

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

Volume 26 Issue 2

February 2024

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

“Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds (Revelation 22:12 NLT).”

Maybe you've become indifferent to the sound of Jesus knocking on your heart. Perhaps, your attention has been captured by other things like work, finances, and romantic love. Those things seem important until you realize that they are only temporary. Jesus has warned us that He is coming quickly.

When your life is over or when the Lord returns, nothing on this earth will be of any value. We all think that we have more time to get right with God, but the truth is that life is short. Tomorrow is not guaranteed. Things we do today matter on an eternal level. If Jesus came back today, would you be ready? Would you be able to say that your heart was firmly set on Christ?

Matthew 7:21-23 says,²¹ “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.²² On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your Name and cast out demons in your Name and performed many miracles in your Name.’²³ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’”

It's a sobering thought that someone could prophecy in the Name of Jesus, cast out demons in the Name of Jesus, and do miraculous things in Jesus' Name yet still miss the point of this Christian walk.

Some people do all the right things. They'll say all the right words, but still their hearts will not be in the right place. You see a true relationship with Jesus it's not about following all the rules or working hard to earn His favor. Walking with Christ requires us to understand that it's all about Him. It's all about Jesus. It's all about His will. His way. It's about a deep meaningful relationship with Him.

I hope that I'm making myself clear: being a Christian is not about anything else other than Jesus Christ. Matthew 15 verse 8 Jesus says these people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me. In all of

their spiritual words and actions, these people do not seek to glorify God. They seek to glorify themselves. Don't let that be the story of your life.

Don't be content with simply looking like a Christian on the outside. True Christianity isn't about fixing up your appearance, it's about loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. Your eternal future hinges on that distinction.



If you profess to follow Jesus, the four words you never want to hear are: “I Never knew you.” When you stand before the throne of God, will He look at you as a son or daughter or will he look at you like a stranger He's never met?

I have Good News for you as you prepare for Lent. There's still time to get to know Jesus, and there's still time to ask yourself if you are truly living for God or if you're living for the things of this world. Do you have a real relationship with Jesus Christ? Do you know Him or do you just know a lot of things about Him? Our salvation is not based on how many verses we've memorized or our church attendance or our theology, it's based on having a true relationship with God. If you've been distant from Him lately, run back to the Lord with all your heart and ask Him to renew your thinking.

Ask him to make you authentic in your love and desire for Christ. May your actions reflect the heart of someone whom Jesus has touched. To know Jesus means to follow Him not just in the good times but through hardship and suffering. If you truly love Jesus, you must be willing to endure everything He endured, because you believe He is worthy of all things. If you truly love Jesus, you must be willing to endure everything He endured because you believe He is worthy of all things.

Let us all humble ourselves and pray. "Lord Jesus, please become my Lord and Savior. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I know now that I have sought this world with its temporary pleasures and sin. This season of Lent, help me, Jesus, to put you first in my life. Help me to only live for You. All that I have, my talents, treasures, and time, I put at Your feet. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.

Pastor Tom Emery

"Lead Me to The Cross"

Savior I come
Quiet my soul remember
Redemption's hill
Where Your blood was spilled
For my ransom
Everything I once held dear
I count it all as loss

Lead me to the cross
Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees
Lord, I lay me down
Rid me of myself
I belong to You
Lead me, lead me to the cross

You were as I
Tempted and trialed
Human
The word became flesh
Bore my sin and death
Now you're risen

Everything I once held dear
I count it all as loss

Lead me to the cross
Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees
Lord, I lay me down
Rid me of myself
I belong to You
Lead me, lead me to the cross

To your heart
To your heart
Lead me to your heart
Lead me to your heart

Lead me to the cross
Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees
Lord, I lay me down

Rid me of myself
I belong to You
Lead me, lead me

Lead me to the cross
Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees
Lord, I lay me down
Rid me of myself
I belong to You
Oh, lead me
Lead me to the cross

Lead Me to the Cross by Hillsong. [YouTube Link](#)



Why Lent?

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed (Isaiah 53:5 NLT).

Welcome to the annual season of Lent. Lent is a time of reflection on Christ's suffering and death on the cross for our sins. As we embark on this six-week journey, we should remember and meditate on the great sacrifice that was made on our behalf.

Invite others to gather with you at your worship service. This may be the first time they hear of the saving love of Jesus for them.

Read your Bible and retrace the sorrow, the pain and agony, the betrayal that Jesus endured.

Week One of Lent - Spiritual Preparation

In the words of Jesus, "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? (Luke 15:4)

In Jesus' time, a shepherd's job wasn't just to ensure his sheep had grass to eat and water to drink; he also had to protect his flock. Sheep are so gentle that it's



Ash Wednesday

easy for wolves to catch them. The shepherd would watch them by day and sleep beside them at night.

