

SOUNDS OF SALEM

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

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March 2024

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news! (Romans 10:15 NLT)”

This Lent Season, we might realize that we think too small. Suppose we could fully imagine what God can do with our lives. Let me illustrate how God works in this world.

Way back in 1858, a Sunday School teacher in Chicago named **Ezra Kimball** became interested in the spiritual welfare of a young shoe clerk in his town. The Holy Spirit was tugging at him. After debating what to do about it, Kimball started down toward Holton's shoe store where the young man worked.

After walking past the store once or twice, Kimball finally mustered up his courage and went in. Finding the young man in the stock room, Kimball proceeded to talk with the young man about his faith.

God had prepared the young man's heart for the encounter. The shoe clerk Kimball showed such interest in that day was named **Dwight L. Moody**. Kimball got through to Moody, and Moody went on to become the greatest Christian evangelist of his day.

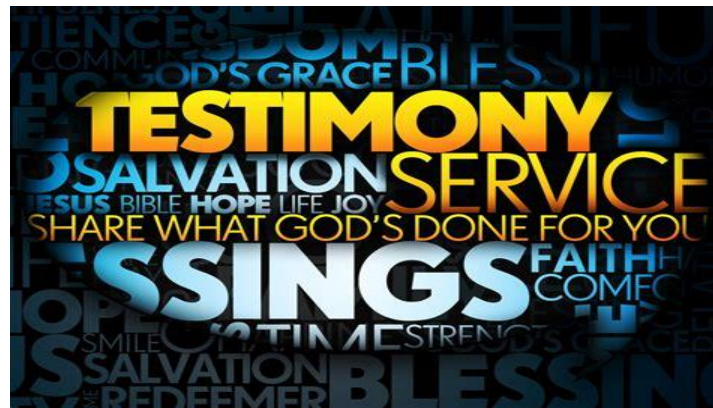
But this is just the beginning of what God would do through that Sunday School teacher's witness. He was used by God to start a worldwide revival.

Dwight L. Moody became a popular speaker and went on to preach a crusade in England and, in 1879, awakened the heart of **Frederick B. Meyer**, a pastor, then, of a small church. Meyer went on to become a renowned theologian. Later, Meyer was preaching in Moody's school in Northfield, Massachusetts, when the young man in the back row heard Meyer say,

“If you are not willing to give up everything for Christ, are you willing to be made willing?”

Those words transformed the ministry of another young man, **J. Wilbur Chapman**. Wilbur Chapman became a

YMCA worker, back when the Y was still a religious institution.



Among those whom Chapman recruited to help him in his ministry was a former professional baseball player. That baseball player was a remarkable figure named **Billy Sunday**. Billy Sunday went on to become the greatest evangelist of his generation.

Later at a revival in Charlotte, North Carolina, Billy Sunday so excited a group of local men that they began an ongoing prayer group. Soon, they engaged an evangelist named **Mordecai Hamm** to come to their town to keep the revival spirit alive. In the revival with Mordecai Hamm, a young man heard the gospel and made his profession of faith. His name? **Billy Graham**. Bill Graham reached hundreds of millions for Christ.

What I am saying to you is this. When you follow God's leadership and you step out in faith, like that Sunday School teacher who overcame his shyness and witnessed to DL Moody, you can eventually set things in motion for Billy Grahams and millions to come to Christ.

Then, you not only play a part in God's great plan for creation, but you find the most fulfilling life for yourself as well. This Lent, consider listening to what the Holy Spirit can set in motion through your obedience to God. ***"If you are not willing to give up everything for Christ, are you willing to be made willing?"***

Pastor Tom Emery

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
*Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

"Take My Life and Let It Be" by Frances R. Havergal. [YouTube Link](#).

Mercy, Passion, and Joy

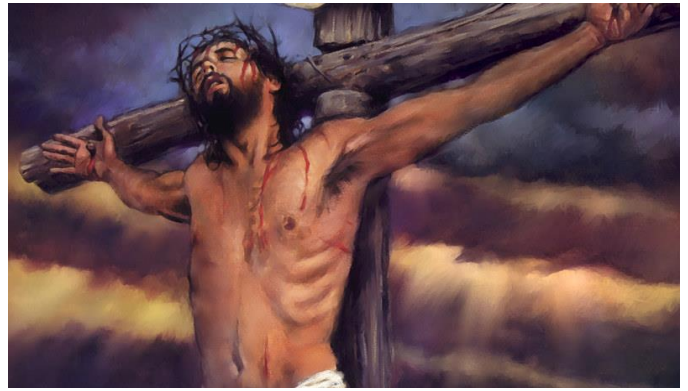
Good Friday – *"Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit,' Having said this, He breathed His last." Luke 23:46*

"God is love." "For God so loved the world that He gave." "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us." "We love because He first loved us." "Love is patient, love is kind." "Love never fails." "God has poured out His love into our hearts."

This is a dominant theme throughout Scripture, especially in the New Testament. And then we soon turn to the cross.

