

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 25 Issue 7

July 2023

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

¹⁰ Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires. ¹¹ Don't toss me aside, banished forever from your presence. Don't take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me again the joy of your salvation and make me willing to obey you (Psalm 51:10-12 LB).

We want to do things our way, and we want to follow our desires. Yes, how many times have we sought to do things our way instead of following the Word of God.

Take for instance, someone with a flash temper who refuses to hold back explosive encounters with others. Or take for instance, someone with an alcohol problem who refuses to acknowledge they have a problem and that things are out of control. Add to or substitute for this, pornography, gambling, carrying grudges, cheating, unforgiveness, shame, anger, or even overeating. All of these are in response to the emptiness we feel inside of us when God is not the center of our desires. We forget or ignore that there is an all-powerful God that we will one day be accountable for all our actions.

King David was caught in the scandal of adultery and murder when he desired another man's wife even though he had hundreds of wives and concubines. He was empty inside and wanted more beyond rationality. After being confronted by the prophet, Nathan, in brokenness, he repented. Psalm 51 was his repentant response.

David went on to acknowledge God could satisfy him. In Psalm 19:7-11 he summarized his life lessons: "God's laws are perfect. They protect us, make us wise, and give us joy and light. God's laws are pure, eternal, and just. They are more desirable than gold. They are sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb. For they warn us away from harm and give success to those who obey them."

Why not turn to God while you can, and "**taste and see** that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him! (Psalm 34:8 NKJV)"

Pastor Tom Emery

Create In Me A Clean Heart



Verse 1

Create in me a clean heart, O God;
And renew a right spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
And renew a right spirit within me.

Chorus

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
And renew a right spirit within me.

Verse 2

Create in me a clean heart, O God;
And renew a right spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
And renew a right spirit within me.

Chorus

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
And renew a right spirit within me.

Adapted from wikichristian.org. Keith Gordon Green (October 21, 1953 – July 28, 1982) was an American gospel singer, songwriter, and pianist originally from Sheepshead Bay, New York. Green is best known for his strong devotion to Christianity and his unwavering efforts to stir others to the same.

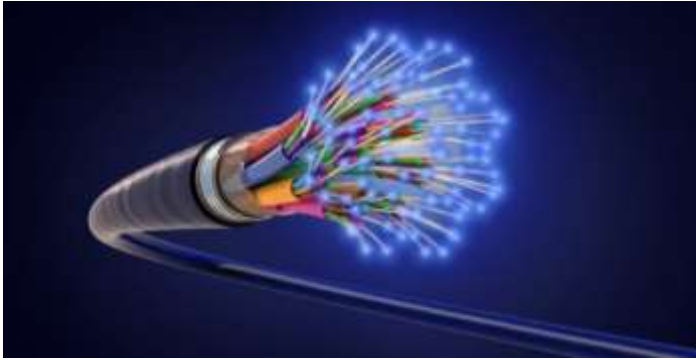
Notable songs written by Green and/or his wife, Melody Green, include "Your Love Broke Through", "Make My Life A Prayer to You", "Asleep In The Light", and "The Prodigal Son Suite", as well as the popular modern hymns "O Lord, You're Beautiful" and "There Is A Redeemer."

SONG LINK:

[Create in Me a Clean Heart - YouTube](#)

Light Bearers

Technology! As much as it drives us crazy, it's amazing. Brilliant engineers have taken elements of God's creation and coaxed them to do remarkable things. Take fiber optics, for example. You've probably heard the term, but what does it mean and how does it work?



A fiber optic cable is a long strand of glass (about the size of a hair), wrapped in a protective coating. Often several strands will form one cable about the size of a computer cord. Since light travels so fast, it can bounce through the cable instantly. When you speak on the phone or broadcast a signal, it can be carried on pulses of light, dashing through the glass strand, and your conversation with a friend in Paris or Hong Kong or Mexico City seems instantaneous.