Spending so much time with them meant he knew each one individually. Often, out of love, the shepherd would give each sheep a name. If one went missing, it wasn't enough that he had ninety-nine others. One of his beloved creatures could be hurt, or even worse. His heart wouldn't stop hurting until he found his missing sheep.

Our Savior is our Good Shepherd. He knows each of us by name and watches over us always. If we stray from Him, He'll never stop trying to lead us back. It isn't until we return to Him that His heart stops hurting.

Let's pray: *Good Shepherd, thank you for choosing me for Your flock and for watching over me always. In Jesus' Name, Amen!*

Week Two - Resisting Temptation

Satan's words to Jesus, "I will give it all to you if you will worship me" (Luke 4:7 NLT).

On Sue's first day at her new school, she sat by herself in the lunchroom. Julia immediately came over and joined her. Although Julia was awkward and shy, she was also welcoming and kind. They sat together for the rest of the week.

During Sue's second week, the popular Emerson came up to her and said, "The girls and I have decided we like you. You can sit at our lunch table from now on, but you have to ditch Julia. There's no way she's sitting with us."

Sue was tempted by Emerson's offer, the same way Jesus was tempted by the devil in the desert. But just like Emerson said Sue had to ditch Julia, the devil said Jesus had to turn against God and worship the devil instead.

Despite being incredibly weak from 40 days without food, Jesus found the strength to resist the temptation.

Sue did the same. She and Julia have been friends ever since.

We all are met with temptation of some form or another in our daily lives. It could be so subtle as to tell a "little white lie", fudge the numbers in your tax ledger, have lustful thoughts, or wish someone harm. Jesus is well acquainted with human temptation. He experienced it all because He (being fully God), walked upon this earth being fully human. He never gave in to Satan, yet He was tempted far beyond what we will ever be. Jesus had the strength of His Father and the guidance of the Holy Spirit leading Him. We are offered the strength of our Father and guidance of the Holy Spirit to resist – to flee from temptation. We, like Jesus, need to keep our focus on what is right and call out to Him for help when we are tempted.

"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure" (1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT).

Let's pray: *Dear God, please protect me from all temptation by giving me the strength and courage to always do the right thing. In Jesus' Name, Amen!*

Adapted from With Our Savior: Family Devotions for Lent, by Claire McGarry.

Salem Announcements

St. David's Day

Come join us on **March 3rd** for our **St. David's Day Service** starting at 9:30 am. We will be honoring our Welsh heritage by singing our favorite Welsh hymns and special music with our youth handbell players and Connie O'Neill on the organ.

Immediately following the service, there will be a **Church Meal** featuring a spaghetti dinner including salad, garlic bread, and desserts. Our chefs for the day will be Mark Zielke, Steve Richards, and Kevin Price. The youth will be assisting. There will be a free-will offering for the meal which will go towards paying for Sunday school, Bible school supplies, and confirmation class supplies.

Also, please **wear something yellow**, as this is the favorite color of Wales. Even if you only have yellow socks, Wear Them!! St David once suggested to the Welsh soldiers that they wear a leek on their helmets, to help distinguish them from the invading Saxon soldiers who wore similar uniforms. So, if you don't want to wear yellow, pin a leek on your shoulder!!

Music Committee

The music committee met on January 9, 2024 officers were elected and they are as follows:

President Kathy McCollow
Secretary Denise Pugh
Treasurer Carla Breese
Members also include Lisa Lloyd, Jan Jones, Jen Pugh, and Claudia LeValley

2024 Gymanfa Ganu

The annual Gymanfa Ganu will be held on **Sunday, September 1, 2024 at 7 pm**. Our director this year will be **Truman Littler**. Truman is currently a vocal music teacher in the Elida Schools. He was the 2023 director at the Gomer Gymanfa. More information about the Gymanfa coming in the next few months. Save the date!

We have several **old Hymnals** in the church basement. as you recall, we replaced all damaged ones in 2021. If anyone would like one of the damaged or well-used ones, please let us know or pick one up at church before June 1st.

We have planned some special music for Sunday services, but still have some dates available so if you have any suggestions, please let us know. We are open to new names, talents, and ideas!

Please remember to listen to the **carillons** whenever you are in the area. They sound beautiful and warm your heart on these cold winter days!

Our youth (ages range from 4 years to 17 years) bell ringers continue to brighten some of our mornings, and we so appreciate all the effort on the parent's part in getting them to practice and early arrival on Sunday mornings!

Stay warm and keep a song in your heart.
The Salem Music Committee

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 \$9,192.40
Received to Date \$12,548.50

Salem Photos



2024-01-21 Ordination and Installation of the Session Members: Denise Pugh, Morgan McConnell, Rex Lloyd, Marilyn Foust, Bob McCollow, Johnathon Morris, and McKenna Kimmet.



2024-01-14 Junior Bell Choir



2024-01-14 Holden Price as the service reader.



2023-12-17 Jackson Dunlap as Acolyte.



