

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 25 Issue 10

October 2023

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

⁷The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living. ⁹Reverence for the LORD is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the LORD are true; each one is fair. ¹⁰They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb. ¹¹They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them (Psalm 19:7-11 NLT).

God gave us the Ten Commandments to set the standards for society, and to let us know when we fail to meet those standards.

The speaker, Robert Madu, gives us an illustration of our failure to obey the Ten Commandments. We are like track runners in a lane. Beside us are other runners. While running a race, if you look to your right or left, you lose your concentration on running and winning.

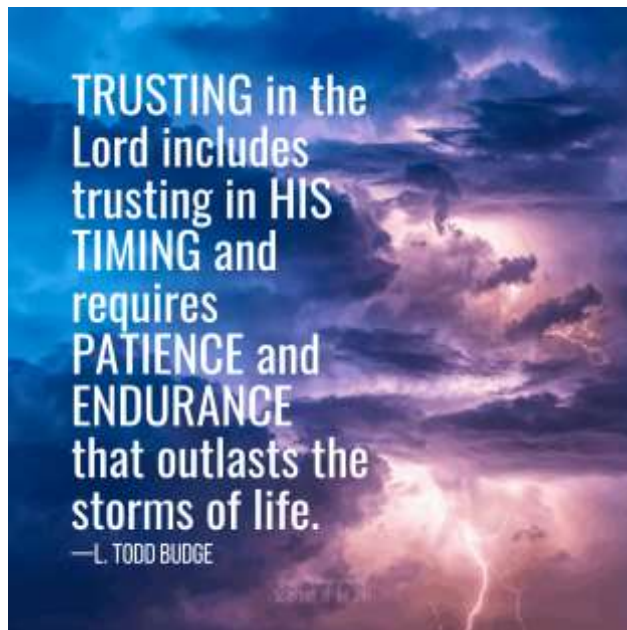
In this case of life, you need to focus only your eyes on Jesus and pleasing Him. Looking aside, some get jealous of what others have, and stop running. They worship money, want what others have, commit adultery, steal, lie to get ahead, etc. Without Jesus, eventually many die at age 25 aren't buried until they are 75.

But God created you unique. He wants you to be alive and satisfied with who He made you in God's amazing wisdom. Don't look and get jealous of others. Be satisfied with whom Jesus made you to be. Don't compare yourself with others or become jealous of what they have. With that, you will have a wonderful life, and if everyone did that, we would all get along.

Let us pray. *Lord, we need the mercy offered us with Jesus paying for each of our sins by dying on the cross for each one of us. Come Lord, Jesus, bring revival to our hearts, to our families and to our communities. Help us to run with our eyes more focused on You.*

We praise You, and we worship You, in Jesus Name, Amen.

Pastor Tom Emery



I Know Who Owns Tomorrow

1 I don't know about tomorrow,
I just live from day to day.
I don't borrow from its sunshine,
For its skies may turn to gray.
I don't worry o'er the future,
For I know what Jesus said,
And today I'll walk beside Him,
For He knows what is ahead.

Refrain:
Many things about tomorrow,
I don't seem to understand;
But I know who holds tomorrow,
And I know who holds my hand.

2 Every step is getting brighter,
As the golden stairs I climb;
Every burden's getting lighter;
Every cloud is silver lined.
There the sun is always shining,
There no tear will dim the eye,
At the ending of the rainbow,
Where the mountains touch the sky. [Refrain]

3 I don't know about tomorrow,
It may bring me poverty;
But the one who feeds the sparrow,

Is the one who stands by me.
And the path that be my portion,
May be through the flame or flood,
But His presence goes before me,
And I'm covered with His blood. [Refrain]

[YouTube Link](#)

Why The New You Should Start Today

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity" (2 Peter 3:18).

So many people could lose weight, manage their time better, rest more, do more, and spend more time with loved ones if they would simply make the necessary adjustments today. But not everyone understands that we should be growing every day.

