

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 25 Issue 8

August 2023

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. ⁶ But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do (James 1:5-8 NLT).

Lack of faith will kill your prayer connection with God. Without faith, James the brother of Jesus, tells us, prayer has no power. Even Jesus visiting Nazareth was powerless to perform miracles because of the people's lack of faith (Mark 6:1-6).

The Bible gives us the term of "double-minded" to speak of a condition where a faithless person is emotionally divided as if he has two souls, one of heaven and one of earth. Thus, that person is unstable and incapable of hearing from God or receiving answers to his prayers from God.

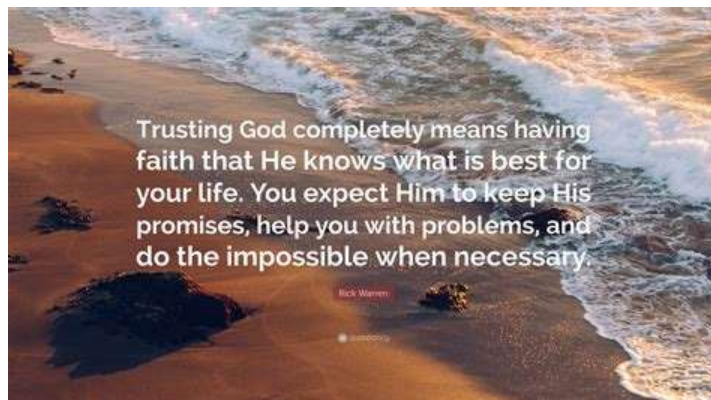
Faith is the basic issue of trust. Jesus taught, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask in prayer" (Matthew 21-22). Unfortunately, most people trust in the opinions of doctors and other professionals with names that they cannot pronounce and may never see again after they get a prescription that they cannot read for a medicine that they cannot understand.

It seems easier to trust in the things of this world rather than an unseen God who is faithful and loving in every way. So, many people place their trust in friends, their spouse, their money or themselves. But, anything other than God is bound to disappoint us, even when Jesus tells us that even the smallest amount of faith can move mountains in our lives.

In the words of Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take."

Pastor Tom Emery

Trust and Obey



1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2. Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.
3. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.
4. But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.
5. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.

"Trust and Obey" by John H. Sammis. 1887.
[YouTube link](#)

Should You Force Your Kids to Go to Church?



We require our kids to go to school so they can learn and expand their knowledge. We require them to brush their teeth so they won't get cavities. We require them to be respectful in hopes they will grow up to be respectable members of society. So, why wouldn't we require them to go to church?

No matter what our kids' ages or stages, it's important for them to attend church with the family. Here are 4 reasons why:

1. The Word of God Will Not Return Void in Our Kids' Lives

If we truly believe the Word of God is "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart," why wouldn't we give our kids the opportunity to hear it as often as possible" (Hebrews 4:12)?

This is the number one reason why we should require our kids to go to church. If our ultimate hope is that our kids will receive Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives, yet we allow them to miss opportunities to hear the Gospel, we may be preventing them from receiving Christ.

Yes, our kids can receive Jesus outside of church. It may happen at home, at camp, or at a friend's house. But it might also happen during a church service.

We are reminded, in Isaiah 55:11, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

God's Word will accomplish what He sets it out to accomplish. And exposing our children to the life-giving Word is one of the best things we can do for them. Take your kids to church and let the Word of God speak!

I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your Name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your Word above all Your Name. Psalm 138:2

On the flip-side: If you're worried that your child will only associate the Bible with going to church, let them know that the Word of God stands alone. They can enjoy the Scriptures through personal devotions, podcasts, and Bible apps. Many are found at ChristianBook.com. bookstore.

2. It Is Our Hope that Our Kids Will Stay in Church

According to this [LifeWay research article link](#), as teenagers reach their late teen years, even those with a history of regular church attendance are pulled away as they get increased independence, a driver's license, or a job.

My question is, why contribute to the "falling away," by allowing our teens to skip out? Yes, they will eventually have to decide for themselves whether they'll continue to go, but I believe it's crucial for parents to maintain churchgoing as a standard, not an option.

