“When Jesus saw their faith, He said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven.’ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, ‘Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’” (Luke 5:20-21).

"For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:40).

"I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life." (John 6:47).

He predicted his own death and resurrection.

“Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, ‘We are going up into Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled.

He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again” (Luke 18:31-33).

### **He's said He would come back.**

Matthew 24:27-30 "So as the lightening comes from the east and flashes to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man... At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory."

Mark 14:61-62 "Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?' 'I am,' said Jesus. 'And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.'"



Jesus clearly knew He was the Lamb of God, the Messiah spoken of in the Old Testament. He knew He had to live a life without sin, no matter what. When He returns, He will judge the sins of the world... except for those who have already acknowledged conviction, entered a plea of guilty, and sought His mercy by believing on Christ.

Adapted from "Who Is Jesus?" Crosswalk.com.

## **Graduation Prayers**

It's that time of year again when the school year comes to an end. The season of summer is upon us, and kids are ready to be out of school. However, for some this will be the last time that they are in their school. Graduations are right around the corner and many emotions come along with it. Today, we are going to pray Scriptures over the graduates in our lives, whether college, high school, middle school, or even kindergarten.

### **Humility in Accomplishment**

Father,  
We pray that this graduate knows that every good and perfect gift is from You. This includes intelligence,

athleticism, creativity, and musical ability. Whatever awards or special recognition is given to this student, help this graduate to remember that this is from you and ultimately for Your glory. Help this student to honor Your Name above his or her own awards. You tell us that we will one day lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus. We pray that this would be a foreshadowing of laying down their own honor for Yours. We pray for a Spirit of humility and kindness. We pray for a humble heart that overflows into actions.  
In Jesus' Name. Amen.

James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

### **Forgiveness for Hurts**

God,

We know that other students and even teachers or professors are human and can do a lot of harm. We pray for this student to have a heart of forgiveness to be free from any wrong that was done to them. Help this graduate to move forward into the next season without the burden of bitterness in heart.



Lord, we know that you have forgiven us so much and You ask us to forgive others. Help this student to remember this truth in order to close this chapter and move forward. We pray that this would be a relief to

this graduate, that he or she does not have to be in that environment anymore, but that any hurts in the past would not prevent moving forward in the future. We pray that this student would be able to see that You have always been there, even in the difficulties, and that it would lead them to love others well.  
We pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Matthew 18:21-22 - "Then Peter came and said to Him, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.'"

### **Walk with Confidence**

Lord,

We pray that this graduate would walk into whatever You have next for him or her in confidence. Help this student to remember that You are with them wherever they go. Give this student the courage to walk with You

into the unknown and to trust You with the trajectory of life. We pray that Your angels will surround this graduate in the days and months ahead when new opportunities and possibly even moving to a new city will take place. Please provide Christian community wherever this student lands. Help this graduate to pursue You personally and be surrounded by Christ followers who help this student grow in faith in You. Provide a healthy church home for this student to attend. Give this student honorary family away from home. Provide financially for this student and help this young person to find safe housing and wonderful roommates if needed. We pray for a strength that comes from You and for the ability to have focused goals and vision to accomplish all of the tasks in the coming days into this new season.  
We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Joshua 1:9 - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Adapted from "5 Prayers for Your Graduate." Crosswalk.com.

### **The Music Committee Update**

The Music Committee along with the Trustees and the Congregation will be dedicating the new Carillons System on Sunday, May 28 in the morning worship service. There will be a short social time after the service in the Prayer Room with refreshments provided by the Music Committee. Please plan to attend our 9:30 AM Service and join us for honoring those donors who gave in memory of loved ones and those dedicated to our church heritage.

The Music Committee Members are:

Carla Breese Ann Rees Lisa Lloyd Jen Pugh Denise Pugh Jan Jones and Kathy McCollow

### **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: \$39,233.35  
Received to Date: \$40,612.00



## Sights of Salem



2023-04-02 Palm Sunday children with palms.



2023-04-09 Gabrielle Ellen Lloyd's Baptism with Jason Lloyd and Danielle Lloyd and great-grandfather John Lloyd.



2023-04-02 Confirmation of new members Elijah Martz, Holden Price, Grant Zielke, and Avery Zielke. Session is praying over them.



2023-04-09 Lighting of the Christ Candle during the Easter skit.

2023-04-09 John Morris and congregation in line for the Easter morning Flowering of the Cross.



Palm Sunday 2023-04-02 Bell Choir







2023-04-09 Bob and Denise Pugh and Tyler, Morgan and Charlotte McConnell.



2023-04-06 In Van Wert County, the hosted Sedar Passover Ceremony is explained indepth by the Jews for Jesus organization.



Easter Meal and cooks and helpers



2023-04-26 Senior Luncheon hosts Kim Coil and Marylin Foust and the social gathering.



# 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

### **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

### **Dillon Ellerbrock (Marines)**

Grandson of Gloria Leiter

## 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

## Anniversaries

15 Steve & Lindsay Richards

19 Bart & Rosemary Strick

20 Mark & Melissa Zielke

## Birthdays

2 Audrey Menker

3 Deb Fair

4 Rod Eutsler

6 Emma Jones

8 Bob Pugh

12 Sandy Clayborn

16 Chance Mosier

17 Delayna Profit

19 Holden Price

23 Carolyn Girod

29 Wrigsby Breese

3 Kim Coil

3 Eric Pugh

4 Heather Matthews

7 Josh Lloyd

10 Rex Lloyd

15 Dane Ebel

17 Mary Jane Hanes

17i Stacia Profit

22 Dawson Kimmet

25 Taylor Hoehn

31 Vincent Richards

## Prayer Concerns

Edie Basham (back surgery)

Marion Morris's daughter

Charles Boroff (heart issue)

Jason Boyd (cancer)

Dave Burnett (heart)

Lynn Collins (cancer)

Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)

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 (heart issues)

David Morris (Zeb)

Paul & Doris Price

Evelyn Schwartz

Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)

Tori Wells (spine surgery)

The area Nursing Homes and their residents

# May 2023

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	3	4 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Van Wert Courthouse steps	5	6
7 9:30 Worship 5:00 Trustee Meeting	8	9 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	10	11 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Salem Church	12	13
14 9:30 AM Worship Mother's Day Recognition	15	16 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	17	18 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Salem Church	19	20
21 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Session Meeting	22	23 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	24 Noon-Senior Luncheon	Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Salem Church	26	27
28 9:30 AM Worship Veterans Recognition Pentecost Offering Communion Carrillon Dedication	29 11:00 AM Memorial Day celebration in the park	30 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	31			

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
May 7	Bob & Denise Pugh	Marylin Foust	LaDonna Allenbaugh
May 14	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	Marylin Foust	Connie O'Neill
May 21	Bill & Ruth Evans	Marylin Foust	Becky Reichard
May 28	Steve & Lindsay Richards	Gloria Leiter	Dave VanTilburg
		<b>Greeter:</b>	Marylin Foust



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



2023-04-09 Easter Day Flowering of the Cross.

## *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)

### **May 2023** **REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY** **YEAR C**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 7**

Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Pet. 2:2-10	John 14:1-14

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 14**

Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20
1 Pet. 3:13-22	John 14:15-21

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 21**

Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Pet. 4:12-14:5:6-11	John 17:1-11

#### **Day of Pentecost – May 28**

Act 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-35b
1 Cor. 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23