In 2 Peter, he is writing to fellow believers, encouraging them to stand strong and grow in their faith because the day of the Lord is coming. He acknowledges that this fact may appear inconsequential because, through their eyes, God may seem slow, but he says, "The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9, CSB). God is patient, giving them time to repent and forfeit their sins. He is the same way with us.

The severity that Peter conveys is not what we experience every new year, but the mindset of growing should be one we emulate always. Sin keeps us from growing and ensures that we remain the same, day by day, year after year.

The more we grow in our relationship with Christ, the more that will change. We will improve our relationships with people, our commitments, our possessions, and even with ourselves. Here are some benefits to becoming the new you today and not next year.

Deeper Faith: Much like the believers Peter admonished, when we pursue Christ daily, naturally, we develop a deeper relationship with Him. That means more trust, more peace, more understanding that God is for us, with us, and that He loves us. With deeper faith, we better appreciate those mountaintop seasons of life, and when the valley comes, enduring is not as difficult.

Scripture takes on a new light. We realize we aren't just reading about historical events disconnected from us. Our lives are the continuation of those earlier stories. When we pray, we do so in a way that makes us wonder



why we ever doubted God in the past and why we ever waited to go deeper with Him.

Better Habits: Losing weight, time management, reading more, there are so many ways we want to improve our habits. With those improvements comes a changed life. When we aren't happy about our behaviors, we lack confidence, motivation, and self-control. Working to change how we operate reverses that trend. Not only will we get more done, but we'll be happier as we do things. Ultimately, that means serving more and serving better, which is exactly what God has called us to do.

Stronger Relationships: The better you can be as an individual, the better you will be in any kind of relationship. As the adage goes, you can't love someone when you don't love yourself. To love is to will the good of another. Condoning bad habits is not willing your own good. You can't help someone else grow, like your children, friends, or parents, if you don't want to put in the work. Moreover, when you do put in that work, you'll find that relationships prosper also because people want to participate in your improvement journey. Friends often team up for weight loss challenges, and accountability is known to bring people closer.

Conclusion: Entry into Heaven, thankfully, doesn't require us to be perfect people. However, making the most of the time we have on this Earth requires us to strive for perfection. If you're the same person you were last year, or the year before, or five years before, something needs to change. Dig deep. Pray. Find accountability. Determine with all your might that you want to be better and look to Scripture for reasons why.

If you want these benefits but don't believe you can find or hold on to the motivation to get them, then memorize the aforementioned verses to help jumpstart your tomorrow! You shouldn't wait for January, not when you've been blessed with today.

There's nothing to lose and so much to gain.

Adapted from Crosswalk, 2023 25 Sep. "Why The New You Should Start Today, Not Next Year" by Aaron D'Anthony Brown

Things Grandchildren Need to Hear

“For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things...” (2 Peter 1:12)

Last week all our children were home along with their spouses and our eight grandchildren. We live on a ranch in the mountains so coming home to visit Gramma and Papa is filled with lots of adventures and feeding the animals.

Getting older brings clarity to what’s important. While we want our grandkids to remember their times on Papa’s farm, we want to leave them with a godly legacy. With this goal in mind, let’s look at 5 things every grandparent should tell their grandchildren.

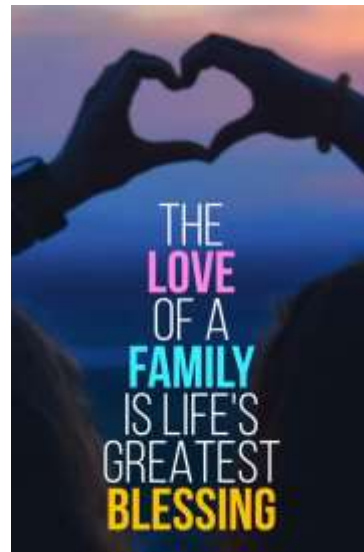
1. I’m so glad God made you. Our grandkids are growing up in a world that does not acknowledge God as their Creator, so it’s vital that parents and grandparents regularly remind them how God carefully designed them in their mother’s womb.