When our teens started looking for jobs, we encouraged them to tell the employer, right up front, that they would need Sunday's off. Even though there was a risk they wouldn't get the job, we felt it best for our teens to still be able to attend church with the family. *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*

On the flip-side: There's no guarantee that making your kids attend church will keep them in church. If your teenager works on Sundays, it's definitely not a deal breaker! Consider finding other ways to worship, including home Bible studies, Christian concerts, and mid-week services. Include your kids in deciding when and how to worship!

3. It Is Good for Our Kids to Fellowship with Other Believers

Even if your child is struggling with unbelief, being around other Christian families can be just the example they need. You never know who will make a difference in their life, or who will plant seeds of faith. It might be a friend, a youth leader, or pastor who says something that "sticks."

No matter what, it's healthy for our kids to be around other believers and see the Christian faith being lived out. Just as we need the fellowship of other believers, our kids need it as well. Encourage active participation in services, events, and community outreaches.

Meeting together, in the name of Jesus, is an essential part of a healthy church, and healthy kids.

And let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope. Let us do this even more as you see Christ's return approaching. Hebrews 10:25



On the flip-side: Keep in mind, the earliest churches were simply groups of fellow Christians meeting together for a meal, fellowship, and teaching of the Word. Your kids might benefit even more from these types of "church" meetings. It doesn't always have to be that you go to a church building. Schedule a once-a-month gathering in your home, and get your kids involved in the planning. This may end up being the best church experience they'll have!

4. Church Provides Connectedness for Our Kids

In essence, church provides a connectedness that other groups cannot. Sports teams and after-school clubs are educational and fun, but they don't provide the deeper heart-connections that the church provides. Not only do we want our kids to connect with the family of God, we want them to connect with Jesus, Himself! Here are few inspiring verses about connectedness within the body of Christ:

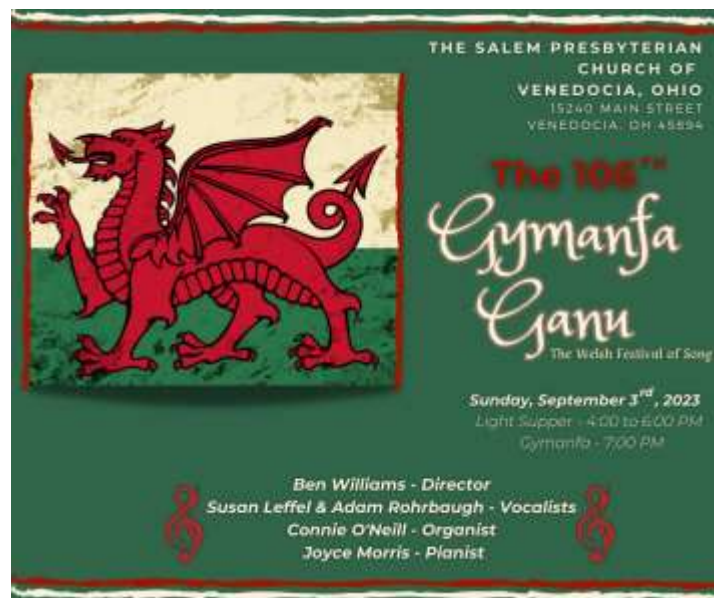
He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. Acts 10:2

Encourage your kids to connect, by requiring them to go to church. Going to church doesn't save our kids, but it prioritizes worship of the Living God. It provides opportunities to hear the Bible. And, it instills in them a love for the body of believers.

On the flip-side: There are many ways to connect with the body of believers. In fact, I encourage having fun with other Christians, outside of worship and Bible study. Consider going on a group hike, bowling, or out for ice cream. It's these interactions that may have the

biggest impact on your child's love for the church. Here are [52 fellowship activities](#) to choose from.

Adapted from Jennifer Waddle. iBelieve Contributor. 2019 12 Nov. Cross-Walk.com



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: \$67,568.55
Received to Date: \$73,319.30

Sights of Salem



2023-07-18 birthday. Marjorie Eutsler at 92 years old.

