

Sunday: 2023-11-19
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Tyler & Morgan McConnell*)
10:30 AM Congregational meeting for officers and budget

Tuesday: 2023-11-21
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria
7:00 PM No bible study this week-Happy Thanksgiving!

Thursday: 2023-11-23
Noon Van Wert County prayer meeting is at the Pentecostal Way Church on 1213 Leeson Street.

Sunday: 2023-11-26
9:30 AM Worship with guest speaker John Zerbe (*nursery with Bob & Kathy McCollow*)

Announcements:

The **Van Wert Community Thanksgiving Service** is tonight at 6 PM, at the Trinity Friends Church located at 605 N. Franklin Street. Come at 5 PM if you want to sing in the choir with Sheila Collins.

The **first Sunday of Advent** is December 3rd. Breakfast will begin right after the morning service around 10:45 AM. Hope to see everyone there!

If you would like to **donate \$5 to decorate the church with poinsettias**, please give your money to Carla Breese or Lisa Lloyd by December 5.

The next **Senior Luncheon** will be held on December 6, at noon, at the Lions Club. All are welcome. Come check it out!

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. The November item is gravy packets and noodles.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **December Newsletter**. Submit them to secretary@salemchurch.cc.

Upcoming Birthdays

29th Kathy McCollow

30th Mike Breese



Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | November 19, 2023

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

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@salemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

Josh Archinal (recovering from car accident)
Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Jason Boyd (terminal cancer)
Dave Burnett (heart issues)
Kim Coil (foot surgery)
Lynn Collins (cancer)
Pastor Tom Emery (long Covid healing)
Marjorie Eutsler
Ellen Friesner
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Diana Glass (cancer)
Jane Harter
Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher
Pat Hunt (breast cancer)
Mandolin Jones (cancer)
Barb Kimmet
John Lloyd
Steve Martz
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
David Morris (Zeb)
Monica Placke
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)
Paul & Doris Price
Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)
Kristy Ringwald (adenoid cystic carcinoma)
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Doug Smith (Jen Pugh's father)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

Serving Our Country:

Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines)
Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)
Corbin Evans
Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)
Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

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Rev. Thomas Emery
“King of Kings” Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Salem Presbyterian Church
November 19, 2023

The failure of Judah's leaders to obey the commands of God led to judgment and disaster. The prophet Ezekiel understood the pain of those who had been betrayed by their leaders. Everything had collapsed: the economy, society, and security. Even the people's faith was rattled. The Babylonian army had come through and trampled everything. Ezekiel earlier used some harsh language trying to get through to the people. But once disaster strikes and the people's spirit is crushed, Ezekiel changes gears. Now, he speaks words of comfort, of restoration, of renewal. In our passage for this morning, Ezekiel compares the people to sheep whose shepherds have abused and abandoned them. Ezekiel speaks to people in spiritual pain.

TEACHING POINTS

First. *Jesus is the Shepherd God who is intimate with His sheep and their needs and hurts.*

Second. *He is personally in charge.*

Third. *He is the coming King.*

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY PASSAGE

“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds, the leaders of Israel. Give them this message from the Sovereign LORD: What sorrow awaits you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn't shepherds feed their sheep (Ezekiel 34:2 NLT)?

ACTION POINT

Today, we celebrate Christ the King Sunday as we conclude the Christian Lectionary Year A. We look to Jesus as the Good Shepherd and healer who loves and cares for us, and who will one day return in His glory. Let us allow ourselves to trust God. Let us embrace hope. Let us overcome the past and live in God's future. Everyone here can point to some pain from the past that nags at us. Maybe it has even robbed our lives of joy. Overcoming such pain is not easy or quick. Ezekiel assures us, though, that God knows our pain, cares about our pain, and is seeking us out to bring us wholeness. Sometimes, God works through support groups, pastoral counseling, or therapy. We do not have to give in to the pain; we do not have to let it win. God is working for us and in us. Let us open ourselves to God's grace. Praise the King who is coming again!

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