Along with knowing God made them, kids need to believe that people important to them are happy they are alive. Too many children struggle with feelings of inadequacy and loneliness. Some act out, some recluse, but few will say, “Hey, when you’re too busy to play with me, read to me, or tuck me in at night, I feel like I don’t matter.”

2. I will always listen to you. If you want to have the privilege of speaking truth to your grandkids, you have to earn that honor by being a good listener. Too many grandparents spend little time in conversations with their grandchildren until they see them making mistakes or choosing a wrong path. If the only time you engage with your grandchild is to correct them or point out what you don’t like about their attitude or attire, don’t be surprised if they’re not interested in listening to your wisdom when they become adolescents or young adults.

3. You are precious. “Jesus Loves the Little Children” is the song at the top of my 3-year-old granddaughter’s request list whenever she gets tucked into bed at night. I often bend over and kiss her forehead as I sing, “Red, brown, yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight” to show her how precious she really is to Jesus and to me.

Kids long to believe they are precious. And while God puts in the heart of every person a longing to find their worth in being loved deeply by their Creator, He has also created us to love and be loved by others. The more valued your grandchild feels by you and your



family, the more they will be empowered not to seek affirmation by their peers by succumbing to peer pressure.

4. God loves you. It may seem logical to teach kids about Christianity by telling them what the Bible says they should and should not do. And it is right to train them to honor and obey God’s commands. But if we focus only on the list of dos and don’ts, we miss

the wonderful opportunity to introduce our grandchildren to the depth of Jesus’ great love for them.

Kids learn best how they are loved when it is demonstrated to them through loving actions. Saying “I love you” without showing love can feel like empty words to a child—or anyone really. In the same way, God, who is the perfect loving Father, displayed the depth of His love by sending his only Son whose sacrifice would pay the price for our sin. Reminding your grandchild of how God lovingly offers new life in Christ to anyone who would turn from their sin to follow Jesus is a great way to help them realize how great the Father’s love is for them.

The Bible offers many reminders of God’s display of adoration for us. You would be wise to memorize some of these verses and regularly share them with your grandchild:

1. *“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called children of God.” (1 John 3:1)*
2. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)*
3. *“But God demonstrates His own love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)*

5. God has a plan for your life. From the time kids are little, people begin to ask them what they want to be when they grow up. Some children have a definite plan, like our oldest son who dreamt from a young age of being a fighter pilot in the Air Force. He grew up and did just that. But for most kids, their goals change daily—and that’s okay. But deep in their little minds, and this

Views of the 108th Salem Gymanfa Ganu

grows more intense as they reach adulthood, your grandchildren give a lot of thought to what they should do with their lives.

My husband often told our kids, and now our grandkids, "I don't care what you grow up to do for a living as long as you are serving Christ." When people would inquire, teaching them to respond by saying, "I'm gonna do whatever God wants me to do," took a lot of pressure off of our kids. When our younger son made the decision to study music in college, he was met with a number of negative comments from men who challenged the wisdom of his decision. Saying things like, "You can't support a family on a worship leader's salary."

These comments were meant in kindness but really threw off our son, Brandon. We would remind him how we trusted his decision because he was walking in a close walk with Christ and seeking the Lord for His wisdom and discernment. In the end Brandon studied music and biblical studies in college. After graduation he toured with some well-known Christian bands and then after he married, he was hired to lead worship at a church in Southern California. God has blessed Brandon's decision as a young man to follow the leading of the Spirit, rather than succumb to fear and follow the "more reasonable career path" others thought he should have taken.

I share this story to remind you of the power of your words as a grandparent. You can pour courage into your grandkids to follow God's plan for their lives if you remind them of how God saved them unto good works that He has ordained in advance (see Ephesians 2:8-10). Exposing your grandkids to Bible stories and good biographies of people who wholeheartedly followed Christ is a great way to inspire them to trust that God has a plan for their lives too.

Adapted from Crosswalk, 2022 30 Aug. "10 Things Grandchildren Need to Hear," by Rhonda Stoppe.

