

Sunday: 01-21-2024
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Rex & Lisa Lloyd*).

Tuesday: 01-23-2024
7:30 AM Men's Bible Study at the Van Wert Hospital Cafeteria.
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

Thursday: 01-25-2024
Noon Van Wert County Prayer Meeting at First Baptist Church

Sunday: 01-28-2024
9:30 AM Worship (*nursery with Todd & Jayne Morris*).
Congregational Meeting

Announcements:

Please sign up for the new **2024 Flower Calendar**.

The **end-of-year reports** are available to the congregation today. The Congregational Meeting will be next Sunday to vote on its acceptance.

The **Offering Envelopes** can be found on the white table in the prayer room; please sign your name beside the box number you take for the year 2024.

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 January item is boxed meals (ex. Hamburger helper).

Please take photos and contribute recipes, thoughts, and ideas for the **February newsletter**. Submit them to secretary@saalemchurch.cc.

Upcoming Birthdays

30th Doris Price

30th John Smith

31st Carrie Jone



Genesis 1:1-5

Salem Presbyterian Church

January 21, 2024

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

www.SalemChurch.cc | 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
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
“*Evolution or God*” Genesis 1:1-5
Salem Presbyterian Church
January 21, 2024

We all ask two questions – “Where did the universe come from?” and “Why does it exist?” Genesis 1:1 simply states, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (NLT). God's Word to man, says humankind had a divine supernatural beginning. God's hand is behind the entire created order. No natural forces exist on their own. Nothing comes from any other source. God's Word is not only the place where the laws of nature come, but God's Word also tells us how we ought to live.

TEACHING POINTS

First. Belief in evolution is parallel to belief in creationism. Both are beliefs that their followers hold to be true, but neither belief has been capable of proof.

Second. If evolution is such a deficient theory, if, in fact, it not only didn't happen but really couldn't have happened, why do scientists so vigorously defend it? It is because otherwise, we would have to acknowledge that there is a God to whom we are accountable.

Third. Only when you understand how you got here, will you ever know why you are here. Only God can answer the fundamental questions of human existence.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY PASSAGE

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1 NLT).

ACTION POINT

This debate provides answers to whether we were created for a purpose, or whether we have no purpose and plan for our life. Finally, it answers whether some things are right, and some things are wrong (and God's Word tells us which is which) With evolution, right and wrong are merely up to a majority vote or might makes right determined by the strongest. Then, we look at the world we live in today with weeds, pests, bacteria, viruses, murder, rape, war, hatred, and violence, and we have to ask, “So what happened?”

The lesson is this - there is a hole in our souls that can only be filled by the God who created us. The reason the Creator God came to earth and lived and died as a man and was raised from the dead was to fill that hole with grace, forgiveness, and love. Understand not only that we were created, but also understand that the God of Creation wants to personally relate to us, both now and forever. With that awareness, life will begin to be lived with a purpose and meaning. Why not speak to God now, and let Him know that you also want a deep loving relationship with Him?

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