

# Salem Presbyterian Church

## Sunday, Dec 31st, 2023, 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery    Pianist: Cindy Bowsher

The flowers are given in loving memory of Lee and Marcile Lare  
by the Lare family



Prelude  
Lighting of the Candles  
Welcome & Prayer

<u>Call to Worship</u>	Psalm 148	571
<u>*Hymn:</u>	Joy to the World	87

**Prayer of Confession: We bow our heads in Holy reverence. Forgive us our sins – those we know, those we hide, and those we do not know we commit. Oh God, we long to be free of the burdens that hold us captive. We long to be bearers of Good News to the oppressed around us. We long to return to Your favor. Forgive us our transgressions and loosen the chains of doubt that bind us. We thank You to hear our prayers. We pray in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.** *(Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our personal prayers of confession).*

<u>Assurance of Pardon</u>	<b>Glory Be to the Father</b>	Inside Front Cover
<u>Response</u>		

Joys & Concerns of the Church  
Prayers of the People

<u>Prayer Response</u>	<b>The Lord's Prayer</b>	
<u>Scripture Readings</u>	*Isaiah 61:1-11	678
	Luke 2:22-40	933
	Galatians 4:4-7	1061

Time for Children

<u>Hymn:</u>	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	38
<u>Sermon:</u>	" <i>The Messiah Explained</i> "	Rev. Thomas Emery

**\*Apostle's Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

<u>Offertory Prayer</u>	<b>Praise God</b>	Inside Front Cover
<u>*Response</u>		

<u>*Hymn:</u>	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	36
---------------	------------------------------	----

*Taking the Light into the World	
*Charge and Benediction	
*Congregational Response	<b>Three Fold Amen</b> Inside Back Cover

*\*Those who are able are invited to stand.*



### Financial Update:

Needed Weekly:	\$2,179.63	Needed to Date:	\$113,340.80
Rec'd 12-24-23:	\$1,627.00	Rec'd to Date:	\$123,477.90

**Sunday:** 2023-12-31  
9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Steve & Lindsay Richards)  
No Sunday School today

**Tuesday:** 2024-01-02  
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria  
No Women's Bible study, it will resume 01/09/2024

**Thursday:** 2024-01-04  
Noon The Van Wert County Prayer Weekly Meeting will be  
at the First Baptist Church, 13887 Jennings Road.

**Sunday:** 2023-01-07  
9:30 AM Worship with guest speaker John Zerbe  
(nursery with Dave & Carla Breese)

**Announcements:**

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 **2024 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.

The next Session meeting is after the Service on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **February Newsletter**. Submit them to [secretary@saalemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@saalemchurch.cc).

**Upcoming Birthdays**

2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Beck  
6<sup>th</sup> Jim Lloyd

3<sup>rd</sup> Emily Blackmore  
7<sup>th</sup> Nell Jean Wienken

5<sup>th</sup> Karen Pugh  
7<sup>th</sup> Loretta Williams

**Upcoming Anniversaries**

9<sup>th</sup> Michael & Lindsay Breese



*Salem Presbyterian Church*

Venedocia, Ohio | December 31, 2023

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

[www.SalemChurch.cc](http://www.SalemChurch.cc) | [secretary@saalemchurch.cc](mailto:secretary@saalemchurch.cc)

**Prayer Concerns:**

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)

**Prayer Concerns:**

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)

Rev. Thomas Emery  
“The Messiah Explained” Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
December 31, 2023

The logic of Isaiah’s preaching has been, “*This is why you ought to take me seriously and turn back to Yahweh*” (or why you should have already). But, the prophet now speaks of a new day for the people. The transgressions of the past, those that led to the exile, will be forgotten. God will not concentrate on what happened before but will look to the future. It is a new day. God says to the prophet that He will clothe the community with “*the garments of salvation... a robe of righteousness.*” God will care for Israel as a bride and groom care for each other on their wedding day. The nation will be embellished with flowers and jewels as if preparing to marry the Lord.

### TEACHING POINTS

*First. The world offers idols, not the Messiah.*

*Second. The authentic Messiah was entirely defined by God seven hundred years in advance.*

*Third. We need to decide what we will do with the real Messiah who has come to us.*

### THIS WEEK’S MEMORY PASSAGE

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, for the LORD has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released, and prisoners will be freed (Isaiah 61:1 NLT).*

### ACTION POINT

The Prophet was sent to announce a transformation, and thus to bind up the people who are crushed in their thinking. Jesus, the Messiah, came to rescue us from fear. People are instinctively afraid of the unknown and the future; uncertainty is always filled with fear. Jesus came to save us from ourselves. Too often harmful practices, addictions, laziness, apathy, and indifference enter our lives causing a sense of unease or possible darkness that obscures the light. Jesus came to rescue us from sin. The proper road to take is not the natural path, but it is the only path that leads to life. Jesus gave us a formula for life today and the way that will lead to eternal life tomorrow. That route is a relationship with God by making Christ our Lord and Savior. Jesus died to set us free. Why not seriously examine this Messiah who loves you more than you can fathom?

Rev. Thomas Emery  
“The Messiah Explained” Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
December 31, 2023

The logic of Isaiah’s preaching has been, “*This is why you ought to take me seriously and turn back to Yahweh*” (or why you should have already). But, the prophet now speaks of a new day for the people. The transgressions of the past, those that led to the exile, will be forgotten. God will not concentrate on what happened before but will look to the future. It is a new day. God says to the prophet that He will clothe the community with “*the garments of salvation... a robe of righteousness.*” God will care for Israel as a bride and groom care for each other on their wedding day. The nation will be embellished with flowers and jewels as if preparing to marry the Lord.

### TEACHING POINTS

*First. The world offers idols, not the Messiah.*

*Second. The authentic Messiah was entirely defined by God seven hundred years in advance.*

*Third. We need to decide what we will do with the real Messiah who has come to us.*

### THIS WEEK’S MEMORY PASSAGE

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, for the LORD has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released, and prisoners will be freed (Isaiah 61:1 NLT).*

### ACTION POINT

The Prophet was sent to announce a transformation, and thus to bind up the people who are crushed in their thinking. Jesus, the Messiah, came to rescue us from fear. People are instinctively afraid of the unknown and the future; uncertainty is always filled with fear. Jesus came to save us from ourselves. Too often harmful practices, addictions, laziness, apathy, and indifference enter our lives causing a sense of unease or possible darkness that obscures the light. Jesus came to rescue us from sin. The proper road to take is not the natural path, but it is the only path that leads to life. Jesus gave us a formula for life today and the way that will lead to eternal life tomorrow. That route is a relationship with God by making Christ our Lord and Savior. Jesus died to set us free. Why not seriously examine this Messiah who loves you more than you can fathom?