What an unusual picture of love for us to see the Savior stretched out on a wooden cross, suffering the agony of that death which is normally reserved for the worst of the worst. But we have to realize that He did this for us.

He died the death we deserved. He paid for the sins *He* hadn't committed, but *we* had.



"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). Love shows itself in giving, and Jesus gave His all for us. That painful, agonizing death was death in our place. And now, as a result, we have life.

We cry out our prayer: *Lord, I will praise You for all eternity for Your sacrifice, this gift of Your vast love. In Your precious Name, Amen!*

"Then He took a loaf of bread, and when He had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And He did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.' Luke 22:19-20."

Easter Communion – "We may think this rather crude and unspiritual. God does not: He invented eating. He likes matter. He invented it" (*Mere Christianity*, 65).

In *The Weight of Glory*, C. S. Lewis once wrote, "There are no ordinary people." He could also have written, "There are no ordinary things." Or "no ordinary elements."

Anything that God has made is extraordinary because it has the hand of God behind it. But God went a step further in endowing the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper with special meaning and power. When Jesus took the loaf of bread and cup of wine, He blessed them. He gave them meaning far beyond their "ordinary" meaning. They are "the gifts of God for the people of God," as pastors often say.

Lewis's point is that God loves to use physical things, material things, and seemingly ordinary things.



The writer, Lewis, who loved to take walks in the countryside and enjoy the world God made is the same Lewis who saw the extraordinary in bread and wine, and he writes that God uses those material things "to put new life into us." That's power. Since it is given and poured out for us in the new covenant, that's forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Let us pray: *God and Creator, I praise You for the humble gifts of bread and wine, through which I receive my Lord's Body and Blood. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Adapted from: Mercy, Passion and Joy A Lenten Devotion by C. S. Lewis.

St David's Day: Everything You Need to Know

David is the patron saint of Wales, and he is celebrated on the first of March. To mark the day, Welsh people around the world wear one or both of Wales's national emblems - a daffodil and a leek.

Special concerts and parades are also held in St David's honor. Patron saints are chosen to be special protectors or guardians over all areas of life. In our secular world, they are national identities. England, Ireland, and Scotland also have their patron saint, to whom they dedicate a day.



Who was St David?

St David - or *Dewi Sant* in Welsh - was born on the southwest coast of Wales, near to where the city of St David's is today. We don't know the exact year when he was born, but it is believed to be sometime in between 462 and 515 AD.

There are many stories about miracles happening around St David as a church planter spreading the gospel. One of the famous stories is from when he was speaking to a large crowd and someone in the crowd shouted: "We won't be able to see or hear him." Then, the ground David stood on is said to have risen so that he was standing on a hill, making it easier for everyone to see him. It is said that he lived for more than 100 years and died on Tuesday, 1 March 589.

Finally, a National St David's Day parade is held in the center of Cardiff, the capital of Wales, every year, with lots of exciting performances by musical and theatrical groups. Usually, many children take part, wearing traditional Welsh clothing and performing traditional dances. Across the Wales, lots of towns and villages host their own parades and concerts, while many of the country's castles and heritage sites let people come to visit them for free.

EXTRA: Learn to speak Welsh!

Bore da (*Boh-reh dah*) - Good morning
 Prynhawn da (*Prin-houn dah*) - Good afternoon
 Croeso I Gymru (*Croy-so ee Gum-ree*) - Welcome to Wales
 Diolch (*Dee-olch*) - Thank you

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus (*dee-the goil De-wi ha-peece*) - Happy St David's Day

Salem Announcements

St. David's Day

Come join us on **March 3rd** for our celebration of the **St. David's Day Service** starting at 9:30 AM. We will be honoring our Welsh heritage by singing our favorite Welsh hymns and enjoying the special music with our youth handbell players and the talented 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!

Easter Sunday

The **Easter Sunday, March 31st** Service is a time of observance of the love of God shown by Christ dying on the Cross to pay for our sins. It is also a time of Christian community showing that we are all the same Body of Christ, with each of us given by God, unique gifts and talents to share with one another.

The schedule for the morning begins at 8:00 AM with an Easter Breakfast; all are invited. At 9:00 AM, we venture upstairs to participate in the Flowering of the Cross ceremony of prayerfully decorating the cross after thanking God for the great mercy that He has bestowed upon us by His Son dying on the Cross for our sins.

Then, at 9:30 AM, we begin Worship Service with Communion for anyone Baptized in Christ Jesus.

8:00 AM Easter Breakfast
9:00 AM Flower the Cross
9:30 AM Worship & Communion

Afterward, it is a great time for family photographs and to welcome and to socialize with others in the love of Christ Jesus.

