

# Salem Presbyterian Church

## Sunday, August 6th, 2023, 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery

Organist: Becky Reichard

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



Prelude  
Lighting of the Candles  
Welcome & Prayer

Call to Worship                      Psalm 17:1-7, 15                      486

\*Hymn:                                      I Surrender All                                      394

Prayer of Confession: God, we confess that we do not always understand Your ways. **We are easily discouraged when life takes unexpected turns, and our carefully laid plans and dreams come to nothing.** We confess that we are quick to give up when things get difficult, and quick to question Your presence and Your power. **Grant us patience to wait for Your good timing.** Open our eyes to recognize Your leading in our lives— to listen for Your gentle whisper when we least expect it. **And then, give us courage to step out in faith and obedience, trusting in Your leading even when we cannot yet see the outcome.** Help us to be made worthy to bear Your name. **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 14:13-21                                      891  
Romans 9:1-5                                      1030  
\*Genesis 32:22-31                                      29

\*Hymn:                                      Penpark                                      Welsh Hymnal 26

Sermon:                                      **"Contending with God"**                                      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:                                      Diadem                                      Welsh Hymnal 13

\*Taking the Light into the World  
Closing thoughts

\*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:	\$67,568.55
Rec'd 07-30-23:	\$560.00	Rec'd to Date:	\$73,879.30

**Sunday:** 08-06-2023  
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Typer & Morgan McConnell*)

**Tuesday:** 08-08-2023  
7:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria

**Thursday** 08-10-2023  
12:00 PM **Van Wert County prayer meeting** is at the First United Methodist Church in Van Wert. All are invited to pray with other county churches.

**Sunday:** 08-13-2023  
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Bob & Kathy McCollow*)

**Announcements:**

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

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 & Cheese.

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.

The **Legacy Grandparenting Summit – 2023** is at the Trinity Friend Church, October 20-21. Please register as soon as possible: [LegacyCoalition.com/summit](http://LegacyCoalition.com/summit)

This is the address for people to send sympathy / condolences for **Bartie Jones** c/o her daughter, Lynn Jones Dewhurst, 1526 Blakeslee, Kalamazoo, Michigan. 49006.

Congratulations to **Andrew Emery** who received his **Master of Engineering** from the University of Cincinnati on Friday.

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

**Upcoming Birthdays:**

6<sup>th</sup> Brooke Coil      9<sup>th</sup> Denise Pugh      10<sup>th</sup> Linday Richards      11<sup>th</sup> David Hobbes

**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



*-- Jacob Wrestles with God – Genesis 32:22-31*

*Salem Presbyterian Church*

Venedocia, Ohio | August 6, 2023

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

Rev. Thomas Emery  
**“Contending With God” Genesis 32:22-31**  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
August 6, 2023

Jacob unexpectedly met God a second time during a time of worry. He was thinking only of how to prepare for an encounter with Esau coming with 400 fighters. The scene begins at night when an unidentified “*Man*” wrestles with Jacob. This wrestling continues all night until daybreak. Given the fact that this “*Man*” is indeed the all-powerful God, could God not have careened Jacob over in a split second with a little fling of His mighty strength? It didn’t happen that way, because here God is assuming human form, taking on flesh so to speak, and putting aside His awesome power. God was making Jacob into a usable vessel for His purposes.

### TEACHING POINTS

***Point One – We need to understand that God is the Master of the universe and not ourselves.***

***Point Two – Only a fool attempts to live his life apart from God.***

***Point Three – We all have names in our lives that we need to abandon.***

### THIS WEEK’S MEMORY PASSAGE

*28Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome" (Genesis 32:28 NLT).*

### ACTION POINT

An insight from the passage is that one commendable virtue is Jacob’s consuming hunger for God. “*I will not let you go unless you bless me*” (32:26). The result of this meeting with God is that Jacob’s name is exchanged to Israel, meaning “*to contend with, strive.*” As with Abraham in chapter 17, a new name indicates a new destiny. This is the first evidence of solid spiritual transformation in Jacob’s life. What name have you been given from your family upbringing: “failure, unwanted, the black sheep...?” God can also give you a new name if you yield to Him; perhaps, your new name will be: “wanted, desired, and a child of God.”

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**Prayer Concerns:**

Scott Basham (Bypass surgery)  
Ann Rees (ICU brain swelling)  
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)  
Greg Glander  
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  
Evelyn Schwartz  
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)  
Tori Wells (serious spine injury)  
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

**Serving Our Country:**

Gyer Blackmore (U.S. Army)  
Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines)  
Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)  
Phoebe Eutsler (U.S. Army)  
Micah Linger (U.S. Marine Corps)  
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)  
Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

**Condolences:**

The family of Jim Francis

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