

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 25 Issue 11

November 2023

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

⁶Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. ⁷Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus (**Philippians 4:6-7**).

In 1939, as the threat of World War II loomed, the wise British government coined the slogan "Keep Calm and Carry On." It was displayed on posters widely distributed to the English general population to stir up their resolve to resist the ongoing German aggression. As German bombers roared overhead, everyone thought that period was one of the darkest in world history. The future of the free world and Christianity teetered in the balance. In those times, believers everywhere prayed fervently and openly. It was soon expected, Germany would invade across the English Channel.

Thankfully, most of us have not yet had to face that kind of tragedy and adversity in our own lives. Nonetheless in today's news, we find ourselves embroiled in a different type of brewing war in current world events.

The Middle East seemed about to explode on October 7th, after 1400 innocent Israeli civilians were murdered without mercy by Hamas terrorists acting as Iranian subsidized proxies. Thousands of Hamas rockets were daily fired into Israel. In response, Israeli has staged its troops along the Gaza boarder to do battle clearing out the Hamas terrorists from their Gaza underground tunnel networks.

Also, the navies of Russia, China, Turkey, NATO, the United States, and other Muslim countries seem to be on a collision course with saber rattling. Russia and Turkey and other Muslim countries are threatening to invade Israel if Iran, sponsoring the attacks of Hamas, is attacked by Israel. The Bible speaks of the Battle of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38 & 39 and Revelation 20). Several of the countries involved have nuclear weapons and may back up their nuclear threats.

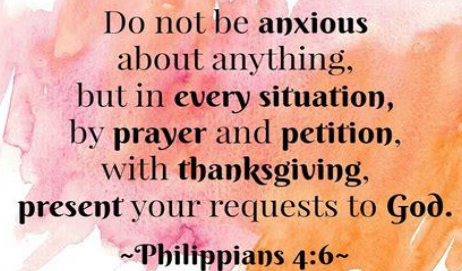
Our Southern border has been open the last few years to allow hundreds of Hamas and other terrorist sleeper cells to infiltrate America to cause damage. The Iranian

Mullahs (Iran's religious leadership) believe that their Islam prophesied "12th Eman" (Muslim Messiah) will come only with a great cataclysmic worldwide battle. Sadly, they believe that they are loyally obeying their faith by subsidizing worldwide destruction and murder.

Matthew 24:6 tells us: "6 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately."

Things will get worse before Jesus comes back to rapture His church. We have little to fear or to be anxious. We can claim calmness in our loving God and His care for us as this world becomes chaotic. Why not take full comfort in our God who holds our tomorrows. We are His children, and He is our loving Father who sent His Son to reconcile us with Him. He loves us!

Pastor Tom Emery



Do not be **anxious** about anything, but in **every situation**, by **prayer** and **petition**, with **thanksgiving**, present your requests to **God**.
~Philippians 4:6~

I Know Who Holds 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.

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:

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

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]

Refrain:

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

Written by Ira Stanphill. [YouTube version sung by the Petersons.](#)

October 29 – Reformation Sunday



Martin Luther pointing to the Bible stating the Protestant Reformation Five Distinctives: “**Scripture Alone**” is the only authority; “**Christ Alone**” is the only means of salvation; “**Grace Alone**” means that we are saved from our sins and damnation by the unearned grace (mercy) of “**God Alone**” without any of our works; finally, we are saved from our sins by “**Faith Alone**.”

The History of Thanksgiving

The Puritans were Reformation-minded and sought the freedom to worship God according to the scriptures; they had a lifestyle of seeking God's direction in His Word, not the established English Church doctrines of men. Fleeing England, throughout that first brutal winter in America, most of the colonists remained on board the ship, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and

outbreaks of contagious disease. Only half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first New England spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from a member of the Abenaki tribe who greeted them in English. They praised God for the miracle.



Several days later, he returned with another Native American, Squanto, a member of the Pawtuxet tribe who had been kidnapped by an English sea captain and sold into slavery before escaping to London and returning to his homeland on an exploratory expedition. Speaking fluent English, Squanto taught the Pilgrims, who were weakened by malnutrition and illness, how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous plants. He also helped the settlers forge an alliance based on Christian principles with the Wampanoag, a local tribe, which endured for more than 50 years and remains one of the sole examples of harmony between European colonists and Native Americans.

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as America's “First Thanksgiving”—although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time. The festival lasted for three days. While no record exists of the first Thanksgiving's exact menu, much of what we know about what happened at the first Thanksgiving comes from Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow.

Historians have suggested that many of the dishes were likely prepared using traditional Native American spices and cooking methods. Because the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had dwindled by the fall of 1621, the meal did not feature pies, cakes or other desserts, which have become a

hallmark of contemporary celebrations. Did you know that lobster, seal, and swans were on the Pilgrims' menu?