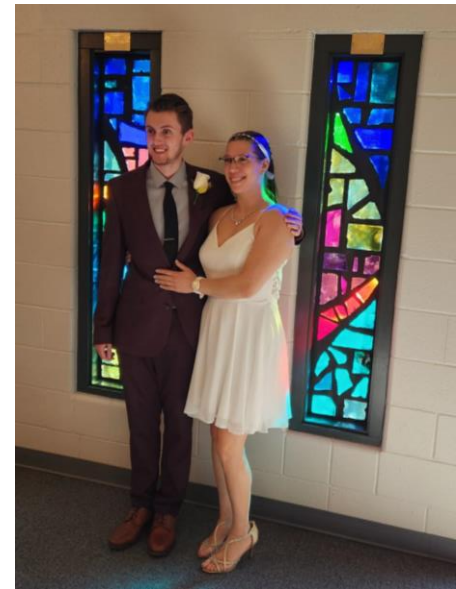
Stay warm and keep a song in your heart.

The Salem Music Committee

Salem Photos



2024-02-04 Junior Bells practicing for Saint David and Palm Sunday performances.



2024-02-14 Catie (Emery) and Dylan Brayton's St. Valentine's Day wedding



2024-02 Evan Pugh singing in the Kentucky State intercollegiate chorus.



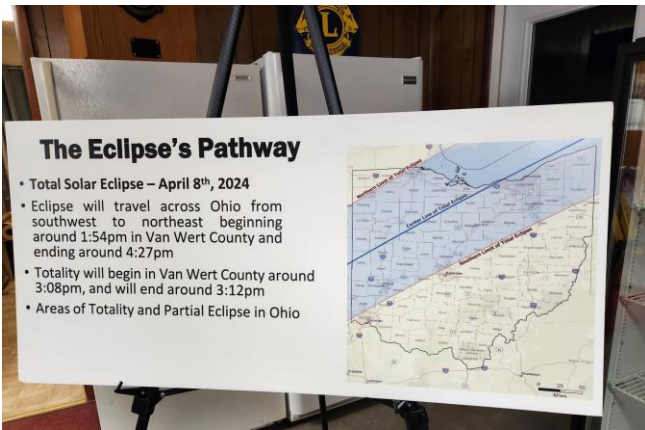
2024-02-18 Carolyn Girod was lovingly honored by Salem for decades of service to the church as the Clerk of Session and other roles.



2024-02-18 Becky Reichard and Arlene Amstutz performed together. The sermon topic was "Be A Friend of God – Genesis 17:1-17."



2023-02-12 Sheriff Thomas Riggerbach was the featured speaker at the Lion's Club St Valentines Day Dinner, and he discussed awareness of grave national concerns at the recent National Sherriff's meeting.



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.



2024-02-11 Kim Coil (middle) was the focus of many Salem prayers, and she recently returned to church after recovering from her foot surgery.



2023-02-18 Lenten skit performed by Salem volunteers.

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 \$18,384.81
Received to Date \$22,654.00

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

No condolences to report this month.

Birthdays

2 Marilyn Strickler	8 John Morris
10 Michael Garza	11 Todd Morris
14 Larry Caffro	14 Elijah Martz
16 Pastor Tom Emery	18 Morgan McCollow
19 Pamela Beamer	20 Johnathon Morris
20 Brian Owens	22 Toby Adkins
23 Josh Hoehn	29 Bianca Richards

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)
Tim (Alfie) Burnett (auto accident healing)
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)
Larry Miller (cancer)
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



March 2024



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30 AM Worship St. David's Day Special music-bells Spaghetti Lunch after the service	4	5 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	6	7 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. is at-the Ohio City UM Church	8	9
10 9:30 AM Worship 5:00 Trustee Meeting.	11	12 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	13	14 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. is at-the Ohio City UM Church	15	16
17 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Session meeting.	18	19 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	20	21 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. is at-the Ohio City UM Church	22	23
24 9:30 AM Worship Palm Sunday Special music-bells	25	26 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study, VW Hosp. Cafeteria. 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	27	28 Noon - Van Wert County Prayer Mtg. is at-the Ohio City UM Church	29	30
31 8:00 Easter Breakfast 9:00 Flower the Cross 9:30 Worship & Communion						

Week of	Nursery	Flowers	Organist
March 3	Toby & Elizabeth Adkins		Connie O'Neill
March 10	Tyler & Morgan McConnell	Vern & Liz Hobbs	Cindy Bowsher
March 17	Bob & Kathy McCollow	Vern & Liz Hobbs	LaDonna Allenbaugh
March 24	Bob & Denise Pugh	Vern & Liz Hobbs	Connie O'Neill
March 31	Jeff & Kelly Lloyd	Rex & Lisa Lloyd	Becky Reichart
		Greeter:	Marilyn Foust

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



A Welsh child in costume for St. David's Day

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

March 2024 **REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY** **YEAR B**

3rd Sunday in Lent – Mar 3

Ex. 20:1-17	Psalm 19
1 Cor. 1:18-25	John 2:13-22

4th Sunday in Lent – Mar 10

Num. 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
1 Eph. 2:1-10	John 3:14-21

5th Sunday in Lent – Mar 17

Jer. 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-12
Heb. 5:5-10	John 12:20-33

Palm/Passion Sunday – Mar 24

Mark 11:1-11	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Isa. 50:4-9a	Mark 15:1-39

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day – Mar 31

Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Cor. 15:1-11	John 20:1-8