The 108th Salem Gymanfa Ganu was directed by Ben Williams. The organist was Connie (Lloyd) O'Neil. The pianist was Joyce (Summersett) Morris. The female soloist was Susan (Morgan) Leffel. The male soloist was Adam Rohrbaugh.



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: \$85,005.60
Received to Date: \$97,009.90



Shown is the **Time for Children** segment of the service with the **Sandy Skit** of the sermon points for childhood understanding.



2023-10-03 Kelly Lloyd with nursery children



2023-09-27 **Senior Luncheon and Bingo** at the Lions Club

Salem Newborns



2023-10-17 The **Drive Your Tractor to Church Sunday** during the **Blessing of the Harvest** event and potluck.



Left side: Born 2023-09-15 to Emmanuel and Cassy (Emery) Yeboah-Mantey; **Evana** born at 8 lbs.11 oz., 19 ½ inches long.

Right side: Born 2023-09-16 to Scott and Katie Lloyd, **Terri Jane** was born 7 lbs. 14 oz., 21 inches long.

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

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

Madison Pugh -USCGA

8800 Pine Forest Road
Apt. 6303
Pensacola, FL 32534

Dillon Ellerbrock (Marines)

Grandson of Gloria Leiter

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

No condolences to report this month

Birthdays

2 Kory Mullenhour
8 Bob McCollow
13 David Breese
13 Carter Dunlap
13 Kayla Owens/Mumford
14 Jason Kimmet
22 Ashley Finn
23 Remi Finn
25 Josh Hobbs
29 Nancy Swygart
28 Keaton Adkins
30 Jeff Coil

Anniversaries

2 Kevin & Heather Matthews
7 Jason & Sarah Kimmet
21 Bob & Kathy McCollow
30 Kevin & Kristen Price

Prayer Concerns

Josh Archinal (critical condition)
Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)
Edie Basham (back surgery)
Scott Basham (bypass surgery)
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
Ellen Friesner
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 (Zeb)
Monica Placke
Paul & Doris Price
Ann Rees
Dave Rees
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

October 2023

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 AM Worship Peace Offering World Communion Day	2	3 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	4	5 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Apostolic Church, 1017 S. Shannon	6	7
8 9:30 AM Worship with guest speaker Glenn Hux 5:00 PM Trustee Meeting	9 Columbus Day	10 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	11	12 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Apostolic Church, 1017 S. Shannon	13	14
15 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session Meeting	16	17 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	18	19 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Apostolic Church, 1017 S. Shannon	20	21
22 9:30 AM Worship Budget & Nomination Information is due	23	24 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	25 Noon-Senior Luncheon	26 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Apostolic Church, 1017 S. Shannon	27	28 Venedocia 6-7:30 PM - Village Trick or Treat. 4pm - 10 PM Lions Club party.
29 9:30 AM Worship	30	31 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible study. Halloween.				

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
October 1	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Mark & Missy Zielke	LaDonna Allenbaugh
October 8	Tuzz & Liz Hobbs	Mark & Missy Zielke	Cindy Bowsher
October 15	Jeff & Kim Coil	Mark & Missy Zielke	Connie O'Neill
October 22	Todd & Jayne Morris	Mark & Missy Zielke	Dave VanTilburg
October 29	Michael & Lindsay Breese	Mark & Missy Zielke	Cindy Bowsher
		Greeter:	Kim Coil

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



Drive Your Tractor to Church Sunday

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

**October 2023
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR C**

18th Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 1

Ex. 17:1-17 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Phil. 2:1-13 Matt. 21:23-32

19th Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 8

Ex. 20:1-4,7-9,12-20 Psalm 19
Phil. 3:4b-14 Matt. 21:33-46

20th Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 15

Ex. 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Phil. 4:1-9 Matt. 22:1-14

21st Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 22

Ex. 33:12-23 Psalm 99
1 Thess. 1:1-10 Matt. 22:15-22

22nd Sunday after Pentecost – Oct 29

Deut. 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thess. 2:1-8 Matt. 22:34-46