

Sunday: 2023-12-24
 9:30 AM Christmas Worship (nursery is not staffed today)
 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service & Communion

Tuesday: 2023-12-26
 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria

Thursday: 2023-12-27
 Noon The Van Wert County Prayer Meeting will be at the Living Truth Ministries at 1180 South Washington, Van Wert, Ohio.

Sunday: 2023-12-31
 9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Steve & Lindsay Richards)

Announcements:

The Women's Bible Study is canceled for this week, but will resume Tuesday, January 2nd.

There is a **Sunday School sign-up sheet** at the back of the church. We are asking people to sign up for a month at a time to help with lessons during the church service time.

The **2023 Offering Envelope Boxes** can be found on the white table in the Prayer Room. Please sign your name beside the box number you take for the new year.

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 December item is toilet paper.

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

Upcoming Birthdays

30 th Isaiah Pugh	Jan 2 nd Chris Beck	3 rd Emily Blackmore
5 th Karen Pugh	6 th Jim Lloyd	7 th Nell Jean Wienken
7 th Loretta Williams		

Upcoming Anniversaries

28 th Doug & Marilyn Strickler	Jan 9 th Michael & Lindsay Breese
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Salem Presbyterian Church

Venedocia, Ohio | December 24, 2023 AM

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

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@salemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

LaDonna Allenbaugh (heart issues)
Josh Archinal (recovering from car accident)
Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)
Sara Beeks (heart)
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
Anne and John C. Morris
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)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

Serving Our Country:

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

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Rev. Thomas Emery
“A Child Is Born” Isaiah 9:2-7
Salem Presbyterian Church
December 24, 2023 AM

The Child is God’s gift to humanity’s predicament. He is fully human (“*a child*,” “*born*,” and “*a son*”), but He is also divine, with all the perfections of kingship in Himself: supernatural wisdom, might, and peace. This Son will reign forever in justice, righteousness, and peace. The certainty of His kingdom is guaranteed by “*the zeal of the Lord*” (9:7).

The context is the events that occurred in fulfillment of the judgment for the Hebrew’s disobedience to God’s commands. In 733 BC, the Assyrians besieged Damascus and invaded the region of Galilee, including Zebulun and Naphtali, to add them into their kingdom (2 Kings 15:29). “*Gloom*” and “*distress*” resulted from foreign oppression and the Hebrew separation from the covenantal love of God. But Isaiah prophesied that the Lord would forgive them and graciously turn their disgrace into glory. How? By the coming of the Messiah (9:1–7). The Messiah will free His people from their enemies.

TEACHING POINTS

First. God entered the world as a tiny babe to be our Savior.

Second. In this Child, we see God's loving goodness.

Third. This child guides us through our dark world.

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY PASSAGE

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6 NLT).

ACTION POINT

When the storms about us are swirling, and the winds of confusion are blowing, there's a person who we can look to for guidance. There is a little child called "*The Rock of Ages*" that can lead us to safety. His Name is Jesus. What Child is this? That Child is God's gift given to you by special delivery, wrapped up in love. You can know Him personally as the Son of Man, Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Savior of the world. He came to earth for a relationship with you. Why not turn to Him today to know His love for you?

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