2023 Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School this year was July 25-26. We learned all about how God protected Daniel from the hungry lions, because Daniel was faithful to God. Daniel did the right thing even when it was unpopular, and his life was in danger.

We also learned about the miracle of Jesus with Peter and the huge catch of fish. We learned that anything is possible with God, and we are to become fishers of men and share the good news of Jesus with our neighbors (that means everyone). About 30 children, (including young helpers) attended. They all had fun doing meaningful crafts, eating delicious snacks, singing to great music and playing outdoors. Our mission this year was to give school supplies to needy children of the Van Wert area.

Salem church would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help with VBS this year! May God bless everyone who had even a small hand in helping!



Drawing and getting settled



Prayer and Pledges of Allegiance to American and Christian Flags



2023-07-23 Set-up



Explaining Christ and the mission of the Church.
The children were to bring in school supplies for the needy.



2023-07-25 Registration
Thirty children were at the two-day event.



Singing and hand motions



Daniel and the Lion's Den storytelling



Fun time outside



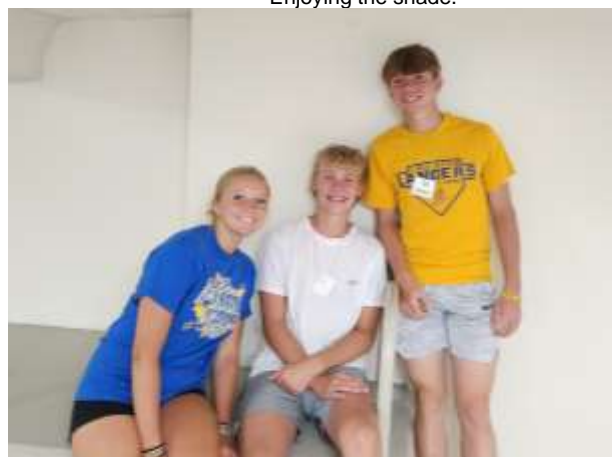
First craft: the rainbow showing God withholding judgment and His mercy and forgiveness explained.



Enjoying the shade.



Craft for the "Fishers of Men" story about Peter and Jesus.



Teen helpers

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 University,
77 Mill St, 101 Athens, Ohio 45701

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

Condolences to the families of Phil Linton and Betty Sidel.

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

Pat Hunt (breast cancer)
Mandolin Jones (cancer)
Tony Kahle
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

Birthdays

4 Philip Eutsler	4 Don Ownes
6 Brooke Coil	9 Denise Pugh
10 Lindsay Richards	11 David Hobbs
19 Melia Richards	10 Austin Kimmet
22 Jan Jones	27 Barb Owens
30 Kelly Lloyd	

Anniversaries

10 Tyler & Moran McConnell
12 David & Carla Breese
17 Kory & Tamara Mullenhour
27 Tom & Carol Emery

August 2023

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	2	3 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at First United Methodist Church	4	5
6 9:30 AM Worship	7	8 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	9	10 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at First United Methodist Church	11	12
13 9:30 AM Worship w/ Gideon Speaker Ray Etzler Pastor Tom on leave 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	14	15 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	16	17 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at First United Methodist Church	18	19
20 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 Session Meeting	21	22 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria.	23	24 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at First United Methodist Church	25	26
27 9:30 AM Worship	28	29	30	31 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at First United Methodist Church		

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
August 6	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Becky Reichard
August 13	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Connie O'Neill
August 20	Bob & Denise Pugh	Open	Connie O'Neill
August 27	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	Open	Cindy Bowsher
		Greeter:	Gloria Leiter

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



2023-07-23 Pete McCollow and his daughter, Audrey.

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

August 2023 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR C

10th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 6

Gen. 32:22-31	Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Rom. 9:1-5	Matt. 14:13-21

11th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 13

Gen. 37:1-4,12-28	Psalm 105:1-6,16-22,45b
Rom. 10:5-15	Matt. 14:22-33

12th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 20

Gen. 45:1-15	Psalm 133
Rom. 11:1-2a,29-32	Matt. 15:10-28

13th Sunday after Pentecost – Aug 27

Ex. 1:8-2:10	Psalm 124
Rom. 12:1-8	Matt. 16:13-20