Adapted from Who Were the Pilgrims Who Celebrated the First Thanksgiving? by Craig Lambert, HUMANITIES, November/December 2015, Volume 36, Number 6.

Things Grandchildren Need to Hear - Part 2

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

Let us look at a few more things every grandparent should tell their grandchildren.

Loving God is the secret to loving others.

Loving others selflessly does not come naturally. Just spending an afternoon watching your grandkids take each other's toys confirms this truth. But there is a way to train your grandkids to love others in a way that is truly selfless.

But when people first determine to spend the rest of their lives discovering God's character as revealed in Scripture, their trust and love for Him will grow as they learn His ways. The more deeply you love God, the more freely His selfless love will spill out of your heart and onto those around you—even on those who are difficult to love. And don't you want this to be the example of love your kids learn from you, their grandparents?

Jesus said, *“The student will become like his teacher”* (Luke 6:40). Your grandchildren will learn to love by how they observe you loving others—not by how you tell them they should be treating people. You will bless your grandchildren if you teach them the secret to loving others deeply is not found in how well they measure up to your expectations, but in how well they love God. And let it begin with you.

Be quick to forgive.

Learning to quickly forgive others and to think well of them are valuable lessons to teach your grandchild. It is in our sinful nature to hold onto grudges and to assign wrong motives to people's actions. But by God's grace and the Spirit's power, we can break free of these unpleasant sinful practices to become a person who is ready to forgive—and looks for the best in others.

Wouldn't you agree that the best friendships are with those who you trust to believe the best about you? Helping your grandchild discover this valuable secret

will equip them to become someone others will not only like to be around, but also trust to be a loyal friend.

Be content.

1 Timothy 6:6 says, *“Godliness with contentment is great gain.”* In a generation where your grandkids will be influenced to believe they're entitled to more of whatever their little heart's desire, training them this valuable secret of contentment will do more to equip them for a happy life than all the gifts you might lavish upon them.

Trust me, I'm a grandparent who loves to pile gifts on my grandkids. But a wise grandparent will balance generosity with training them to be grateful for what they have. Ask God for His wisdom to help you guide them in godliness and contentment—beginning with your own example.

I'm praying for you.

When I was a young girl, I'd awaken each morning to the smell of coffee. As I dragged my sleepy self out of bed, I'd walk past the living room where I'd see my father on his knees praying for our family. (To this day the smell of coffee brings a warm reminder of those mornings.) I cannot tell you the security I felt knowing my daddy was daily interceding before God on our behalf. I learned from his example the power of prayer. So naturally when I had children, praying for them became a regular practice.

These days my children are grown, married, and have kids of their own. My father continues to pray for my kids, their spouses, and their children. My eldest daughter recently said, “Mom, Papa's prayers are precious to me. I love knowing that he and Oma are daily praying for me and my family.” One of the most powerful legacies you can leave your grandkids is training them by example the importance of prayer.

Tell others about the hope of Jesus.

Do your grandkids hear you complaining about how the world's going to hell in a handbasket? Or do they sense your burden for the lost who are blinded by the enemy? It's easy to point out what's wrong in the world today, and we should help our grandkids learn to discern right from wrong. But couple those comments with your deep sorrow over the lost. And how their only hope for salvation is if we tell them God loves them so much He sent His Son to save them from their sin.

In this way you'll train them not to grow overwhelmed with anxiety, but rather to ask God to use them as a light

shining like a star in a crooked and perverse generation (Daniel 12:3, Philippians 2:15). For in this, your grandchildren will find purpose in life and hope for the future. And I promise you won't regret it!

Adapted from Crosswalk, 2022 30 Aug. Rhonda Stoppe.

Veterans' Day



Veterans Day is a U.S. legal holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars, and Veterans Day 2023 will occur on Saturday, November 11. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as "the Great War."

Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became known as Veterans Day.

We thank our Veterans for their service and their sacrifices for our community and our country!

All Saints Day

All Saints' Day was first recognized in the fourth century, born from the Roman tradition of venerating the persecuted Christians and admired saints who lived devoted to Christ. Strategically shifted to November 1 in the 8th century, it synchronized with the Celtic festival of Samhain, echoing similar themes.



The Protestant Reformation saw both Anglican and Lutheran churches retaining All Saints' Day, albeit with a shifted emphasis. Because of the day's association with the remembrance for the dead, many churches publish a necrology. Here is the Roll for Salem Church.

2023 Naming of the Saints:

Mary Ellen Lloyd, George Siler, Charles Profit, Joe Lemming, Kathy Comer, Jeanette Walls, Jim Overholt, Gary Adams, Diane Black, John Stutz, Phil Linton, Betty Sidel, Bartie Jones, Jim Francis, Deb Fair, Scott Myers, Lain Patterson, Matthew Hemker, Janice Osburn, Linda Miller, & Michelle Miller.