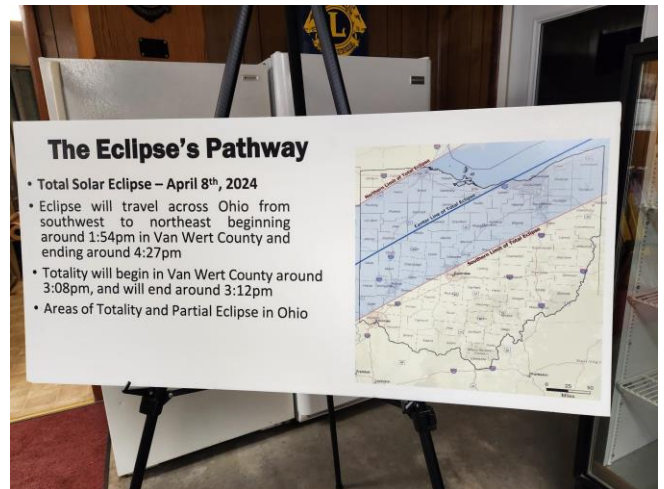
2024-01-28 Kirsten Fuelling singing O' Lord Be Merciful.



2023-12-24 Chance Mosier and Missy Zielke at the Christmas service.



2024-01-22 Matt Saunier, Chairman of the Van Wert County EMA Community Emergency Response Team making an Eclipse presentation before the Lions Club. The event will double the population of Van Wert.



The eclipse will occur on April 8 around 1:54 PM. Most hotels and campgrounds will be filled in the county. County traffic by GPS will be routed to back roads. The Fairgrounds will be open.



IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Remember our elderly members, soldiers, and college students with cards and visits.

“Young at Heart”

John Lloyd

Hearth & Home
1118 Westwood Dr
Van, OH 45891

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

Dillon Ellerbrock

(Marines)
Grandson of Gloria Leiter

Lloyd (Butch) Eutsler

(National Guard)
14975 Van Wert-Mercer
Co. Line Road
Venedocia, OH 45894

Madison Pugh-USCGA

8800 Pine Forest Rd
Apt 6303
Pensacola, FL 32534

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 family of Ron Owens.

Birthdays

1 John Lloyd	1 Ashley McClure
1 Lindsay Breese	2 Jerry Holscher
4 Andrew Emery	12 Madison Pugh
13 Audrey McCollow	15 Cabrielle Lloyd
16 Jeff Lloyd	16 Scott Lloyd
18 Dalton Ellerbrock	18 Marylin Foust
19 Corey Hobbs	21 Paul Price
24 Tim Price	25 Bill McGee

Anniversaries

15 Brian & April Ellerbrock	
15 John & Anne Morris	22 Dave & Ann Rees

Prayer Concerns

Josh Archinal (recovering from car accident)
Cindy (Davis) Barnes (liver transplant)
Sara Beeks (heart)
Charles Boroff (heart issue)
Jason Boyd (cancer)
Dave Burnett (heart)
Kim Coil (recovery from surgery)
Pastor Tom Emery (Long Covid recovery)
Marjorie Eutsler
Corbin Evans (car accident)
Ellen Friesner
Shana Fryer
Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)
Jane Harter

Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher
Pat Hunt (breast cancer)
Barb Kimmet
John Lloyd (at Hearth & Home)
David Morris (Zeb)
Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)
Paul & Doris Price
Ann Rees (at Hearth & Home)
Kristy Ringwald (adenoid cystic carcinoma)
Evelyn Schwartz
Derek Sellers (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy)
Phillip Winfield (brain tumor)
The area Nursing Homes and their residents

February 2024

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Good Shepherd Naz. Church	2	3
4 9:30 AM Worship Souper Bowl of Caring	5	6 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	7	8 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Good Shepherd Naz. Church	9	10
11 9:30 AM Worship Communion 5:00 Trustee Meeting.	12	13 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	14	15 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Good Shepherd Naz. Church	16	17
18 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session meeting.	19	20 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	21	22 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Good Shepherd Naz. Church	23	24
25 9:30 AM Worship	26	27 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	28	29 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. at the Good Shepherd Naz. Church		

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
February 4	Kevin & Kristin Price		Cindy Bowsher
February 11	Jeremy & Samantha Morris		Connie O'Neill
February 18	Michael & Lindsay Breese		Becky Reichart
February 25	Mark & Missy Zielke		Dave VanTilburg
		Greeter:	Denise Pugh

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



2024-01-28 Sunday service.

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

February 2024
REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY
YEAR B

5th Sunday after Epiphany – Feb 4

Isa. 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
 1 Cor, 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

Transfiguration of the Lord – Feb 11

2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6
 2 Cor. 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

1st Sunday in Lent – Feb 18

Gen. 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10
 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

2nd Sunday in Lent – Feb 25

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31
 Rom. 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38