What's amazing to me is knowing that God has appointed you and me – followers of Christ – to be walking strands of fiber optics. We are lights that transmit His gospel message. We're GLOWING with the GOSPEL. The devil may attack us like a shark, but we have the protective coating of God's grace, and we have the impulse of His Great Commission rushing through us.

In New Testament days, no one had dreamed of fiber optics, but they did know about torches, lamps and candlesticks. So that's the illustration Jesus used in His Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 5:14-15, He said, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house."

We are Salt – In that great sermon in Matthew 5-7, Jesus began with the word "Blessed!" Our life is touched with the deepest blessings of heaven when we recognize our spiritual poverty, mourn over it, turn it to the Lord in meekness and humility, and let Him give us a hunger and thirst for righteousness. That allows His mercy and purity to transform our life, and we become peacemakers. That is, we want others to discover the

peace with God we've found, and we long for Gospel peace to overtake their lives.

While sharing this message, we may be persecuted, but even that is a blessing. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake" (Matthew 5:11). All of that is summed up in Matthew 5:1-12, in the portion of Scripture we commonly call the Beatitudes.

Our Lord follows that up by telling us that as we share the Gospel and even face persecution we are "the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13). Salt has a distinctive flavor. There's nothing else like it. It's one of the basic human tastes, and it enhances other foods and makes them more flavorful. If it lost its distinctive taste, perhaps by becoming mixed with sand or other substances, it would be worthless. That often happened in New Testament days when much of the salt came from evaporating waters of the Dead Sea.

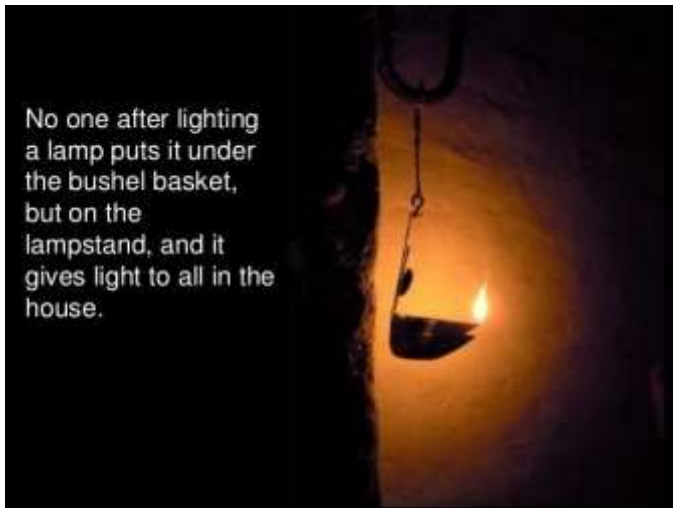
In the same way, we have a distinctive style of living – one that refrains from sinful habits and expresses hope, cheer, joy, and love. If we lose that, the value of our witness evaporates. Grey Laurie wrote, "Like salt, we can stimulate spiritual thirst in others if we live godly lives... One of the greatest compliments paid to a Christian is when a non-Christian says, 'What is different about you? There's a quality that I admire, and I want to know more.'"

We let our light shine – That brings us to our Lord's next words: "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). As a boy, Jesus undoubtedly climbed to the top of the ridge of little Nazareth on dark evenings. With no modern lights, the darkness would have been engulfing. But across the fields sat a large hilltop city named Sepphoris, the governmental city of Galilee. Josephus called Sepphoris "the ornament of all Galilee." It was a few miles from Nazareth, and its fires, lamps, and torches would have lit up the streets, theater, homes, and city squares. After all, light travels a long way in sheer darkness.

He used that image to talk about our message to the entire world. One of the most encouraging things about being a candle on a stand or a city on a hill is this – we never know how far the light will spread.

In The Upper Room magazine, Elizabeth Erlandson wrote that when she was 22 years old, her family moved to Saudi Arabia, where her dad worked for the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Joining her parents there, she began working in a hospital in Riyadh. "One of the men in my department was a committed Christian who kept a Bible on his desk," she said. "His name was Charlie, and he witnessed to me nearly every day

for 18 months. I consistently rebuffed his invitation to accept Jesus as my Savior.



