

# Salem Presbyterian Church

Sunday, July 2nd, 2023, 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery

Pianist: Lexie Greer

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Tuzz & Liz Hobbs



Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Color Guard

## Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Christian Flags

I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.

### Welcome & Prayer

Call to Worship Psalm 13 484

\*Hymn: The Star-Spangled Banner 528

Prayer of Confession: What does the Lord require of you? **To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.** What does God command of us? **To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.** God does not call us to ease or to comfort. **But to presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggle.** Let us worship the God who believes in us, and trusts in us, and abides with us. **Let us worship the God who will ask much of us, but will be beside us every step of the way. We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.** *(Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our personal prayers of confession).*

Assurance of Pardon

Response

**Glory Be to the Father**

Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

**The Lord's Prayer**

Scripture Readings Matthew 10:40-42 887  
Romans 6:12-23 1028  
\*Genesis 22:1-14 17

Time for Children

\*Hymn: God of Our Fathers 532

Sermon: "God Tests Our Commitment" Rev. Thomas Emery

\*Apostle's Creed: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

\*Response **Praise God** Inside Front Cover

\*Hymn: America the Beautiful 531

\*Taking the Light into the World

### \*Charge and Benediction

\*Congregational Response **Three Fold Amen** Inside Back Cover

\*Those who are able are invited to stand.



### Financial Update:

Needed Weekly: \$2,179.63 Needed to Date: \$56,670.40  
Rec'd 06-25-23: \$1,240.00 Rec'd to Date: \$62,720.00

**Sunday:** 07-02-2023  
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Jeff & Kim Coil*)

**Tuesday:** 07-04-2023  
7:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria

**Thursday:** 07-06-2023  
Noon Van Wert County prayer meeting is at the Trinity Friends Church in Van Wert. All are invited to pray with the other county churches.

**Sunday:** 07-9-2023  
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Todd & Jayne Morris*)  
5:00 PM Trustee Meeting

**Announcements:**

Salem is 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 collect different food. The food for July is canned fruit.

**Vacation Bible School** is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 to 11:30 am. Please bring your kids and consider volunteering.

**Thanks to everyone** who helped and participated in the Spencerville Parade.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the next Newsletter. Submit them to [secretary@salemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc).

**Upcoming Birthdays**

2 <sup>nd</sup> Lynette Lloyd	6 <sup>th</sup> Charles Boroff	10 <sup>th</sup> Tuzz Hobbs
10 <sup>th</sup> Mark Zielke	12 <sup>th</sup> Kristen Price	13 Cory McCollow

**Upcoming Anniversaries**

4 <sup>th</sup> Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	15 <sup>th</sup> Tuzz & Liz Hobbs
15 <sup>th</sup> Peter & Morgan McCollow	19 <sup>th</sup> Corey & Sylvia McCollow



*Salem Presbyterian Church*

Venedocia, Ohio | July 2, 2023

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

[www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc) | [secretary@salemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc)

**Prayer Concerns:**

Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)  
Edie Basham (back surgery)  
Charles Boroff (heart issue)  
Jason Boyd (terminal cancer)  
Dave Burnett (heart issues)  
Lynn Collins (cancer)  
Stephanie Dillon (lymphoma)  
    LaDonna's stepdaughter  
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid healing)  
Dave Espinoza (lung transplant)  
Marjorie Eutsler  
Deb Fair (cancer)  
Shana Fryer  
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)  
Diana Glass (cancer)  
Jane Harter  
Jerry Holscher  
Pat Hunt (breast cancer)  
Mandolin Jones (cancer)  
Tony Kahle (leg amputation)  
John Lloyd  
Steve Martz  
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)  
Wayne McMichael  
David Morris (heart issues)  
David Morris (Zeb)  
Kason Perez  
Monica Placke  
Paul & Doris Price  
Ann Rees  
Evelyn Schwartz  
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)  
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)  
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  
“God Tests Our Commitment” **Genesis 22:1-14**  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
July 2, 2023

Up-to-now, Abraham and Sarah were a happy couple, who after years of heartache were living their last years in contentment. God had promised them their son, and in their old age, Isaac was born. They watched Isaac as he grew, knowing that he was an unusual child. Now, Abraham and Sarah could enjoy their last years basking in the radiance of a promise kept by God. But one day, God called to Abraham. Abraham answered, “Here I am.” God told Abraham, “Take your deeply loved son, Isaac, and offer him as a burnt offering on a high spot that I shall show you.” No sane and loving parent would willingly harm his or her child in this unreasonable request.

**TEACHING POINTS**

**Point One – All the faithful will be tested by God to know if we have idols more important than God.** Likewise, you also will be tested.

**Point Two – You must deny yourself to follow God.** Your relationship with God must be unconditional and of first importance.

**Point Three – The end of sorrow comes when you can trust God no matter what.**

**THIS WEEK’S MEMORY PASSAGE**

<sup>12</sup> “Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son” (Genesis 22:14 NLT).

**ACTION POINT**

How much do you trust God? Abraham learned his lesson living with the fog of uncertainty where God resides. Abraham placed his total trust in God even though he didn't comprehend fully what was to occur, and his trust was not misplaced. Yes, Abraham didn't understand the command by God to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. But Abraham placed his belief in God as a good God, and he fully surrendered his will to Him. Then having passed the test, he was blessed by God. You and I can be like Abraham. We can live the surrendered life by living an on-going simple prayer that will help us focus on our faith:

"Lord, today, You're going to give me a lot of opportunities to choose. Direct me to choose well, putting Your will first in my life. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen."

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