

Sunday: 07-23-2023
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Mark & Missy Zielke*)

Tuesday: 07-25 & 26-2023
 9:30 AM **Vacation Bible School** Tuesday & Wednesday

Thursday 07-27 2023
 Noon **Van Wert County prayer meeting** is at the Trinity Friends Church in Van Wert. All are invited to pray with other county churches.

Sunday: 07-30-2023
 9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Toby & Elizabeth Adkins*)

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 cans of fruit.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25th, and Wednesday, July 26th, from 9:00 to 11:30 AM. Please bring your children and please consider volunteering for big and small roles.

If you would like to help with **Operation Back to School Outreach**, please contact 419-238-0631 ext. 6. It will be held on July 30 from 3 to 5 pm at Fountain Park in Van Wert. They supply backpacks and school supplies at this event to children in need. You can help with monetary donations, volunteering before or on July 30, or manning the prayer tent.

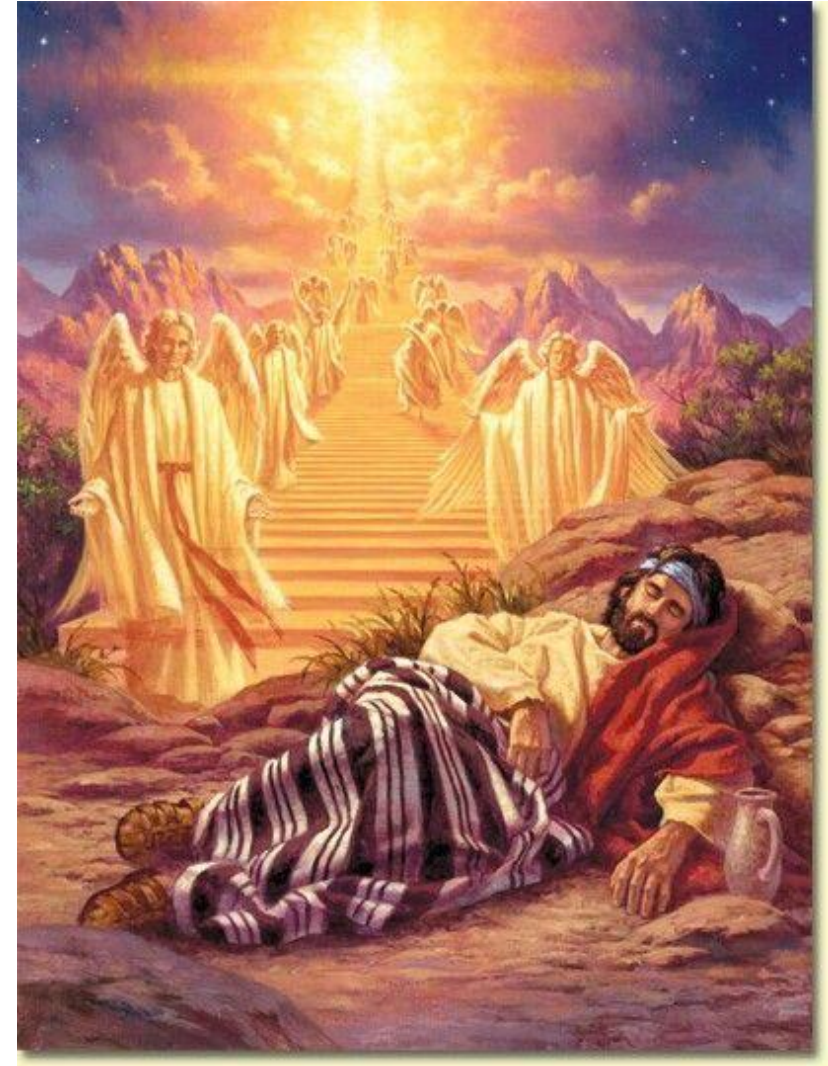
Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **August Newsletter**. Submit them to secretary@saalemchurch.cc.

Upcoming Birthdays

24 th Evan Pugh	25 th Charlotte McConnell	25 th Kent McClure
26 th Brent Price	29 th Heather McClure	29 th Doug Strickler
31 st Kristyn Jones	31 st Zach Wise	

Upcoming Anniversaries

19 th Corey & Sylvia McCollow	24 th Bill & Ruth Evans
25 th David & Nancy Jo Breese	27 th Jeff & Kelly Lloyd



Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | July 23, 2023

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

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@saalemchurch.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
"A Ladder to Heaven" Genesis 28:10-22
Salem Presbyterian Church
July 23, 2023

It was one of those divine encounter moments of the presence of God. At Bethel, during a time of brokenness and loneliness, Jacob (whose name means dirty, rotten, scoundrel) met the living God, and he experienced God's unconditional love. After that encounter, that memory motivated him. Whenever things started going unfavorably, Jacob remembered his meeting with the living God. For hundreds of years, this story has also been a source of insight and inspiration for people of faith. Some give it the shorthand of "Jacob's Ladder," and it is familiar as a song often sung in children's' Sunday school. Also, you might not know that Sara Adams paraphrased the passage for her well-known hymn, "Nearer, My God, To Thee." "Though like the wanderer, The sun gone down, Darkness be over me, My rest a stone; Yet in my dreams I'd be Nearer, my God, to Thee" (v. 2).

TEACHING POINTS

Point One – Jacob's ladder represents the distance from who we are and who God wants us to be.

Point Two –It is God who reaches out to each of us.

Point Three – God can use each of us for His purposes.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY PASSAGE

²⁰ Then Jacob made this vow: "If God will indeed be with me and protect me on this journey, and if he will provide me with food and clothing, ²¹ and if I return safely to my father's home, then the LORD will certainly be my God. ²² And this memorial pillar I have set up will become a place for worshiping God, and I will present to God a tenth of everything he gives me" (Genesis 28:20-22 NLT).

ACTION POINT

Jacob was not highly exalted as a very moral person, yet God still loved him. That is the point of this passage. As Frederick Buechner puts it, "God doesn't love people because of who they are, but because of who He is." If that is the case, then God's love for you is not dependent on who you are, but on who God is. Why not come to Him as you are, and soon the Holy Spirit will change you into Christ-like joy filled Godliness and into the person God created you to be.

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