“When I returned to the United States, I still felt lost and lonely. On February 16, 1977, I actually considered committing suicide by driving off a bridge in Washington State. Instead, I drove into a parking lot adjacent to an employment building.

“A gentleman in the lobby struck up a conversation with me and invited me to attend a Bible study that evening with him and his wife. I felt so desperate that I went to the study, and that night I realized that Jesus Christ was the only answer for all my needs. From that moment on, my life changed course, and I became a new creature in Christ.”

Notice that Elizabeth was first attracted to the light when she saw a Bible on a colleague’s desk. His words to her were like pulses of light, piercing the darkness, although he didn’t have the blessing of seeing her come to Christ. Still, his light bounced around in her mind, and on her darkest day a total stranger invited her to a Bible study.

The Bible says, “Your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

How can you let your light shine?

First, begin every day affirming your joy in the Lord! D. A. Carson said when he was growing up, there was a wall plaque with the words, “This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24). Whenever he would wake up complaining, his dad would remind him of those words. Whenever he was too hot or cold or tired or bored, his dad would repeat those words, sometimes putting the emphasis on one word or another, as in “THIS is the day.” It’s nearly impossible to process that verse in the morning without drawing strength and hope from it that will

brighten the look on your face and the hope that’s within you.

Second, find nonverbal ways to witness. Remember Elizabeth Erlandson’s coworker who kept a Bible on his desk? It paid off! If you can’t keep a Bible on your desk, maybe have a John 3:16 bracelet around your wrist or an empty cross on your hat. We don’t want to be ostentatious, but there are subtle ways to pique the interest of others.

Third, plow your finances into evangelistic causes. Support your local church and other ministries that are beaming the light to dark spots in our nation and world.

Fourth, always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you a reason for the hope you have. Often you can bring up the subject. Work on developing the knack for guiding the conversation to a natural discussion of the Gospel.

Be a Fiber Optic Christian, part of what people often call the Salt and Light Company. Don’t put your light under a basket but on the lampstand.

Be light on your feet, a walking candle, and throw some light into a darkened heart or a blackened world.

Consider yourself a Great Commission Christian and be a Glow Carrier!

Adapted from “Glow Carriers - Bearers of the Light” a Devotional by David Jeremiah.

The Music Committee Update

The annual Gymanfa Ganu will be held on Sunday, September 3, at 7 pm with a light meal served from 4:30 to 6:00 pm prior to the event.

Our Director this year is Ben Williams; he is from Louisville, Kentucky where he developed a love for music at a very early age. Ben’s grandparents are originally from this area; they are David and Sue (Dustman) Williams. Ben is currently employed by Central high school as the Choir Director and History of the Arts teacher and also at Christ Church United Methodist Church as the Associate of Music for children and youth. Ben will be coming to Venedocia with his wife, Lesley, and their children Bennett, age 5 and Joanne, age 2. We look forward to having them.

Our organist for the evening is Connie (Lloyd) O’Neill, and on the piano we welcome back Joyce (Summerset) Morris.

Soloists for the event include Susan (Morgan) Leffel from New Knoxville and Adam Rohrbaugh from Wapakoneta. They will be performing as a duet and will be sure to make your heart sing as you listen to them. Susan has attended numerous Gymanfas in the past and has sung at Salem several times. Adam is the son-in-law of Connie O'Neill and he attended OSU on a vocal scholarship. We welcome them both to Salem and appreciate their willingness to join our event as it takes practice time and travel time on their part.



2023-06-16 Prayer before the Salem Ice Cream Social

Van Wert Church Response to the "Woke Culture"

The Van Wert County Ministerial Association, in answer to the June LGBTQIA+ parades in several local Ohio municipalities, circulated the following link to understand the issues and to Biblically respond to the events among local churches.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkTXj5gl5Kc>

In these later times, may you be in constant loving prayer for our communities, our churches, our schools, our financial institutions, and our businesses that Christian values are protected from spiritual attack.

...choose today whom you will serve. But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD (Joshua 24:15 NLT).



Salem Ice Cream Social filling up.

