

# Salem Presbyterian Church

Sunday, July 30th, 2023, 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: LaDonna Allenbaugh

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Tyler & Morgan McConnell



Prelude  
Lighting of the Candles  
Welcome & Prayer

Call to Worship Psalm 128 561

\*Hymn: Ebenezer *Welsh hymnal*, 11

Prayer of Confession: Merciful God, the story of Jacob shows Your willingness to enter the messiness of our human struggles—into fractured relationships, family differences, and un-reconciled situations with people we care about. **Yet, we confess that too often we hold on, because we do not want to loosen our grip on our possessions and our selfish desires.** Often, we fear that our very lives will be dislocated by Your Kingdom values of justice, mercy and peace. **Help us to wrestle with the conflicting values, desires and pressures that confront us daily,** so that we can unclench our hands and open ourselves to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. **We pray in the Name of Christ. 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**

Time for Children

Scripture Readings Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 890  
Romans 8:26-39 1030  
\*Genesis 29:15-30 25

\*Hymn: Milwaukee *Welsh hymnal*, 6

Sermon: **“All Things Work Together for the Good”** 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: Cwm Rhondda *Welsh hymnal*, 40

\*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: \$65,388.92  
Rec'd 07-23-23: \$2,076.00 Rec'd to Date: \$73,319.30

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

**Thursday** 08-03-2023  
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:** 08-06-2023  
9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Tyler & Morgan McConnell)

**Announcements:**

Thank you, for all who helped with the Vacation Bible School this year. Today, we will do a short presentation.

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 August is Mac and cheese.

On Sunday, August the 13<sup>th</sup>, Ray Etzler with the **Gideons** will be our visiting Speaker.

If anyone is interested in a **bus trip to the Ark encounter** on September 27, please contact the Council on Aging at 419-238-5011. Price is \$135 (or \$139 if using a credit card) and they will need 40 travelers to do the trip. Additional details are listed on a paper by the front door of the church.

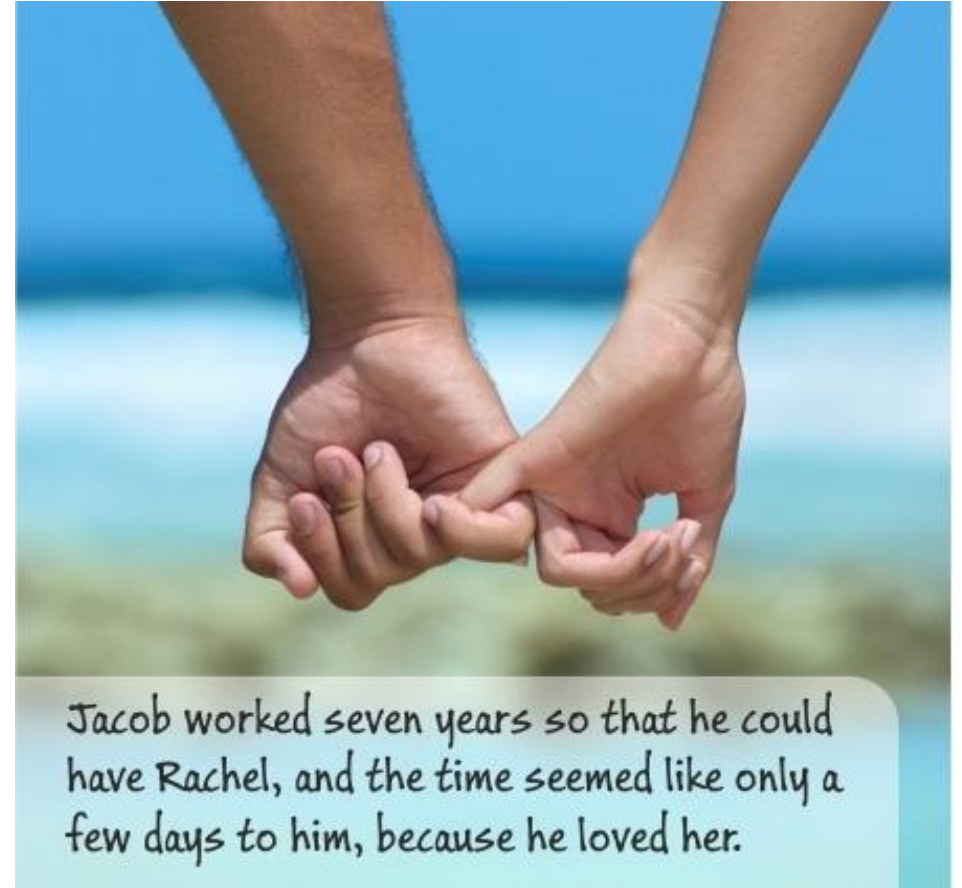
Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **September Newsletter**. Submit them to [secretary@salemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@salemchurch.cc).

**Upcoming Birthdays**

31 <sup>st</sup> Kristyn Jones	31 <sup>st</sup> Zach Wise	Aug 4 <sup>th</sup> Philip Eutsler
4 <sup>th</sup> Don Owens	6 Brooke Coil	9 <sup>th</sup> Denise Pugh

**Upcoming Anniversaries**

10 <sup>th</sup> Tyler & Morgan McConnell	12 <sup>th</sup> David & Carla Breese
17 <sup>th</sup> Kory & Tamara Mullenhour	27 <sup>th</sup> Pastor Tom & Carol Emery



## Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | July 30, 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)  
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)

**Condolences to the family of**

Betty Sidle

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Rev. Thomas Emery  
“All Things Work Together for the Good” Genesis 29:15-28  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
July 30, 2023

Shocked on discovering that he had spent the marital night with Leah instead of Rachel, Jacob went directly to his father-in-law Laban. After recounting the terms of their agreement, he demanded to know why Laban had deceived him. This makes an ironic point, for it is the same way Isaac used to describe Jacob’s usurping the blessing from his brother, Esau. Laban created his response to deflect blame from himself and onto his accuser. He replied that it was against custom for him to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. His words hit Jacob hard, causing him to recall the way he had manipulated his older brother to gain for himself the privileges of the firstborn. Jacob had to endure disappointment such as what he had inflicted on his brother.

#### TEACHING POINTS

*Point One – That which goes around comes around.*

*Point Two –God works in mysterious ways.*

*Point Three – In Paul's words, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."*

#### THIS WEEK’S MEMORY PASSAGE

*<sup>25</sup>When morning came, there was Leah! So, Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?"(Genesis 29:25 NLT)?*

**ACTION POINT** Could this have been part of the wisdom that Isaac and Rebecca saw in sending Jacob to his uncle's house — like the parents who know that the "real world" of work or military service will bring necessary virtues to their undisciplined child? Or was it entirely the hand of God that put Jacob and unscrupulous Laban together? When Jacob left Laban's house, after twenty years of having his heel grabbed, he did not revert to his old ways. He was honest with God about who he was. He was genuine and humble with Esau in their reunion. We are naturally grateful to God when he gives us what we desire: our Rachel. We ought also to be grateful to God, however, when he gives us what we need: our Laban experience. Why not thank God for making all things work together for His and our good?

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