Salem Music Committee Report

Mark your 2024 calendar for the annual Gymanfa Ganu. We have started making plans and have already selected a director. Our director will be Truman Littler. He is currently a music teacher at Elida Local Schools. Truman directed the Gomer Gymanfa in 2023 and is anxious to join us in Venedocia on Sunday September 1, 2024.

We are looking forward to hosting another great event. Stay tuned for announcements on our special music selections! Any suggestions or requests please contact Kathy McCollow.

Delicious Coffee Cake by Liz Hobbs

- 1 yellow cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 1 c. oil
- 1 c. water
- 1 pkg. instant butterscotch pudding
- 1 pkg instant vanilla pudding
- ½ tsp vanilla

Topping

- 1 c. chopped pecans
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 Tbl Cinnamon

Mix 1st 7 ingredients and place in a greased and floured 9 x 13 pan. Mix the toppings, and place on top of cake mix. This can be swirled in with a knife or left on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes, reduce to 325 degrees and bake for an additional 40 minutes.

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: \$95,903.75
Received to Date: \$108,030.90

Views of Salem



2023-10-28 John C. and Anne Morris Halloween costumes with great grandkids



2023-10-28 Brezlynn & Breck Morris / Rayna Rigdon at the Lions Club Halloween Event



2023-10-25 Senior Luncheon and Bingo. Helpers Kim Coil, Marylin Foust (Scarecrow) , Sarah Kimmet, and Rayna Rigdon were shown.



2023-10-29 Younger Sunday School kids



2023-10-28 Lotti McConnell, Morgan McConnell, and Carol Emery Trick-or-Treating



2023-10-29 Older Sunday School kids

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

Corbin Evans (Marines)

Grandson of Bill & Ruth
Evans

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 Lain Patterson,
Matthew Hemker, Janice Osburn, Linda Miller,
and Michelle Miller.

Birthdays

1 Avery Zielke
1 Dan Lloyd
5 Carla Breese
5 Missy Zielke
10 Lucas Mullenhour
11 Sarah Kimmet
12 Catie Emery
18 Boone Finn
29 Kathy McCollow
30 Mike Breese

Anniversaries

No anniversaries this month

Prayer Concerns

Josh Archinal (recovering from car accident)
Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Jason Boyd (cancer)
Dave Burnett (heart)
Lynn Collins (cancer)
Stephanie Dillon (lymphoma)
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)
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)
John Lloyd
Steve Martz
Carol Matthews (Lou Gehrig's disease)
Wayne McMichael
David Morris (Zeb)
Monica Placke
Paul & Doris Price
Ann Rees
Kristy Ringwald (adenoid cystic carcinoma)
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Doug Smith (Jen Pugh's father)
Phillip Winfield (brain tumor)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

November 2023

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Pentecostal Way Church, 1213 Leeson St.	3	4
5 9:30 AM Worship All Saints Day 10:45 AM Joint Trustee/ Session Meeting	6	7 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	8	9 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Pentecostal Way Church, 1213 Leeson St.	10	11
12 9:30 AM Worship Reports available to the Congregation. Last day to turn in shoeboxes	13	14 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible study	15	16 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Pentecostal Way Church, 1213 Leeson St.	17	18
19 9:30 AM Worship Congregational meeting to approve Budget & Officers will follow the service. 6 PM VW Community Thanksgiving Service at Trinity Friends Ch, 605 N. Franklin St.	20	21 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. No bible study at 7	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving!	24	25
26 9:30 AM Worship with guest speaker John Zerbe	27	28 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible study.	29	30 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at Pentecostal Way Church, 1213 Leeson St.		

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
November 5	Mark & Missy Zielke	Mark & Missy Zielke	Joyce Morris
November 12	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins	Mark & Missy Zielke	Cindy Bowsher
November 19	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Mark & Missy Zielke	Cindy Bowsher
November 26	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Mark & Missy Zielke	Dave VanTilburg
		Greeter:	Marylin & Makenna

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



2023-10-28 Gabrielle Lloyd held by Danielle Lloyd

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

November 2023 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR A

23rd Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 5

Josh. 3:7-17	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thess. 2:9-13	Matt. 23:1-12

24th Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 12

Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25	Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thess. 4:13-18	Matt. 25:1-13

25th Sunday after Pentecost – Nov 19

Judg. 4:1-7	Psalm 123
1 Thess. 5:1-11	Matt. 25:14-30

Christ the King/Reign of Christ – Nov 26

Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 100
Eph. 1:15-23	Matt. 25:31-46