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: \$56,670.40
 Received to Date: \$62,720.00

Sights of Salem



2023-06-04 Samantha Morris' Baptism with her twins Breck Nicole and Brezlynn Mae.



2023-06-11 Doris Evans at her 90th birthday party.



2023-6-24 Keaton Adkins and his mother Elizabeth at his Graduation Party.



2023-06-03 Peonies Festival Parade at Van Wert



2023-06-04 Lexie Greer at worship on the piano.



2023-06-03 Peonies Festival Venedocia Lions Club Sausage Sandwiches booth



Lexie Greer at State Pole Vaulting Competition for Spencerville High School.



2023-06-24 Spencerville Parade with Salem Church float. Seen here is the Coil family.

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

Room 302
Homestead at Town Ctr
240 Towne Center Blvd
Van Wert, OH 45891

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

Madison Pugh -USCGA

8800 Pine Forest Rd
Apt 6303
Pensacola, FL 32534

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

Thankful we didn't have any Condolences to list for this past month.

Birthdays

1 Gloria Leiter	1 Owen Pugh
2 Lynette Lloyd	6 Charles Boroff
10 Tuzz Hobbs	10 Mark Zielke
12 Kristen Price	13 Cory McCollow
15 Barb Good	16 Ron Owens
18 Marjorie Eutsler	22 Dave Rees
24 Evan Pugh	25 Kent McClure
25 Charlotte McConnell	26 Brent Price
29 Heather McClure	29 Doug Strickler
31 Kristyn Jones	31 Zach Wise

Anniversaries

1 Jack & Gwenda Blackmore
4 Toby & Elizabeth Adkins

Prayer Concerns

Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)
Edie Basham (back surgery)
Marion Morris's daughter
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Jason Boyd (cancer)
Dave Burnett (heart)
Lynn Collins (cancer)
Stephanie Dillon (lymphoma)
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)
Dave Espinoza (lung transplant)
Marjorie Eutsler
Deb Fair (cancer)
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye & knee issues)
Diana Glass (cancer)
Jane Harter
Jerry Holscher

25 David & Nancy Breese
27 Jett & Kelly Lloyd
31 Madison & Danielle Lloyd
Tony Kahle
John Lloyd
Steve Martz
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Wayne McMichael
David Morris (heart issues)
David Morris (Zeb)
Kason Perez (shot)
Monica Placke
Paul & Doris Price
Ann Reese
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
6 The area Nursing Homes and their residents

July 2023

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:30 AM Worship	3	4 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	5	6 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Trinity Friends Church	7	8
9 9:30 AM Worship Guest Speaker - John Zerbe 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	10	11 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	12	13 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Trinity Friends Church	14	15
16 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Session Meeting	17	18 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	19	20 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Trinity Friends Church	21	22
23 9:30 AM Worship	24	25 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 9-11:30 AM VBS	26 9-11:30 VBS	27 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Trinity Friends Church	28	29
30 9:30 AM Worship	31					

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
July 2	Jeff & Kim Coil	Vern & Liz Hobbs	Lexi Greer
July 9	Todd & Jayne Morris	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Becky Reichard
July 16	Michael & Lindsay Breese	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Lexi Greer
July 23	Mark & Missy Zielke	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Connie O'Neill
July 30	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	LaDonna Allenbaugh
		Greeter:	Morgan McConnell

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



2023-06-24 Owens family farm wheat outside Venedocia.

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

July 2023
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR C

5th Sunday after Pentecost – July 2

Gen. 22:1-14 Psalm 13
Rom. 6:12-23 Matt. 10:40-42

6th Sunday after Pentecost – July 9

Gen. 24:34-49,58-67 Psalm 45:10-17
Rom. 7:15-25a Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30

7th Sunday after Pentecost – July 16

Gen. 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112
Rom. 8:1-11 Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 23

Gen. 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Rom. 8:12-25 Matt. 13:24-30,36-43

9th Sunday after Pentecost – July 30

Gen. 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Rom. 8:26-39 Matt. 30:31-33, 44-52